#### State of Arizona

### COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

	Disposition of Complaint 21-256
Judge:	
Complainant:	

#### **ORDER**

## November 24, 2021

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge was prejudiced against him and improperly denied his request for a change of judge.

The role of the Commission on Judicial Conduct is to impartially determine whether a judicial officer has engaged in conduct that violates the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct or Article 6.1 of the Arizona Constitution. There must be clear and convincing evidence of such a violation in order for the Commission to take disciplinary action against a judicial officer.

The Commission does not have jurisdiction to overturn, amend, or remand a judicial officer's legal rulings. The Commission reviewed all relevant available information and concluded there was not clear and convincing evidence of ethical misconduct in this matter. The complaint is therefore dismissed pursuant to Commission Rules 16(a) and 23(a).

Commission members Joseph C. Kreamer and J. Tyrrell Taber did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on November 24, 2021.

SÓLO PARA USO DE OFICINA

CONFIDENCIAL Comisión de Conducta Judicial de Arizona 1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229 Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Nombre:

2021-256

# QUEJA CONTRA UN JUEZ

Nombre del juez:

Instrucciones: Utilice este formulario o papel normal d	el mismo tamaño para presentar una queja. Describe
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2021-256

## **QUEJA CONTRA UN JUEZ**

#### Nombre:

## Nombre del juez

Instrucciones: Utilice este formulario o papel normal del mismo tamaño para presentar una queja. Describe en tu propia palabras, lo que usted cree que hizo el juez que constituye una mala conducta judicial. Sea específico y enumere todos los nombres, fechas, horas y lugares que ayudarán a la comisión a comprender sus preocupaciones. Las páginas adicionales pueden adjuntarse junto con copias (no originales) de los documentos judiciales pertinentes. Complete una cara del papel solamente, y guarde una copia de la queja para sus registros.

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Clerk of the Court
\*\*\* Electronically Filed \*\*\*

## COURT OF ARIZONA COUNTY

CLERK OF THE COURT

HONORABLE

STATE OF ARIZONA

v.

## RULING

The Court has considered Defendant's Motion for Notice of Change of Judge, Rules of Criminal Procedure Rule 10.2, Change of Judge as a Matter of Right, filed Defendant seeks removal of the assigned judicial officer, the Honorable

The Court notes that Rule 10.2 has been suspended pursuant to order of the Arizona Supreme Court. See Administrative Order No. 2021-77 at 3 ("Rule 10.2, Rules of Criminal Procedure, . . . [is] suspended until further order . . ."). Thus, Defendant is not entitled to a change of judge as a matter of right.

However, the motion also raises allegations that could be considered as part of a motion for change of judge for cause, pursuant to Rule 10.1, Ariz.R.Crim.P. The Court will thus consider the Motion under that Rule.

A criminal defendant is entitled to a proceeding overseen by an impartial judge. State v. Mincey, 141 Ariz. 425, 442 (1984); A.R.S. § 12-409(B). A defendant may move for a change of judge for cause "if a fair and impartial hearing or trial cannot be had by reason of the interest or prejudice of the assigned judge." Ariz. R. Crim. P. 10.1(a). Although Rule 10.1(c) provides that the presiding judge shall conduct a hearing on the motion, a hearing is only required if the

Docket Code

Form

## COURT OF ARIZONA COUNTY

defendant asserts a colorable claim of bias, "alleg[ing] facts which, if taken as true, would entitle the defendant to relief." State v. Eastlack, 180 Ariz. 243, 255 (1994) (denying hearing in absence of facts showing interest or bias). "[M]ere speculation, suspicion, apprehension, or imagination" will not trigger the hearing requirement. State v. Ellison, 213 Ariz. 116, 128, ¶ 37, (2006) (quoting State v. Rossi, 154 Ariz. 245, 248 (1987)).

Defendant does not assert a colorable claim of prejudice or interest or justify a hearing. has denied his motions Defendant's basis for the motion seems to be that and disagrees with him about certain facts. But dissatisfaction with a ruling on a legal issue is not a basis for a challenge for cause. This Court begins with the presumption that a judge is impartial and "the party moving for change of judge must prove a judge's bias or prejudice by a preponderance of the evidence." State v. Smith, 203 Ariz. 75, 79, ¶ 13 (2002). Nothing presented by Defendant indicated that has any such bias or prejudice against him. IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED denying the Motion. IT IS ORDERED affirming the Status Conference date of \_\_\_\_\_ time certain before Honorable IT IS ORDERED affirming the Non-Appearance Initial Pretrial Conference date of before Honorable IT IS FURTHER ORDERED affirming the Non Appearance Comprehensive Pretrial [at ] before Honorable Conference date of IT IS FURTHER ORDERED affirming the Final Trial Management Conference date of time certain before Honorable at IT IS FURTHER ORDERED affirming the Virtual Trial Assignment Calendar date of time certain before the Master Calendar Assignment Judge. The Trial Assignment hearing will be a Court Connect videoconference held using the Microsoft Teams platform. The purpose of the hearing is to set future dates for (1) the Trial Procedure

FOR ALL IN-PERSON APPEARANCES. Due to the spread of COVID-19, the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order 2021-077 and Superior Court Administrative Order 2021-073 require all individuals entering a court facility to wear a face mask in designated Mask Mandatory Areas. Any individual attempting to enter the court facility must have an appropriate mask to be allowed entry to the court facility. In addition, all individuals entering a court facility

Conference, (2) the Trial Status Conference, and (3) the Firm Trial Date.

## COURT OF ARIZONA COUNTY

will be subject to a health screening protocol. Any person who does not pass the health screening protocol will be denied entrance to the court facility.

MASKS. All persons entering a court facility who are fully vaccinated (14 days from final vaccination) have the option of wearing a mask or face covering in any area of a court facility that is not a posted Mask Mandated Area. The Court recommends that all unvaccinated persons who enter a court facility wear a mask or face covering within any area of a court facility. Any person who refuses to wear a mask or face covering as directed by court personnel will be denied entrance or removed from the facility. If a participant is denied physical access to the courthouse for refusing to wear a face covering, the participant must contact the assigned judicial division to determine whether the person can participate in the proceeding using an audio or video connection.

PHASE III. Until Phase III, judicial leadership has limited any required in-person proceedings to attorneys, parties, victims, witnesses, jurors, judicial officers, court employees, and other necessary persons, where necessary to maintain the recommended social distancing within the courthouse, including each courtroom.

LAST DAY REMAINS:

THE COMMISSION'S POLICY IS TO POST ONLY THE FIRST FIVE PAGES OF ANY DISMISSED COMPLAINT ON ITS WEBSITE.

FOR ACCESS TO THE
REMAINDER OF THE
COMPLAINT IN THIS MATTER,
PLEASE MAKE YOUR REQUEST
IN WRITING TO THE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL
CONDUCT AND REFERENCE
THE COMMISSION CASE
NUMBER IN YOUR REQUEST.