

State of Arizona  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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Disposition of Complaint 22-362

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Judge:

Complainant:

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**ORDER**

August 25, 2023

The complainant alleged improper demeanor and ex parte communication by a superior court judge hearing a family 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 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 Denise K. Aguilar, Roger D. Barton, and Michael J. Brown did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on August 25, 2023.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

2022-362

**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 help 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.

I recently consulted a former lawyer of mine in a custody case that I have with my ex-husband. I have no ability to retain a lawyer so I just wanted to get some insight on my case. He told me that my ex-husband had met ex-parte with the Judge and that it was not the first time. He informed me that I was supposed to be notified of this and I told him I wasn't. He asked me if I knew of what was said in the ex-parte meetings and I said no, I had no idea that they had happened. He informed me that there was not nearly enough in what my ex submitted in his request for emergency temporary orders for the judge to grant them. That something must have been said in the ex-parte meeting that I do not know about that caused the judge to make her decision. I do not know how I can possibly defend myself against things that my ex is accusing me of if I don't know what they are. Judge \_\_\_\_\_ has also gone back on her ruling from \_\_\_\_\_ stating that my ex-husband has used \_\_\_\_\_ and the courts to harass and intimidate me. However after nine false investigations where all accusations have been found to be unfounded and dropped without prejudice, and four court cases (this is the fifth) she never sanctioned him or made any kind of effort to get him to stop. He very conveniently did not contact \_\_\_\_\_ this time but he yet again filed emergency temporary orders which she granted, even after stating that she knew they had no basis. I feel whatever was said in these ex-parte meetings has caused such a bias against me that it can't ever be erased from the Judge's mind. During our first hearing she asked who was with us in the courtroom. My ex-husband introduced his girlfriend who is a public defender and the Judge's reaction was severely inappropriate. She was gushing over her saying how wonderful it was to have a public defender in her courtroom and how lovely it was that she was dating my ex-husband. When she asked who I had with me I introduced my Advocate from \_\_\_\_\_ have been enrolled with them since \_\_\_\_\_ because of my ex-husband's harassment and abuse. My ex-husband's lawyer immediately objected and the judge agreed. Judge \_\_\_\_\_ completely dismissed her. Both of them laughed stating a person can't be abused by someone they haven't lived with in \_\_\_\_\_. In our case in \_\_\_\_\_ she denied my request to have a safe pick up spot for my children stating that there was no domestic violence in our case. Every time I go to pick up the kids in front of my ex-husband's house there is an issue. Both children are beyond old enough to walk down the street to a park that you can see from my ex-husband's front porch so that I can safely, without emotional and verbal harassment, pick them up but she denied it. During our first hearing she took up my entire 30 minutes worth of testifying to talk over me. She refuses to let me speak giving courtesy only to my ex-husband and his lawyer. I have done everything in my power to conduct myself appropriately in the courtroom, to have all of my documents ready and in formats that are agreeable to the court but I am not a lawyer. Not being allowed to defend myself because I don't have full knowledge of the law is not right. I had notes that I had written down, things to glance at so that I didn't get mixed up while I was testifying, and she would not allow me to bring them to the stand even though I did not know that this was something you had to disclose to the other party. I just didn't want to lose track of what I was saying. I asked for a motion to continue during our hearing which she denied. I wrote a motion to continue which was very professional with legal wording and she granted it but denied giving me a new disclosure deadline. I missed the disclosure deadline because I was confused. The wording of the documents the court gave me was confusing I thought that I had to have everything in a week before the hearing date but I guess there was a different date for disclosure and she's refusing me to allow to admit evidence that would absolutely prove, above and beyond, my case.

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I feel judge \_\_\_\_\_ mind is already made up. Her ruling in \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrates this. While she reprimanded my ex-husband for his harassment of me and manipulation of \_\_\_\_\_ in the courts she still granted my ex-husband custody of my youngest daughter who he proceeded to let destroy herself. She is now living in a residential treatment facility in \_\_\_\_\_. She was not even near as bad off mentally and behaviorally as she was when I still had custody and he was not allowed to prevent us from communicating. The lawyer I hired in \_\_\_\_\_ even told me he did not feel with how biased against me she was he would be able to do anything to help me. I barely retained custody of my oldest. He will continue to let my youngest decline and will proceed to do the same to my oldest if he is granted custody. As I have stated I do not feel that the Judge is willing to listen to anything that I have to say. That her mind is already made up and no matter what evidence I submit, if I were even allowed to submit it, that she would actually give it consideration. She does not respect me at all, I feel that she only respects people who have received formal legal training, and I have absolutely no means of retaining a lawyer, I have been trying for months. I do not feel that it is fair that criminals are allowed to be appointed lawyers for free while victims of domestic violence, who have no means whatsoever, have to fight in court with a judge who doesn't respect anyone who isn't represented and against someone who makes about four times more than themselves. He is asking basically for my parental rights to be severed. This is incredibly severe, something that could impact my life and my children's lives forever, and the judge isn't granting me any leniency in the courtroom.