State of Arizona

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 23-304

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

November 27, 2023

The Complainant alleged a justice of the peace continued a trial without a legitimate reason, engaged in improper demeanor, and engaged in improper ex parte communications.

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).

Copies of this order were distributed to all
appropriate persons on November 27, 2023.

Comp
(Anonymous)

Judicial Ethics Complaint
Judge:
Date:
Case:

2023-304

Violation of Rule 1.2

The judge's actions undermined public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary by continuing a trial without a legitimate reason, causing the defendant to state that he couldn't trust that the next trial date would actually be the trial. Further, because the judge could not provide a legitimate reason for the continuance, the defendant thought the continuance was granted for the State's benefit.

The Court and the State had ex-parte communications about motions that the State intended to file in the case after the defendant left the room.

Violation of Rule 2.1

The judge failed to prioritize actual judicial duties by continuing a trial and alleging a scheduling conflict when the court had ample time to conduct the trial.

Violation of Rule 2.2

The judge, on the record, told the Defendant that he was the most disrespectful person she had ever had in her courtroom. After making this accusation against the defendant, the judge was still set to preside over the defendant's trial.

Violation of Rule 2.3(B)

The judge, on the record, made harassing and provoking remarks to the defendant by repeatedly asking the defendant if he was accusing the judge of lying.

Violation of Rule 2.5(A)

The judge continued the trial because she was not competent to preside over the case without the help of another judicial officer sitting behind the bench with her.

Violation of Rule 2.8(A) & (B)

The judge failed to maintain order and decorum in the hearing before the court. And contributed to the heated rhetoric that served no legitimate judicial purpose. The judge lacked patience and her actions were not dignified, nor was she courteous.

Violation of Rule 2.9

The judge, after the defendant left, engaged in ex-parte communication with the State about the motions in limine that the State intended to file in the case.