

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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In the Matter of the Proceeding  
Pursuant to Section 44, subdivision 4,  
of the Judiciary Law in Relation to

**MICHELLE A. VANWOEART,**

a Justice of the Princetown Town Court,  
Schenectady County.

---

**NOTICE OF FORMAL  
WRITTEN COMPLAINT**

NOTICE is hereby given to Respondent, Michelle A. VanWoeart, a Justice of the Princetown Town Court, Schenectady County, pursuant to Section 44, subdivision 4, of the Judiciary Law, that the State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that cause exists to serve upon Respondent the annexed Formal Written Complaint; and that, in accordance with said statute, Respondent is requested within twenty (20) days of the service of the annexed Formal Written Complaint upon her to serve the Commission at its Albany office, Corning Tower, Suite 2301, Albany, New York 12223, with her verified Answer to the specific paragraphs of the Complaint.

Dated: October 10, 2019  
New York, New York

**ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN**  
Administrator and Counsel  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct  
61 Broadway  
Suite 1200  
New York, New York 10006  
(646) 386-4800

To: John R. Seebold, Esq.  
Attorney for Respondent  
1536 Union Street  
Schenectady, New York 12309

STATE OF NEW YORK  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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In the Matter of the Proceeding  
Pursuant to Section 44, subdivision 4,  
of the Judiciary Law in Relation to

**FORMAL  
WRITTEN COMPLAINT**

**MICHELLE A. VANWOEART,**

a Justice of the Princetown Town Court,  
Schenectady County.

---

1. Article 6, Section 22, of the Constitution of the State of New York establishes a Commission on Judicial Conduct (“Commission”), and Section 44, subdivision 4, of the Judiciary Law empowers the Commission to direct that a Formal Written Complaint be drawn and served upon a judge.

2. The Commission has directed that a Formal Written Complaint be drawn and served upon Michelle A. VanWoeart (“Respondent”), a Justice of the Princetown Town Court, Schenectady County.

3. The factual allegations set forth in Charge I state acts of judicial misconduct by Respondent in violation of the Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts Governing Judicial Conduct (“Rules”).

4. Respondent initially served as a Justice of the Princetown Town Court, Schenectady County, from January 1, 1997, to December 31, 2013. After being out of office for several years, Respondent was elected to a new term as a Justice of the Princetown Town Court. Her current term began on January 1, 2019, and expires on December 31, 2022. Respondent is not an attorney.

## **CHARGE I**

5. During her 2018 campaign for election to the Princetown Town Court, Respondent failed to maintain the dignity appropriate to judicial office and failed to act in a manner consistent with the impartiality, integrity and independence of the judiciary in that:

- A. Respondent and/or her campaign committee produced, distributed and/or paid to have published campaign literature that conveyed an impression that an important function of the court is to generate revenue for the Town of Princetown, *inter alia* creating an appearance that, if elected, Respondent would consider revenue implications when disposing of cases; and
- B. on her campaign's public Facebook page, Respondent "liked" or replied to crude posts and comments by her campaign supporters about her election opponent.

### **Specifications to Charge I**

6. In 2018, Respondent ran for election to the Princetown Town Court. Her election opponent in both the primary and general elections was the incumbent Princetown Town Justice, Norm Miller.

7. On the date of the primary election on or about September 13, 2018, *The Daily Gazette* published a political advertisement, which was produced and paid for by Respondent and/or her campaign committee. A copy of the advertisement is appended as Exhibit 1.

8. The advertisement of September 13, 2018, included a pie chart comparing the amount of revenue from court proceedings generated for the Town of Princetown by Respondent versus then-Judge Miller, during an unidentified four-year term.

Surrounding the pie chart were the statements: “PRINCETOWN does not have a TOWN TAX. It does get revenue from the court. Compare Miller/VanWoeart revenue (4-year term). PRINCETOWN CAN’T AFFORD ANOTHER 4 YEARS OF NORM MILLER!”

9. During Respondent’s 2018 campaign, Respondent and/or her campaign committee produced and distributed a tri-fold campaign brochure that included a pie chart and a bar graph making comparisons between the amount of revenue generated for the Town of Princetown by Respondent versus then-Judge Miller during an unidentified four-year term. Below the chart and graph, the brochure included the statement: “REVENUES ARE DOWN 65% SINCE NORM HAS BEEN JUDGE!” A copy of the campaign brochure is appended as Exhibit 2.

10. During Respondent’s 2018 general election campaign, Respondent and/or her campaign committee produced and distributed campaign leaflets with slots allowing it to be hung on doors, that included the statements: “Norm Miller’s projected revenues from traffic tickets for 2017 was \$50,000. He failed to reach that by over \$13,500 and he overspent his court budget by over \$10,000. Can Princetown afford to keep Norm Miller as Judge?” A copy of the leaflet is appended as Exhibit 3.

11. Respondent’s campaign brochure and leaflet requested supporters to visit the Facebook group page named “Friends To Elect Michelle VanWoeart.”



12. Facebook is an internet social networking website that *inter alia* allows users to post and share content on their own Facebook accounts as well as on the Facebook accounts of other users and on Facebook groups.

13. A Facebook account holder can use his or her personal account to create a “Facebook group,” which other Facebook account holders can join. The creator of a Facebook group is typically a group “admin.” An admin manages the group account and *inter alia* has the authority to update the group name and cover photo, select the group’s privacy settings, approve or deny membership requests, remove posts and comments to posts by other members, and remove and block people from the group. At the option of an admin, the content of a Facebook group may be set to “Public,” so that anyone with access to the internet may see what members post, comment and share on the group page, as well as endorse by clicking “Like” to posts on the group page. Any member of the group may post to the group and comment on posts to the group.

14. In or about September 2018 through November 2018, Respondent maintained a Facebook account under the name “Michelle VanWoeart.”

15. In or about September 2018 through November 2018, Respondent was the admin of a Facebook group that she created and named “Friends to Elect Michelle VanWoeart Judge for the Town of Princetown.” As admin, Respondent set the group’s privacy settings to “Public.”

16. On or about September 13, 2018, Respondent clicked the “Like” button on a post to the Friends to Elect Michelle VanWoeart group page by another member, stating, “Michelle VanWoeart you won??? YESSSSSSSS congratulations!!!!!! Time to take out

the trash!! #amen #outwiththetrash #sorrynotsorry,” which was a reference to then-Judge Miller. Copies of screenshots of this post are appended as Exhibit 4.

17. On or about September 14, 2018, Respondent published a post on the Friends to Elect Michelle VanWoeart group page about her campaign plans following her victory in the primary election. Respondent replied “Thank you” to a comment to her post by another member stating, “Great job, Princetown!! BUT, Dirt Bag Norm will try to find some obscure line to keep going ..... don’t let your guard down on this SH\*T HE\*D.” Copies of screenshots of this post are appended as Exhibit 5.

18. On or about November 2, 2018, Respondent published a post on the Friends to Elect Michelle VanWoeart group page stating, “Yup. Millers [*sic*] flyers sent out packed full of lies.” Respondent clicked the “Like” button on a comment to her post by another member stating, “I’d like to shove the flyers up Norm’s butt!” Copies of screenshots of this post are appended as Exhibit 6.

19. On or about November 6, 2018, the date of the general election, Respondent clicked the “Like” button on a post to the Friends to Elect Michelle VanWoeart group page by another member containing a “gif” image of man throwing a bag of trash down a driveway and into a trash can, with the statement, “I knew you had this! Congratulations!! The trash has been taken out!” A copy of a screenshot of this post is appended as Exhibit 7.

20. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent should be disciplined for cause, pursuant to Article 6, Section 22, subdivision (a), of the Constitution and Section 44, subdivision 1, of the Judiciary Law, in that Respondent failed to uphold the integrity and

independence of the judiciary by failing to maintain high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary would be preserved, in violation of Section 100.1 of the Rules; failed to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety, in that she failed to respect and comply with the law and failed to act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary, in violation of Section 100.2(A) of the Rules; and failed to refrain from inappropriate political activity, in that she failed to maintain the dignity appropriate to judicial office and act in a manner consistent with the impartiality, integrity and independence of the judiciary, in violation of Section 100.5(A)(4)(a) of the Rules, and made pledges or promises that are inconsistent with the adjudicative duties of the office, in violation of Section 100.5(A)(4)(d)(i) of the Rules.

**WHEREFORE**, by reason of the foregoing, the Commission should take whatever further action it deems appropriate in accordance with its powers under the Constitution and the Judiciary Law of the State of New York.

Dated: October 10, 2019  
New York, New York



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**ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN**  
Administrator and Counsel  
State Commission on Judicial Conduct  
61 Broadway  
Suite 1200  
New York, New York 10006  
(646) 386-4800



STATE OF NEW YORK  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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In the Matter of the Proceeding  
Pursuant to Section 44, subdivision 4,  
of the Judiciary Law in Relation to

**VERIFICATION**

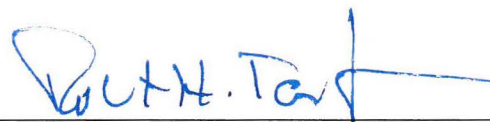
**MICHELLE A. VANWOEART,**

a Justice of the Princetown Town Court,  
Schenectady County.  
-----

STATE OF NEW YORK                    )  
  : ss.:  
COUNTY OF NEW YORK                )

ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1.     I am the Administrator of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.
2.     I have read the foregoing Formal Written Complaint and, upon information  
and belief, all matters stated therein are true.
3.     The basis for said information and belief is the files and records of the State  
Commission on Judicial Conduct.



Robert H. Tembeckjian

Sworn to before me this  
10<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019



Notary Public

**LATASHA Y. JOHNSON**  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 01JO6235579  
Qualified in New York County  
Commission Expires February 14, 2023





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- PROBATE & TRUST ADMINISTRATION
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- ELDER LAW



VOTE FOR US

518-688-2846  
157 BARRETT ST.  
SCHENECTADY

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

PRIMARY DAY THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> NOON-9 PM

**VOTE MICHELLE VANWOEART  
FOR TOWN JUSTICE**

**PRINCETOWN does not have a TOWN TAX**

**It does get revenue from the court**

**Compare Miller / VanWoeart revenue (4-year term)**



**PRINCETOWN CAN'T AFFORD ANOTHER 4 YEARS OF NORM MILLER!**

**Please Make it a high priority to VOTE**

Read the true facts: [michellevanwoeartforjudge.squarespace.com](http://michellevanwoeartforjudge.squarespace.com)

Paid for by the Friends to Elect Michelle VanWoeart



Vote *Schenectady*arc  
**BEST place to work!**



Let's Help Clarify Norm's  
"Honesty and Integrity".  
Know the Real Facts:

- Town of Princetown had to replace Norm Miller's inadequate security system after only two years, costing the town almost \$5,000 for a full replacement.
- Norm did NOT reduce costs of maintaining the court office, as stated. In fact, the Town Board reduced both hours and salary of the court clerk, to account for lost court revenues
- Norm attempted to have legal fees paid by the Town of Princetown due to a complaint made to the Commission on Judicial Conduct by a defendant because of his actions in court.

VOTE: PRIMARY - SEPTEMBER 13TH  
GENERAL - NOVEMBER 6TH

ELECT

**Michelle  
Van Woeart**

Former

TOWN JUSTICE



25 YEARS OF COURTROOM EXPERIENCE

First Court Clerk for the Town of Princetown  
1985

Appointed Town Justice 1997

Served for 16 years as the Elected Judge

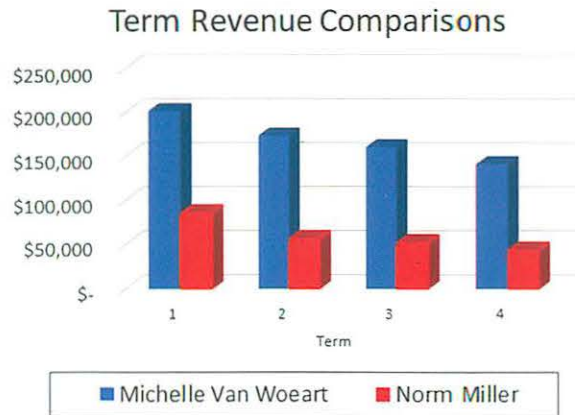
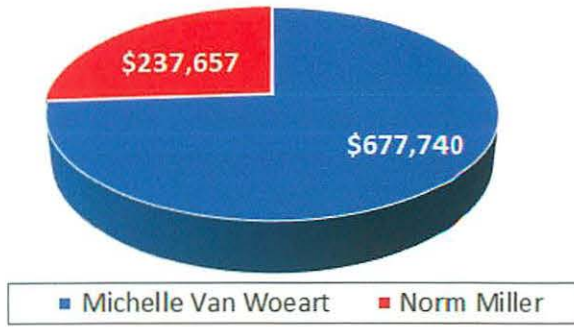
Certified Court Transcriptionist





## HOW DID NORM MEASURE UP TO FORMER JUDGE VANWOEART?

### Four Year Term Revenue



SOURCE: NEW YORK STATE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

REVENUES ARE DOWN 65%  
SINCE NORM HAS BEEN JUDGE!



## MY QUALIFICATIONS TO BE YOUR JUDGE

- First ever court clerk for the Town of Princetown - 1985
- Served as Town Justice from 1997-2013
- Currently an Executive Secretary for the Scotia Glenville Middle School Guidance Department
- Certified by the New York State Unified Courts as a Transcriptionist that complies with all standard transcription specifications pursuant to the Rules of the Chief Administrative Judge.
- Trained in the administration of NARCAN/NALOXONE for Opioid overdose.
- Past and present memberships include NYS Magistrates Association, NYS Paralegal Association, Scotia Glenville Secretarial Association

VISIT FACEBOOK PAGE: FRIENDS TO ELECT MICHELLE VANWOEART  
WEBSITE: MICHELLEVANWOEARTFORJUDGE.SQUARESPACE.COM  
EMAIL: MICHELLEVWFORJUDGE@GMAIL.COM



## ABOUT ME

I have lived in Princetown since 1979 and raised my three children here. I have an AAS in paralegal studies, I am a certified Court Transcriptionist and have transcribed over twenty five court proceedings from local Courts to Surrogates, Family and Supreme Courts for many Counties in New York State.

I have twenty five years of Court experience with sixteen of those years serving Princetown residents as your Judge. As judge I modernized for the most up-to-date courtroom, initiated armed security Officers (for the protection of Court personnel as well as the public), applied for and received grant funding to update security at our Town Hall. While serving as your Judge I dealt with minor violations to major felonies. The first search warrant I signed as Judge was successful in the conviction of the first felony animal cruelty case in Schenectady County.

As your Judge I will dispense justice fairly and will uphold the Constitutional rights of ALL citizens.





VOTE



*Michelle*  
VANWOEART

*Town Justice*  
Town of Princetown

November 6, 2018

OVER 25 Years of  
Court Experience





## WHAT VOTING FOR MICHELLE VAN WOEART MEANS

I PLEDGE to dispense justice fairly and will uphold the constitutional rights of ALL who appear before me.

Restore the distinction of where prosecutors, police, defense attorneys and everyday citizens will know that justice has been served in accordance with the highest standards of judicial professionalism.

**I HAVE:** The experience and knowledge to be  
**YOUR Judge** for the next four years.

Served as the Town Justice in Princetown for 16 years.


AAS in Paralegal Studies.

Certified Court Transcriptionist with over 25 transcribed Court proceedings .

Updated and modernized the courtroom through the initiative of the Unified Courts Security Assessment including armed sheriff's to protect the public.

## **I am the right choice for Town Justice for The Town of Princetown**

Norm Miller's projected revenues from traffic tickets for 2017 was \$50,000. He failed to reach that by over \$13,500 and he overspent his court budget by over \$10,000. Can Princetown afford to keep Norm Miller as Judge?



**VOTE: Democrat, Republican, Conservative,  
Working Families and Independence.  
Michelle is on all five lines.**

Visit Facebook Page: Friends to Elect Michelle VanWoeart  
<https://michellevanwoeartforjudge.squarespace.com>





# Friends to Elect Michelle VanWoeart Judge for the Town of Princetown

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Elise Conto

September 13, 2018

Michelle VanWoeart you won??? YESSSSSSSS congratulations!!!!!! Time to take out the trash!! #amen #outwiththetrash #sorrynotsorry 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌



4

Seen by 126



Like



Share



Lisa Karandy

September 13, 2018

Congratulations.



2

Seen by 127



Like



Share



Christine Bader

September 13, 2018

Good luck Michelle!



1

Seen by 125



Like



Share



Ann Pacelli

September 13, 2018



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19,338 members

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468,788 members

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Elise Conto

September 13, 2018

Like

Paul Hasbrouck  
Michelle VanWoeart  
Ronni Edwards  
Lisa Dufek

Thank you won??? YESSSSSSSS congratulations!!!!!! Time to #amen #outwiththetrash #sorrynotsorry 🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌🙌

4

Seen by 126

Like

Share



Lisa Karandy

September 13, 2018

Congratulations.

2

Seen by 127

Like

Share



Christine Bader

September 13, 2018

Good luck Michelle!

1

Seen by 125

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Ann Pacelli

September 13, 2018



Adirondack Backcountry Hikers

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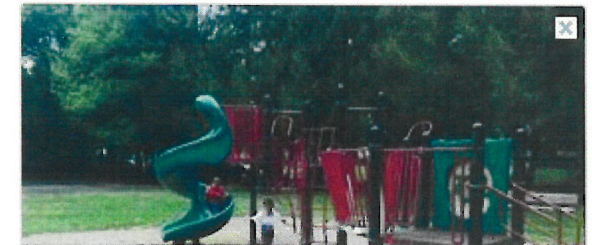
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Like · 28w



**Michelle VanWoeart**

September 14, 2018

I will continue to move forward in the election process. I will be visiting throughout the town to answer your questions and concerns I look forward to serving you for the next four years as your judge in the Town of Princetown. Thank you again for making your vote heard.

46

32 Comments Seen by 136



Like



Share



**Kristina Squillo** Congratulations!!

Like · 28w

1



**Michelle VanWoeart** Thank you

Like · 28w



**Dale May** Congratulations. Well done yesterday.

Like · 28w

1



**Michelle VanWoeart** Thank you

Like · 28w



**Kelly Ogborn-Marx** Congratulations !!!!!!! 🎉 🎊 🎊 🎊

Like · 28w

1



**Michelle VanWoeart** Thank you

Like · 28w



**Claudia Torre** Congratulations Michelle !! 🎉

Like · 28w

1



**Michelle VanWoeart** Thank you

Like · 28w



**Old School Italians**

102,219 members

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**Official Peloton Member Page**

163,926 members

+ Join



**Adirondack Backcountry Hikers**

19,338 members

+ Join



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**Claudia Torre** Congratulations Michelle !! 🎉

Like · 28w



**Michelle VanWoeart** Thank you

Like · 28w



**Christine Bader** Congratulations!!!!

Like · 28w



**Michelle VanWoeart** Thank you

Like · 28w



**Cathy Hasbrouck** YOU TROMPED HIM!!!! CONGRATULATIONS 🤗

Like · 28w · Edited



**Donna Roth** Congratulations!

Like · 28w



**Michelle VanWoeart** Thank you

Like · 28w



**Paul Hasbrouck** Great job Princetown!! BUT, Dirt Bag Norm will try to find some obscure line to keep going ..... don't let your guard down on this SH\*T HE\*D

Like · 28w



**Michelle VanWoeart** Thank you

Like · 28w



**Paul Hasbrouck** how many absentee's do you have to see??

Like · 28w



**Michelle VanWoeart** Paul Hasbrouck 10

Like · 28w



**Sharon Cole Colon** Congrats!

163,926 members

+ Join



**Adirondack Backcountry Hikers**

19,338 members

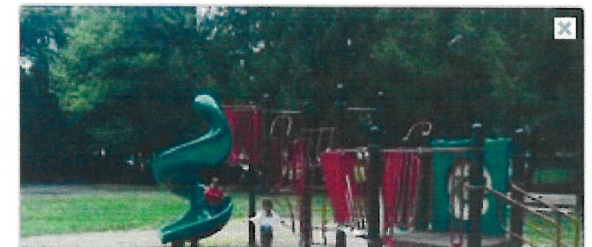
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**Michelle VanWoeart**

November 2, 2018

Yup. Millers flyers sent out packed full of lies.



6

19 Comments 1 Share Seen by 130



Like



Share



**Nathan Pyne** Got 2 here! 😏

Like · 21w



2



**Ann Pacelli** I'd like to shove the flyers up Norm's butt!

Like · 21w



2



**Ann Pacelli** Is a public debate in order?

Like · 21w



1



**Diane Martin**



Like · 21w



**Nora Ely Carnevale** I got 2 here did he not see my 2 Michelle VanWoeart signs??? I need bigger ones please 😏

Like · 21w



1



**Michelle VanWoeart** This is a Christian who is a Eucharistic minister and blatantly lied

Like · 21w · Edited



**Dayton Skelly** Didn't get any but if I did there's a big garbage pail awaiting them.

Like · 21w



**Carol McClaine** One of the most immoral, vicious, lying person I have ever known



**Adirondack Backcountry Hikers**

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Like



Share



Nathan Pyne Got 2 here! 🙄

Like · 21w



2



2

Lisa Karandy  
Michelle VanWoeart



Ann Pacelli I'd like to shove the flyers up

Like · 21w



2



Ann Pacelli Is a public debate in order?

Like · 21w



1



Diane Martin



Like · 21w



Nora Ely Carnevale I got 2 here did he not see my 2 Michelle VanWoeart signs??? I need bigger ones please 😊

Like · 21w



1



Michelle VanWoeart This is a Christian who is a Eucharistic minister and blatantly lied

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Like · 21w



Carol McClaine One of the most immoral, vicious, lying person I have ever known



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