

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 23-282

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

September 1, 2023

The complainant alleged improper legal rulings by a superior court commissioner 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 member Roger D. Barton did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

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

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2023 - 282

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.

On _____ conducted a hearing room _____ at _____ on a request by _____
attorney for _____, on a motion to have _____ exclusive use of the house at _____
and to have _____ removed from the house. I was made aware of this
request by _____ several minutes prior to the hearing. I was surprised as I was thought that
_____ would be agreeing the Disclaimer Waiver Deed I had previously provided to him.
_____ failed to notify me that I would be required to pay for apartment accommodations. The Judge
asked me if I was aware and I said that was new information to myself. The judge directed areas of the
house to have boundaries such as I would have use of the master bedroom and _____ would
remove her clothing from the master bedroom.
Then _____ attorney for _____ requested that I be ordered to pay his attorney
fees as _____ claimed she had no money. My attorney, _____ remained silent
and without my discussion, the judge ordered me to pay _____ to the respondents attorney.
Previously, I had paid my attorney _____ and now was ordered to pay the
respondents' attorney fees as well. _____ related to me that she had previously paid
_____ for the divorce.
Prior to the divorce I had offered to _____ to have one attorney handle the divorce to save
money, but she refused and wanted her attorney.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

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.

The judge failed to exercise sound judicial judgement and was unreasonable in ordering the attorney fees be paid for both petitioners and respondents lawyers fees by one party the petitioner.
The petitioner sole limited income is solely from _____
accepted the initial case and lawyer fees for _____ paid by _____ for
the divorce case, got greedy and later requested additional _____ even though the case requires
hours of work.