

State of Arizona  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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Disposition of Complaint 24-265

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Judge:

Complainant:

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**ORDER**

January 17, 2025

The Complainant alleged a superior court judge conducted an independent investigation and discussed a case with a family member.

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).

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 January 17, 2025.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

2024-265

**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.

I currently represent \_\_\_\_\_ who is the Petitioner in a case entitled \_\_\_\_\_ v. \_\_\_\_\_  
 This case is extremely high profile due to the Repondent, \_\_\_\_\_ being a  
 former TV celebrity who appeared on \_\_\_\_\_

As explained in the attached Notice of Change of Judge For Cause, I have evidence which proves the  
 trial judge assigned to this matter, Hon. \_\_\_\_\_ violated Rules 2.9(A) and 2.9(C) of the Code of  
 Judicial Conduct, among other rules.

Specifically, there is clear and irrefutable proof showing that Judge \_\_\_\_\_ conducted an independent  
 investigation into the facts of the case, and following a bench trial on \_\_\_\_\_ she issued a ruling  
 (filed \_\_\_\_\_ in which some of her factual "findings" were not based on any evidenced admitted at  
 trial. Rather, there is no question the judge made factual findings based on comments copied from social  
 media websites regarding this case. At no time did Judge \_\_\_\_\_ ever disclose the fact that she had  
 conducted an independent investigation into the facts of this case to the parties or to counsel.

Second, due to the extremely high-profile nature of this case, the trial was attended by at least 100  
 spectators. As explained in the affidavit submitted in support of my Notice of Change of Judge, after the  
 trial many spectators reported (on video) that Judge \_\_\_\_\_ personally attended  
 the trial, and at least one participant claimed that \_\_\_\_\_ told them he had discussed the facts of this  
 case with \_\_\_\_\_ and this individual claimed (again, on video) that \_\_\_\_\_ told him Judge  
 printed out documents from this case and shared them with \_\_\_\_\_

Upon hearing this information, recorded on video in the parking lot after the trial, one spectator urged  
 others not to repeat these comments because: " \_\_\_\_\_ "

Based on this information, I have filed a Notice of Change of Judge for Cause, and I will be fillgn  
 additional motions seeking to vacate Judge \_\_\_\_\_ ruling based on her misconduct.

My client, \_\_\_\_\_ has been EXTREMELY traumatized by these events, and by Judge \_\_\_\_\_ ;allous  
 disregard for her rights. \_\_\_\_\_ will agree to provide any additional information regarding this matter,  
 and will cooperate in any investigation the Commission deems appropriate.

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1501 W. Washington Street, Suite 229  
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**COMPLAINT AGAINST A JUDGE**

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**Judge's Name:**

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Tel.:

Attorney for Petitioner

**COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT  
STATE OF ARIZONA**

**In Re Matter of:**

Case No:

**Petitioner,**

**NOTICE OF CHANGE OF JUDGE  
FOR CAUSE; MEMORANDUM &  
AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT**

**And**

**(Noticed Judge – Hon. )**

**Respondent.**

**(Presiding Judge – Hon. )**

Pursuant to Rule 6.1 Ariz. R. Fam. L.P. Petitioner (“ ” or “Petitioner”) submits the following Notice of Change of Judge for Cause, and memorandum and affidavit in support thereof.

As explained below, there is clear and convincing evidence demonstrating the judge currently assigned to this matter – Hon. – is biased, prejudiced, and has engaged in conduct which violates both right to due process of law under both the United States and Arizona Constitutions, and which separately violated Rules 2.9(A) and 2.9(C) of the Arizona Rules of Judicial Conduct by, *inter alia*: 1.) performing an independent investigation into the facts of this case; 2.) considering (and relying upon) information posted on the Internet about this case; and 3.) engaging in *ex parte* communications regarding this case with her .

1 This conduct, while sufficient to warrant additional other relief (including, but not  
2 limited to, a new trial), establishes grounds to disqualify Judge on the basis of bias  
3 and prejudice within the meaning of A.R.S. § 12-409(5). For these reasons,  
4 respectfully requests the Family Court Presiding Judge, Hon. review this  
5 matter and to find that grounds exist to disqualify Judge, and to promptly reassign  
6 this matter to a new judge.

7 In the event Judge disputes the allegations set forth below, requests  
8 that the Family Court Presiding Judge set this matter for an evidentiary hearing pursuant  
9 to Family Law Rule 6.1(d)(2), and that upon doing so, the Court approve the issuance of  
10 subpoenas *ad testificandum* to Judge and her .

11 **I. CASE SUMMARY/BACKGROUND**

12 The facts of this matter are set forth in detail in the affidavit of counsel submitted  
13 herewith. In short, this case began as a simple paternity establishment action, with one  
14 uncommon wrinkle — Respondent (“ ” or “Respondent”) is a  
15 minor celebrity as a result of his appearance on  
16 . did not merely appear as a , he was the star  
17 of his season, appearing on the show from .

18 **\_\_\_\_\_**

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1                   claims she had a one-night sexual encounter with                   in                   on  
2                   , and she learned she was pregnant 11 days later.                   claims she tested  
3 positive for pregnancy on **five separate occasions** before this case was filed:                   ,  
4                   and                   The first test taken on                   was an at-home  
5 type pregnancy test which was positive. The next day, on                   went to a  
6                   for a professional pregnancy test. The test at                   was also positive.  
7                   After                   informed                   of these positive tests, on  
8 invited                   to his home to discuss the situation. Upon arrival,                   surprised  
9 with a home pregnancy test he had purchased, and he demanded she take the test  
10 immediately in front of him                   claims she took the test as                   watched, while  
11                   claims she went to the bathroom and took the test behind a closed, or partially  
12 closed door). In any event, this third test was also positive.

13                   After the parties were unable to reach an agreement on how to deal with the  
14 situation, and after two more positive tests,                   filed this action, on                   .  
15 Upon filing and through the present, this matter was assigned to Hon.                   .

16                   On                   filed a *pro se* response denying paternity. In his  
17 response,                   claimed “                   ” occurred between the parties, not sexual  
18 intercourse, and he further alleged “                   ”

19                   claims that while the matter was pending, she had a blood test done on  
20                   which confirmed, yet again, she was pregnant, but the test results  
21 suggested the pregnancy was not viable (i.e., it was likely to end in miscarriage). About a  
22 month later, on                   was seen by an OB/GYN facility called  
23                   where it was confirmed she was no longer pregnant.

24                   After learning she was no longer pregnant,                   filed nothing further in this case,  
25 and she took no actions to prosecute the matter any further. Because                   is not an  
26 attorney, she was not familiar with the process for seeking a voluntary dismissal. On  
27                   , court administration issued a notice placing this matter on the inactive  
28 calendar and scheduling the matter for dismissal on                   .

**THE COMMISSION'S POLICY IS  
TO POST ONLY THE FIRST FIVE  
PAGES OF ANY DISMISSED  
COMPLAINT ON ITS WEBSITE.**

**FOR ACCESS TO THE  
REMAINDER OF THE  
COMPLAINT IN THIS MATTER,  
PLEASE MAKE YOUR REQUEST  
IN WRITING TO THE  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL  
CONDUCT AND REFERENCE  
THE COMMISSION CASE  
NUMBER IN YOUR REQUEST.**