## State of Arizona COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

	Disposition of Complaint 21-439
Judges:	
Complainant:	

## **ORDER**

July 7, 2022

The Complainant alleged a city court judge made improper rulings and denied her right to a fair trial during her 2009 misdemeanor DUI case. Complainant alleges another city court judge improperly issued a bench warrant in 2010 for a failure to appear in that same case.

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 members Christopher W. Ames, Delia R. Neal and J. Tyrrell Taber did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on July 7, 2022.

CONFIDENTIAL
State of Arizona
Commission on Judicial Conduct
1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2021-439

## COMPLAINT AGAINST A JUDGE

Name:	Judge's Name:
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2021-439

## COMPLAINT AGAINST A JUDGE

Name: Judge's Name:	
Instructions: Use this form or plain paper of the same size to file a complaint. Describe in your own words what you believe the judge did that constitutes judicial misconduct. Be specific and list all of the names, dates, times, and places that will belp the commission understand your concerns. Additional pages may be attached along with copies (not originals) of relevant court documents. Please complete one side of the paper only, and keep a copy of the complaint for your records.	
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speeding as reasons for the stop. The Court stated it believed "there was sufficient reason to stop the defendant for traffic violations." [Transcript page 36 15-16]

Appellant's attorney filed a Motion to Withdraw as Attorney of Record The motion stated a "conflict of interest" that Defendant believed existed due to a

conversation that Defense Counsel, had with the City of Attorney's Office

The motion also noted that defendant and counsel did not agree on trial strategy. Judge
addressed Defendant's motion on and ruled that no conflict existed due to
the separate nature of the criminal case from any civil matter, referring to. The
Judge also stated that the attorney directs the strategy of the criminal matter and denied Counsel's
Motion to Withdraw. [Transcript page 40 4-22]

Appellant's jury trial was held of Appellant was convicted on both criminal counts and found responsible for the civil violations

On Defendant through Counsel filed a Motion for a New Trial. The motion cited two reasons. 1) Counsel mistakenly said "guilty" instead of "not guilty," during her closing argument, and 2) Counsel was recovering from the flu during the trial and Defendant believed Counsel's ability to represent her was compromised. The Court reviewed the motion and Judge denied the motion explaining that there was no legal basis for the request and that the motion was based on Defendant's beliefs. He ruled that the first reason, although it was a mistake, that it was clear that Counsel meant to say "not guilty" instead of "guilty." Additionally, Judge asked Counsel whether she felt she was incompetent due to the flu, to which Counsel replied "no" [Transcript p. 320, 1-12]. Judge also stated that his observations of her performance during the trial would not lead him to believe otherwise. [Id.]

(Exz)

1 2 3 4 IN THE CITY OF COURT , STATE OF ARIZONA 5 COUNTY OF б CASE NO.: 1 7 Plaintiff, COMPLAINT NO.: 8 VS. MOTION TO WITHDRAW 9 10 Defendant. 11 Court appointed attorney, 12 , requests to withdraw as counsel on this 13 was appointed to represent defendant during pre-trial and trial and thus both case. Ms. 14 phases of this case have concluded. 15 16 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this day of 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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City Court • , AZ 📒 . . Case #: VS. Complaint #: Pursuant to: 
☐ Defendant's ☐ State's ☐ Court's ☐ **Police Department's REQUEST FOR SUBPOENA/MOTION TO CONTINUE** It is ordered: REQUEST FOR SUBPOENA IS DENIED. NO ACTION TAKEN ON MOTION TO CONTINUE AS THERE IS NO HEARING TO CONTINUE. It is further ordered: DEFENDANT TO FILE POST CONVICTION RELIEF MOTION, NOT NOTICE. MUST BE RECEIVED BY COURT NO LATER THAN Copies Mailed to: ☑ Defendant ☑ Prosecutor ☐ Defense Attorney ☐

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.