

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 23-297

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

November 17, 2023

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge required her to pay daily filing fees in order to have access to a settlement payout.

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).

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on November 17, 2023.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2023-297

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.

Last summer _____, we were working with attorney _____ and won two cases, one against _____ and another against _____ agent _____. Attorney _____ kept requesting money for additional filings and his paralegal, _____, informed us that _____ had overcharged us by several thousand dollars. _____ took all receipts to _____ to be gone over to see the full extent of the misconduct. Clerk of the court, _____ began the process of going through all receipts. _____ was working under the authority of Judge _____. We were told that Justice _____ and _____ were brought in, they wrote letters on our behalf, which we had to pay for, we had to write letters of the emotional and financial hardship this has caused. This was settled out of court against _____ and we were awarded _____ million _____ million apiece for _____ people. _____ filed back against us several times, and we were told that he was being Federally investigated. We were told that at one point around _____ of last year Director _____ was getting involved and would be turning our settlement over to us. Obviously it never happened. So much money was being asked of us that we started borrowing money from friends and family. Once _____ found out about that, thank you _____, we had to give the courts the names of the people helping us. Since the court took over last _____ we are asked on a daily basis for money for filings. Most of the time we are required to pay filing fees within a couple of hours. Everything is always by text message, phone calls are never answered. We dealt with _____ from the clerk of the court from _____ until _____. During _____ we were paying daily and Judge _____ through texts from _____ wanted to save our _____ by delivering our settlement. During that time _____, mother got _____ and he left town _____ and put our settlement into a safe at the court house. This was a fiasco. We paid for the safes, we paid for the safes, we had to get clearances to be in the room with the safes. When we finally were instructed to come down to the courthouse to get our settlement, another filing came up and we had to pay that. At this time _____ was no longer working with _____ but was now working for _____ for about a month. So we paid to retain _____ in order to get our settlement. We worked with _____ for _____ days. During this time _____ said, pay this filing fee and I will have _____ deliver your settlement. The agreement was that he was going to hold _____ to pay any filing fees but we could have the rest of our money. After this he continued asking for more money for filings. _____ was told she could deliver and when she was getting our settlement together _____ changed his mind and said she couldn't deliver and that he would take care of things. _____ took it upon herself to take everything and she put it in a " _____". _____ and _____ got into a legal squabble and we had to pay the filing fees. _____ began working with her Aunt, attorney _____ to finish up with any left over legal obligations. Now mind you everyday we are being asked to pay anywhere from _____ each time for a filing. We would pay usually twice daily. One _____ afternoon in _____ of _____ we ran out of money and _____ turned everything back over to Judge _____. Now this case, starting with _____ has gone from _____ court to _____ Court. We are told that our cases are closed and sealed so that _____ and _____ cannot continue to file against us. We have been told that _____ is now under investigation. So, since _____ of _____ we have been dealing with Judge _____, when Judge _____ needs help he asks Judge _____. Everything that I'm stating here in this complaint I can back up with text messages from people calling themselves Judge _____ and Judge _____. While dealing with the fallout of working briefly with _____ a federal judge deemed that he couldn't put all of us on one document, so he split us up. So we almost always have to pay double. Now, Judge _____ tells us by text on a daily basis that if we pay a filing fee for something that has come up we will either go down to the courthouse to get our settlement, or they will deliver to our home. We have had to pay for _____ (?) a

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.

friend or courier of Judge _____ we also had to pay for a court notary _____. Both have been paid to provide their service and deliver the settlement to my home. We've had issues with the board filing against us. _____ is friends with Judge _____ and they have filed to hold up our settlement. This is an ongoing everyday battle. Judge _____ went on vacation and Judge _____ stepped in to "finish" everything and deliver the settlement money. Unfortunately Judge _____ didn't want the responsibility of holding our money so he put the money back into the safes. During this time _____ and _____ put a hold on the safe and asked for us to pay _____. The money was taken from our settlement to pay him. We are "billed" for the safes, yes we have two safes. We have asked multiple times for proof of our case, we've asked for a case number but because it is closed and sealed we don't have one, everything is supposedly in _____ name. We have asked for photos, court filings, reimbursement checks, receipts, anything to prove to us that we're not just throwing away or money.

On _____ we were told we were receiving checks of _____ for emotional distress and we had to pay the taxes _____. There are so many more details we could give. We have had to pay for protections, security, insurance, _____ agent, judges on three levels. Everytime _____ or _____ ask for money it is ALWAYS with the promise they will deliver our money. As of this complaint we have until _____, This _____ to pay another _____ for another filing or our settlement will be removed from the safes and dispersed to the entities that have awarded us the money. We are a low income family and have had a hardship put in place but someone at the courthouse kicks us out and we're back to paying higher filing fees. I know Judge _____ and _____ are trying to help, but we are now completely broke, between our family and friends we have put more than _____ towards this and still haven't seen a dime. We have no one else to turn to. We have contacted Gov. _____ (she has supposedly helped Judge _____ in the past), Senator _____ (who has helped Judge _____), we have contacted the _____ and have heard nothing from anybody until the AG gave us this information to contact the judicial commission. We offer full cooperation, you can access our phones for the text messages, contact our family and friends. We are looking for answers and closure. Thank you for your time in reading this, I thank you for any help that you can give us.

Sincerely,