

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 21-372

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

March 1, 2023

The CJC initiated a complaint regarding a justice of the peace abusing his authority, retaliating against an employee, and giving litigants disparate treatment.

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 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 member Colleen E. Concannon did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on March 1, 2023.

To: Commission on Judicial Conduct
From: Commission on Judicial Conduct
Date:
Re: Opening a New Complaint Against Judge

Background

The Commission held a Meeting on . Case No. against Judge was considered. The Commission ultimately decided to issue a against Judge . In addition, the Commission voted to open a new case against Judge on separate allegations that were discovered during the investigation of Case No. .

New Case Allegations

The allegations are:

1. discussed an incident where her daughter's coach had a case in front of Judge . Ms. let the judge know so that way there was no conflict. Later Judge told her, "Don't say I don't do anything for your kids." Ms. reported this incident and later Judge told her, "I won't do anything for her kids again." This incident was not discussed by any other staff members.
2. Ms. also stated that the will call Judge before hearings and give him information on specific people coming into court. Ms. believes that Judge makes his decisions prior to the hearing based on what he is being told.
3. Judge treating similarly situated litigants differently or unequally.

Actions

Commission staff will open and investigate the above-mentioned allegations as a new case file. The Commission on Judicial Conduct will be the named complainant in the matter.