

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Disposition of Complaint 23-333

Judge:

Complainant:

ORDER

February 20, 2024

The Complainant alleged a justice of the peace prejudged the case and engaged in improper demeanor in a traffic 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 Michael J. Brown did not participate in the consideration of this matter.

Copies of this order were distributed to all appropriate persons on February 20, 2024.

CONFIDENTIAL

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

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

2023-333

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.

PLEASE READ ATTACHED STATEMENT
DATED

TO: County Consolidated Justice Courts

FROM:

To whom it may concern,

This letter is notification to the County Court System, that I am filing an **official Judicial Misconduct Complaint** against Arizona, Justice of the Peace,

I appeared in Justice court before Justice on , to dispute a speeding ticket that I received on on . During that stop I provided my current Drivers License (), my vehicle insurance card () and current vehicle registration (). I was told by Deputy that he he stopped me for speeding. He took all my documentation back to his squad car and proceeded to write me a citation.

Once I arrived home and had a chance to review the ticket, under the section of "violator" 90% of the administrative data, supposedly taken off a valid and current License was not correct. My first and last name, hair color, DL number, and address (not listed on my DL, but rather my vehicle registration) were correct. The incorrect date fields included my Date of Birth (), Height (), my Gender (), Eyes (), Weight (lbs), and Military status (No), which is clearly incorrect on two documents (my DL, and my Disabled Veteran License Plate.

Initially, when I contacted the Justice court to see what I needed to do for my appearance, they informed me that " ". they asked me for my personal information, which I provided, and they again said that I was mistaken. I then provided the citation number (), and they located it, but said that my DOB was incorrect. I informed them that most of the information on the ticket was incorrect. I was then transferred to another employee , who said that because the citation information was significantly incorrect, that I had grounds to appear, and discuss it with the Justice, which I attempted to do with Justice That didn't go so well.

appeared to have his decision already made when I walked into the hearing, based on the forms I filled out when requesting to appear. On multiple occasions throughout the hearing, he seemed to be spoon feeding Deputy information regarding the incorrect data he entered, with his interpretation of things like "

His coaching also included procedural things like, " (His response was ").

When I interrupted the Justice and said means not (which I am tall), he literally jumped to his feet, right arm extended straight at me, and yelled "

Justice Incredibly threatening, and unprofessional behavior left me flabbergasted. I felt chastised like a toddler in preschool, defeated, ignored, disrespected and humiliated all within 15 minutes of the start of the hearing, and it only got worse.

When I was allowed to talk, I said my defense, in part, was based on all the administrative errors on the citation. If the Deputy could not correctly transcribe the personal information off my license and license plate, while sitting in an air conditioned official Law Enforcement Vehicle directly behind me, with a significant amount of technology at his disposal, then I did not have confidence that Deputy [redacted] actually captured MY vehicle that was speeding. Justice [redacted] said that “

When I asked why he allowed the Deputy to not take responsibility for all the mistakes on the citation, when he had plenty of time to review the documentation before issuing it to me, his response was “ [redacted]”. For the record, the issuance of the incorrect information on my citation, IS THE RECORD.

He then asked me “ [redacted] I asked the Deputy a series of questions concerning his training, time on the force and the equipment he used to capture my speed, which he answered. I then asked how many other tickets that he issued that day, and if any of them had the same degree of inaccuracy on their documentation. His response was that “ [redacted]”. Justice [redacted] then declared that in his mind the “ [redacted]”, and therefore I was judged to be guilty.

When I asked about the preponderance of evidence that I presented against the Deputy, he snapped, “ [redacted]”. Almost every time he addressed me throughout the hearing, he was verbally abusive and aggressive toward me, in his defense of the “States Witness”, Deputy [redacted]. When I asked what my options were, he smirked at me and said “

I replied with no, because I am going out of state to see my family. However, as I continued to stew over how I was publicly mistreated, I decided that HE SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED to conduct himself like that, in a court of law, regardless of the offense.

Justice of the Peace, [redacted] takes significant advantage of his judicial position to thump his chest, and render his biased judgements from his BULLY PULPIT. It’s almost like he takes JOY in pushing people around from his bench. His eye rolls, smirks, and head shakes are so sophomoric that I have a hard time believing he is qualified for the position he occupies. He is a disgrace to the Arizona Judicial system. Additionally, He cast a long dark shadow over our local court system, and whomever appears before him attempting to get a fair hearing here in [redacted].

In accordance with the AZ Commission on judicial misconduct, [redacted] has clearly violated his oath to uphold the code of judicial conduct; to be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants in his official capacity.

I can be available by phone to discuss any of the points that I have made in this official complaint, or be available in person after [redacted] when I return to [redacted].

Respectfully submitted,

-Citizen