



TO:

Margaret H Downie

Kimberly Welch

Hon. Juan M. Guerrero

Ariel I Worth

Sandra Montoya

Maret Vessella

Mary Pieper

Lexis Nexis

Mary Rose Dominguiano

Princess Mutya Zorilla

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SUPREME COURT OF ARIZONA

In the Matter of ) Arizona Supreme Court  
 ) No. JC-24-0001  
HONORABLE JUAN M. GUERRERO, )  
Yuma County Justice Court, ) Commission on Judicial  
South County, Precinct 2, ) Conduct  
Yuma County, ) Nos. 23-181  
State of Arizona, ) 24-474  
 )  
Respondent. ) (Consolidated)  
 )

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**FILED:03/15/2024**

**O R D E R**

The Court, having considered the stipulated resolution between disciplinary counsel for the Commission on Judicial Conduct and Respondent, and the recommendation of the Commission's hearing panel to approve the sanction, pursuant to Rule 29(g) of the Rules of Procedure for the Commission on Judicial Conduct,

**IT IS ORDERED** that Judge Juan M. Guerrero is hereby censured for violations of the Code of Judicial Conduct as set forth in the Stipulated Resolution, which is attached hereto.

**DATED** this 15th day of March, 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracie K. Lindeman  
Clerk of the Court

Arizona Supreme Court No. JC-24-0001

Page **2** of **2**

TO:

Margaret H Downie

Kimberly Welch

Hon. Juan M Guerrero

Ariel I Worth

Sandra Montoya

Maret Vessella

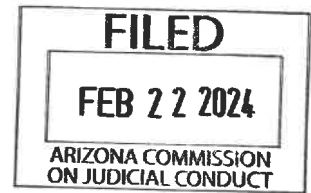
Mary Pieper

Lexis Nexis

Mary Rose Dominguiano

Princess Mutya Zorilla

tkl



Ariel I. Worth (Bar # 018702)  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct  
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 229  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Telephone: (602) 452-3200  
Email: *aworth@courts.az.gov*

**STATE OF ARIZONA  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Inquiry concerning	)	
	)	Case Nos. 23-181
<b>Judge Juan M. Guerrero</b>	)	23-474
Yuma County Justice Court	)	
South County, Precinct 2	)	
Yuma County	)	<b>ORDER APPROVING STIPULATED</b>
State of Arizona	)	<b>RESOLUTION AND</b>
	)	<b>RECOMMENDATION TO SUPREME</b>
<u>Respondent.</u>	)	<b>COURT FOR CENSURE</b>

On January 16, 2024, the Commission on Judicial Conduct (Commission) filed a Statement of Charges against Judge Juan M. Guerrero (Respondent) following an investigative panel’s finding of reasonable cause to believe grounds for discipline existed that should not be resolved through dismissal or informal sanctions. Contemporaneously, Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel filed a Stipulated Resolution (“Resolution”), in which Respondent has agreed to a public censure for misconduct in office, and waived his right to file a Response to the Statement of Charges pursuant to Commission Rule 26(A). As part of the Resolution, the parties have waived their right to file any objections to the agreement or to the censure before the Commission and the Arizona Supreme Court.

On January 24, 2024, the Commission chair appointed a seven-member hearing panel, and designated Judge Delia R. Neal, Pinal County Superior Court, as

presiding member of the hearing panel to conduct a hearing and recommend a proper disposition of the charges to the Arizona Supreme Court. The Hearing Panel convened on January 26, 2024, to consider the Resolution.

Having fully considered the Resolution within the context of Commission Rule 30(b), the hearing panel, by unanimous vote, approves the Resolution and recommends to the Arizona Supreme Court that Respondent be censured publicly for the rule violations as set forth therein. The Hearing Panel also exercises its discretion under Commission Rule 9 to make the initial complaints in Case Nos. 23-181 and 23-474, as well as Respondent's initial response in Case No. 23-181<sup>1</sup> public and part of the record in this case.

DATED this 22nd day of February, 2024.

/s/ Delia R. Neal  
Hon. Delia R. Neal  
Presiding Hearing Panel Member

A copy of this document was served on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2024, upon Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel, via email, to:

*tolin555@hotmail.com*  
Hon. Juan M. Guerrero  
Yuma County Justice Court

*aworth@courts.az.gov*  
Ariel I. Worth  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Commission on Judicial Conduct

By: /s/ Dora Ruelas Rivera  
Dora Ruelas Rivera, Acting Commission Clerk

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<sup>1</sup> Respondent was provided a copy of the complaint in Case No. 23-474 and was given notice and opportunity to respond to the complaint, however, he elected not to do so.



A copy of this document was served on January 24, 2024, upon Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel, via email, to:

*tolin555@hotmail.com*  
Hon. Juan M. Guerrero  
Yuma County Justice Court

*aworth@courts.az.gov*  
Ariel I. Worth  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Commission on Judicial Conduct

By: /s/ Kim Welch  
Kim Welch, Commission Clerk



**FILED**

**JAN 16 2024**

**ARIZONA COMMISSION ON  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Ariel I. Worth (Bar # 018702)  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct  
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 229  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
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**STATE OF ARIZONA  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Inquiry concerning	)	
	)	Case Nos. 23-181
<b>Judge Juan M. Guerrero</b>	)	23-474
Yuma County Justice Court	)	
South County, Precinct 2	)	
Yuma County	)	<b>STIPULATED RESOLUTION FOR</b>
State of Arizona	)	<b>DISCIPLINE BY CONSENT</b>
	)	
<u>Respondent.</u>	)	

Pursuant to Commission Rule 30, Disciplinary Counsel for the Commission on Judicial Conduct, Ariel I. Worth, and Respondent Judge Juan M. Guerrero (hereafter Respondent), hereby submit the following proposed resolution of this case.

**JURISDICTION**

1. Respondent was serving in his capacity as a judge at all times relevant to these allegations. Respondent has served a Justice of the Peace, Yuma County Justice Court, South County Precinct Two, since 2015 to the present time.

2. As a judge, Respondent is subject to the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct (Code) as set forth in Supreme Court Rule 81.

**PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

3. A Statement of Charges against Respondent will be filed by Disciplinary Counsel concurrently with the filing of this Stipulated Resolution

4. An investigative panel of the Commission has found reasonable cause to begin formal proceedings.

5. Respondent agrees to forgo the filing of a written Response to the Statement of Charges, and the parties now agree to this stipulated resolution of the matter.

#### **FACTUAL BACKGROUND**

6. On or about April 2, 2023, at approximately 1:50 a.m., Respondent was the subject of a traffic stop initiated by an officer (Officer) of the Somerton Police Department, Somerton, Arizona.

7. During the traffic stop, Officer observed Respondent exhibiting signs of recent alcohol consumption and symptoms of impairment.

8. During the traffic stop, Respondent stated to Officer that he was a judge and suggested that Officer should call his "Chief."

9. A blood sample was obtained from Respondent after the traffic stop.

10. Respondent's blood sample was later tested and indicated a blood alcohol concentration of .146.

11. Following the traffic stop, Respondent was cited for three separate criminal traffic offenses for driving under the influence, in Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint, Complaint Number 54282.

12. Respondent's Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint was filed in the Somerton Municipal Court, Somerton, Arizona, on April 27, 2023, and assigned case number M1442TR2023-000026.

13. On November 29, 2023, Respondent entered a plea of guilty in case M1442TR2023-000026 and was sentenced for the offense of DUI-Liquor – BAC .08 or More, a class one misdemeanor, in violation of A.R.S. § 28-1381A2.

14. Respondent's sentence included statutorily mandated fines and jail time.

15. Following Respondent's arrest and citation for driving under the influence, Respondent was reassigned to non-judicial duties pursuant to Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order 23-79 issued on April 27, 2023.

16. Administrative Order 23-79 placed administrative control and oversight of Respondent's court with Presiding Yuma County Superior Court Judge David M. Haws.

17. After being assigned administrative control and oversight of the South County Justice Court, Judge Haws learned additional information about Respondent's conduct while serving as a judicial officer. Judge Haws provided this information to the Commission.

18. Respondent has routinely conducted weddings during court hours starting in 2015 and until the issuance of Administrative Order 23-79.

19. Respondent has received compensation for weddings conducted during court hours starting in 2015 and until the issuance of Administrative Order 23-79.

20. From October 5, 2022 to May 1, 2023, Respondent drove a county-owned vehicle for approximately 1,112 miles of personal travel, including regular commuting between home and work.

21. Respondent's use of the county-owned vehicle from October 5, 2023 to May 1, 2023, violated the policies of Yuma County.

22. Respondent used a Yuma County fuel credit card from October 5, 2023 to May 1, 2023, to purchase fuel for the county-owned vehicle he drove during that time.

23. Respondent charged approximately \$400.00 to the Yuma County fuel credit card for his personal use travel.

24. Respondent has not reimbursed Yuma County for the personal use fuel charges.

#### **MUTUAL CONSIDERATIONS AND AGREEMENT**

25. Respondent concedes that these facts would support a finding of judicial misconduct should this matter proceed to a formal hearing.

26. Respondent agrees that his conduct violated Rules 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 3.1(E), 3.16(D), and Article 6.1, Section 4 of the Arizona Constitution.

27. Respondent agrees to submit his resignation to the Yuma County Board of Supervisors, or other appropriate entity, on or before Friday, January 19, 2023. The resignation shall be effective no later than two weeks from the date of submission.

28. Respondent agrees not to seek or accept a judicial appointment of any type, not to run for an elective judicial office, or serve in any judicial capacity<sup>1</sup> in the State of Arizona at any time after the effective date of his resignation.

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<sup>1</sup> The parties agree that not serving in any judicial capacity encompasses the

29. The parties agree that resolving this matter by stipulation is in their mutual best interest and in the best interest of the public and the judicial system.

30. The parties agree that the following mitigating factors indicate that whereas a removal would otherwise be warranted a public censure as described herein is the appropriate sanction in this matter:

- a. Respondent has recognized and acknowledged the wrongful nature of his conduct.
- b. Respondent has cooperated with the Commission in these proceedings.

#### **AGREED UPON SANCTION**

31. Respondent agrees to accept a Public Censure for the judicial misconduct he engaged in, as set forth in this agreement.

#### **OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

32. This agreement resolves all issues raised in Case Nos. 23-181 and 23-474. This agreement may be used in later proceedings in accordance with the Commission's Rules.

33. In the event Respondent fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this agreement by failing to tender his resignation or seeking appointment or election to judicial office or serving as a judge in Arizona, the Commission may re-

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definition of "Judge" in the Code of Judicial Conduct, which states: "Judge" means any person who is authorized to perform judicial functions within the Arizona judiciary, including a justice or judge of a court of record, a justice of the peace, magistrate, court commissioner, special master, hearing officer, referee, or pro tempore judge.

open Case Nos. 23-181 and 23-474 by giving Respondent written notice of its intention to do so. Respondent waives any and all claims concerning delay or other irregularities in the Commission so doing.

34. In the event Respondent fails to comply with the terms and conditions of this agreement by failing to tender his resignation or seeking appointment or election to judicial office or serving as a judge in Arizona, the Commission may also seek injunctive relief enjoining Respondent from engaging in conduct in breach of the terms and conditions of this agreement.

35. Respondent waives his right to file a Response to the Statement of Charges, pursuant to Commission Rule 25(a).

36. Pursuant to Commission Rule 28(a), both parties waive their right to appeal the charges at issue in this matter, including the appeal procedures set out in Commission Rule 29.

37. Both parties will bear their own attorneys fees and costs, if any, associated with this agreement.

38. Respondent clearly understands the terms and conditions of this agreement, has had an opportunity to review with legal counsel, and fully agrees with its terms.

39. This agreement constitutes the complete agreement of the parties.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Juan M. Guerrero, Respondent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct  
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 229  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Telephone: (602) 452-3200

**FILED**  
**JAN 24 2024**

ARIZONA COMMISSION ON  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

**STATE OF ARIZONA**  
**COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Inquiry concerning	)	
	)	Case Nos. 23-181
Judge Juan M. Guerrero	)	23-474
Yuma County Justice Court	)	
South County, Precinct 2	)	
Yuma County	)	<b>RECORD OF APPOINTMENT OF</b>
State of Arizona	)	<b>HEARING PANEL</b>
	)	
_____ Respondent.		

Acting pursuant to Rules 3(f) and 27(a) of the Rules of the Commission, Judge Christopher P. Staring, Chair of the Commission, hereby appoints Judge Delia R. Neal to serve as the presiding member of the hearing panel in the above-entitled proceeding and designates the following as members of the panel: Roger D. Barton, Barbara Brown, Michael J. Brown, Louis Frank Dominguez, Regina L. Nassen, and Christopher P. Staring.

Dated this 24th day of January, 2024.

**COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

/s/ Christopher P. Staring  
Hon. Christopher P. Staring  
Chair of the Commission



A copy of this document was served on January 24, 2024, upon Respondent and Disciplinary Counsel, via email, to:

*tolin555@hotmail.com*  
Hon. Juan M. Guerrero  
Yuma County Justice Court

*aworth@courts.az.gov*  
Ariel I. Worth  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Commission on Judicial Conduct

By: /s/ Kim Welch  
Kim Welch, Commission Clerk

**FILED**

**JAN 16 2024**

**ARIZONA COMMISSION ON  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Ariel I. Worth (Bar # 018702)  
Disciplinary Counsel  
Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct  
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 229  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Telephone: (602) 452-3200  
Email: *aworth@courts.az.gov*

**STATE OF ARIZONA  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Inquiry concerning	)	
	)	Case Nos. 23-181
<b>Judge Juan M. Guerrero</b>	)	23-474
Yuma County Justice Court	)	
South County, Precinct 2	)	
Yuma County	)	<b>STATEMENT OF CHARGES</b>
State of Arizona	)	
	)	
_____ Respondent.	)	

Pursuant to Commission Rule 24(a), Disciplinary Counsel hereby files this Statement of Charges against Judge Juan M. Guerrero (hereafter Respondent) setting forth the Commission’s jurisdiction and specifying the nature of his alleged judicial misconduct.

**JURISDICTION**

1. The Commission on Judicial Conduct (hereafter Commission) has jurisdiction of this matter pursuant to Article 6.1, Section 4 of the Arizona Constitution, and the Rules of the Commission.

2. This Statement of Charges is filed pursuant to Rule 24(a) of those rules (Commission Rules).

3. Respondent was serving in his capacity as a judge at all times relevant to these allegations. Respondent has served as Justice of the Peace, Yuma County Justice Court, South County Precinct Two, since 2015 to the present time.

4. As a judge, Respondent is subject to the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct (Code) as set forth in Supreme Court Rule 81.

### **PRIOR DISCIPLINE**

5. Closed files pertaining to discipline of Respondent may be referred to and used by the Commission or by Respondent for the purpose of determining the severity of the sanction, a pattern of misconduct, or exoneration of the judge pursuant to Commission Rule 22(e).

6. Consistent with the requirements of Commission Rule 22(e), undersigned Disciplinary Counsel (Counsel) notified Respondent on January 16, 2024, that his prior disciplinary history, as set forth below, may be so used.

### **Case No. 18-298**

7. Respondent conducted a hearing with only one party present and sought to hold two law enforcement officers in contempt for failing to enforce an order, even though law enforcement had confirmed with the city attorney there was no violation of the order.

8. The Commission issued a public reprimand finding Respondent's conduct violated Rules 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.2, 2.5(A), 2.6(A), 2.9(A) and (C), 2.10(A), and 2.11(A).

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS CASE NO. 23-181**

9. On or about April 2, 2023, at approximately 1:50 a.m., Respondent was the subject of a traffic stop initiated by an officer (Officer) of the Somerton Police Department, Somerton, Arizona.

10. During the traffic stop, Officer observed Respondent exhibiting signs of recent alcohol consumption and symptoms of impairment.

11. During the traffic stop, Respondent stated to Officer that he was a judge and suggested that Officer should call his "Chief."

12. A blood sample was obtained from Respondent after the traffic stop.

13. Respondent's blood sample was later tested and indicated a blood alcohol concentration of .146.

14. Following the traffic stop, Respondent was cited for three separate criminal traffic offenses for driving under the influence, in Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint, Complaint Number 54282.

15. Respondent's Arizona Traffic Ticket and Complaint was filed in the Somerton Municipal Court, Somerton, Arizona, on April 27, 2023, and assigned case number M1442TR2023-000026.

16. On November 29, 2023, Respondent entered a plea of guilty in case M1442TR2023-000026 and was sentenced for the offense of DUI-Liquor – BAC .08 or More, a class one misdemeanor, in violation of A.R.S. § 28-1381A2.

17. Respondent's sentence included statutorily mandated fines and jail time.

**FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS CASE NO. 23-474**

18. Following Respondent's arrest and citation for driving under the influence, Respondent was reassigned to non-judicial duties pursuant to Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order 23-79 issued on April 27, 2023.

19. Administrative Order 23-79 placed administrative control and oversight of Respondent's court with Presiding Yuma County Superior Court Judge David M. Haws.

20. After being assigned administrative control and oversight of the South County Justice Court, Judge Haws learned additional information about Respondent's conduct while serving as a judicial officer. Judge Haws provided this information to the Commission.

21. Respondent has routinely conducted weddings during court hours starting in 2015 and until the issuance of Administrative Order 23-79.

22. Respondent has received compensation for weddings conducted during court hours starting in 2015 and until the issuance of Administrative Order 23-79.

23. From October 5, 2022 to May 1, 2023, Respondent drove a county-owned vehicle for approximately 1,112 miles of personal travel, including regular commuting between home and work.

24. Respondent's use of the county-owned vehicle from October 5, 2022, to May 1, 2023, violated the policies of Yuma County.

25. Respondent used a Yuma County fuel credit card from October 5, 2022, to May 1, 2023, to purchase fuel for the county-owned vehicle he drove during that time.

26. Respondent charged approximately \$400.00 to the Yuma County fuel credit card for his personal use travel.

27. Respondent has not reimbursed Yuma County for the personal use fuel charges.

### **VIOLATIONS OF THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Respondent's conduct, described above in paragraphs 9-27, violated the following provisions of the Code, the Arizona Constitution, and Arizona Law. Specifically:

28. Rule 1.1 of the Code, which states, "A judge shall comply with the law, including the Code of Judicial Conduct."

29. Rule 1.2 of the Code, which states, "A judge shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the independence, integrity, and impartiality of the judiciary, and shall avoid impropriety or the appearance of impropriety."

30. Rule 1.3 of the Code, which states, "A judge shall not abuse the prestige of judicial office to advance the personal or economic interests of the judge or others, or allow others to do so."

31. Rule 3.1 (E), which states a judge shall not "make use of court premises, staff, stationery, equipment, or other resources, except for activities that concern the

law, the legal system, or the administration of justice, or unless such additional use is permitted by law.”

32. Rule 3.16(D), which states “A judge shall not charge or accept a fee, honorarium, gratuity, or contribution for performing a wedding ceremony during court hours.”

33. Article 6.1, Section 4 of the Arizona Constitution, which provides for the censure, suspension, or removal of a judge “for action by him that constitutes willful misconduct in office, willful and persistent failure to perform his duties, habitual intemperance or conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute.”

#### **REQUESTED RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Disciplinary Counsel hereby requests that a duly appointed Commission Hearing Panel find Respondent in violation of the Code and Arizona Constitution, as alleged above; recommend to the Supreme Court that Respondent be censured, suspended, or removed from judicial office; that attorney fees and costs be assessed against Respondent pursuant to Commission Rule 18(e); and that the hearing panel or court grant such other relief as it deems appropriate.

Dated this 16th day of January, 2024.

#### **COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

---

Ariel I. Worth  
Disciplinary Counsel

A copy of this document was served on January 16, 2024, upon Respondent, via email, to:

*tolin555@hotmail.com*  
Hon. Juan M. Guerrero  
Yuma County Justice Court

A copy of this document was hand-delivered on January 16, 2024, to:

Ariel I. Worth  
*Disciplinary Counsel*  
Commission on Judicial Conduct

By: /s/ Kim Welch  
Kim Welch, Commission Clerk



**FILED**

**JAN 16 2024**  
ARIZONA COMMISSION ON  
JUDICIAL CONDUCT

April P. Elliott (Bar # 016701)  
Executive Director  
Arizona Commission on Judicial Conduct  
1501 West Washington Street, Suite 229  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007  
Telephone: (602) 452-3200  
Email: *aelliott@courts.az.gov*

**STATE OF ARIZONA  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Inquiry concerning	)	
	)	Case Nos. 23-181
<b>Judge Juan M. Guerrero</b>	)	23-474
Yuma County Justice Court	)	
South County, Precinct 2	)	
Yuma County	)	<b>NOTICE OF INSTITUTION OF</b>
State of Arizona	)	<b>FORMAL PROCEEDINGS</b>
	)	
_____ Respondent.	)	

**To Judge Juan M. Guerrero:**

You are hereby notified that the Commission on Judicial Conduct has instituted formal proceedings against you in accordance with Rule 24 of the Rules of the Commission on Judicial Conduct ("Rules") to inquire into the charges specified in the attached Statement of Charges. You are also notified that a hearing will be held before the Commission to determine whether these charges constitute grounds for judicial discipline as provided in Article 6.1, § 4, of the Arizona Constitution and the Rules.

You are further notified that:

1. Ariel I. Worth, Attorney at Law, will act as disciplinary counsel for the Commission in this matter, to gather and present evidence before the Commission on the charges.

2. You have the right, pursuant to Rule 25(a), to file a written response to the charges made against you within 15 days after personal or electronic service of this notice upon you, or within 20 days of the date this notice is mailed. An original signed copy of the response must be filed in the Commission's office by 5:00 p.m. on the required date.

3. Upon receipt of your response, or upon expiration of the time in which a response may be filed, the Commission will open and maintain a public file containing the Notice of Institution of Formal Proceedings, the Statement of Charges, and all subsequent pleadings filed with the Commission. This file and the formal hearing in this case shall be open to the public in accordance with Rule 9(a).

4. You have the right to be represented by counsel, to examine and cross-examine witnesses and to require the issuance of subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses or for the production of any evidentiary matters necessary for your defense.

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2024.

**COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

---

April P. Elliott  
Executive Director

A copy of this document was served on January 16, 2024, upon Respondent, via email, to:

*tolin555@hotmail.com*  
Hon. Juan M. Guerrero  
Yuma County Justice Court

A copy of this document was hand-delivered on January 16, 2024, to:

Ariel I. Worth  
*Disciplinary Counsel*  
Commission on Judicial Conduct

By: /s/ Kim Welch  
Kim Welch, Commission Clerk



December 21, 2023

**CONFIDENTIAL**

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT  
1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Telephone: (602) 452-3200  
www.azcourts.gov/azcjc

*Via e-mail only to [cjc@courts.az.gov](mailto:cjc@courts.az.gov)*

RE: Notice of Complaint and Opportunity to Respond (Case No. 23-181)

Members of the Commission on Judicial Conduct,

On April 2, 2023, at approximately 0150 hours I was driving east bound in the six hundred (600) block of west Main Street in Somerton, Arizona. I was impaired at the time as I had consumed multiple alcohol drinks. Officer H. Vargas stopped my vehicle as I was driving at a high rate of speed; approximately forty-seven (47) mph in a twenty-five (25) mph zone. As a result of my speed, performance on field sobriety tests and observations by this Officer, I was arrested.

Pursuant to this arrest for Driving under the Influence and my refusal to take a breath test a Search Warrant was obtained and blood was drawn, resulting in a blood alcohol reading of 0.146. Accordingly, I was charged with three (3) Driving Under the Influence Offenses including Extreme DUI in violation of A.R.S. § 18-1382 (A)(1).

On November 29, 2023, I entered a plea of guilty to the charge of Driving Under the Influence in violation of A.R.S. § 18-1381 (A)(2) before Honorable Judge Landau. Thereafter I was sentenced to one (1) day in jail along with other consequences. Since my conviction and judgement of Guilt I have participated in an evaluation of my inappropriate consumption of alcohol and counseling classes, as well as abided by the Arizona Department of Transportation orders regarding written consequences.

Each and every consequence required by law is most appropriate and allowed me to reflect daily upon my conduct, including potential harm/embarrassment to the Judiciary, my staff, the good people in my community as well as all law-abiding citizens.

This reflection has also allowed me to consider my personal history with alcohol and personal factors that in some way contributed to my conduct on April 2, 2023. I don't mention this to minimize my violation of the law, as I accept responsibility in its entirety.

I am committed to the successful completion of all my responsibilities to the Court in my criminal case, the Arizona Department of Transportation in all license obligations and the Veterans Administration in all health-related treatments. Though for many months I have figuratively beat myself up, my state of mind now, is to take control and resolve all of these issues.

If at some point in the future I will be allowed to participate in the Judiciary again, I will honor and cherish the opportunity. Alcohol is no longer a part of my life and I consider myself blessed that I have had the opportunity to personally serve my community.

  
**JUAN MANUEL GUERRERO**

COMP  
23-181  
5/8/23

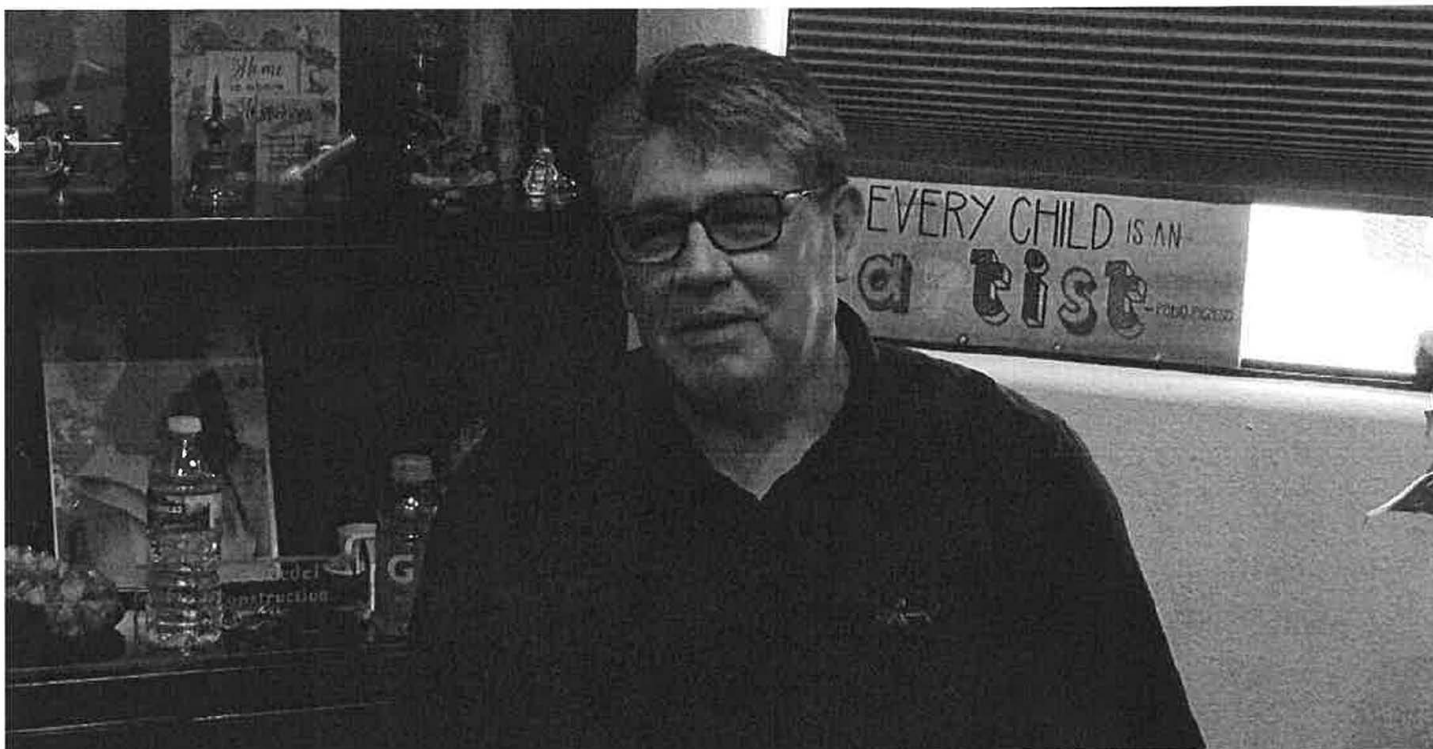
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Published May 1, 2023 10:02 AM



## South County Judge may face DUI charge



**KYMA**

SOMERTON, Ariz. (KYMA, KECY) - South County Justice of the Peace, Juan Manuel Guerrero, could face at least one DUI charge after a blood-alcohol test showed he was driving under the influence when he was stopped by Somerton police earlier this month.

According to the police report, Guerrero was stopped in Somerton on April 4 shortly before 2 a.m. after he was seen driving 40 mph in a 25-mph zone on Bingham Avenue near Crane Street.

In the report, the officer said he smelled alcohol from Guerrero and that the judge had difficulty touching toe to heel in a field sobriety test.

Guerrero then refused to submit to a breathalyzer test, according to the report, prompting police to seek a search warrant.

Then a sample was taken from Guerrero at Yuma Regional Medical Center about four hours after the traffic stop.

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The Arizona Department of Public Safety's lab showed that the judge had a blood-alcohol content of 0.146% alcohol level, according to police. The state's legal limit is 0.08%.

Somerton Police Chief Araceli Juarez said last week the police incident report and the results of the blood test had been turned over to the city prosecutor.

The report said Guerrero told the officer who stopped him, he was driving home with his wife after the couple celebrated an anniversary at Cocopah Casino.



Guerrero has served since 2015 in the elected position of justice of the peace in Precinct II, which covers Somerton, Gadsden, and San Luis, Arizona.

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**Samantha Byrd**

Samantha Byrd joined the KYMA team as a reporter in February 2022.  
You can reach out to her with story ideas at [sammy.byrd@kecytv.com](mailto:sammy.byrd@kecytv.com)

