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**NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE *August 13, 2008*

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The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has made public a stipulation that includes formal charges against Michael M. Feeder, a Justice of the Hudson Falls Village Court, Washington County.

Judge Feeder, who is not an attorney, served as a Justice of the Hudson Falls Village Court since January 2003. From January 1998 to December 2005, he was also a justice of the Kingsbury Town Court. He submitted his resignation in a letter today to the Hudson Falls Village Board and Mayor John Barton.

Judge Feeder and the Commission entered into a stipulation on March 5, 2008 under which the parties agreed that should Judge Feeder “vacate judicial office for any reason before the Commission renders a determination on the merits...the Stipulation, including the annexed Formal Written Complaints, will be made public.

In the stipulation, Judge Feeder also agreed to neither seek nor accept judicial office at any time in the future.

Based on this stipulation and the judge’s resignation, the Commission is attaching, along with this press release, the following information:

- The March 5, 2008 stipulation and attached copies of the two Formal Written Complaints against the judge;
- The Commission’s decision, dated March 13, 2008, accepting the stipulation;
- A copy of the letter of resignation that was submitted today by Judge Feeder to the mayor and village board.

In its Formal Written Complaints, the Commission alleged, *inter alia*, that Judge Feeder:

- Improperly invoked the power and prestige of his judicial office to ensure the arrest of a motorist, and thereafter took judicial action in the case against the motorist after the resulting charge was filed in his court. The judge also commented publicly on the case, at a time when it was pending;
- Made public statements supporting stronger penalties for the Village of Hudson Falls' curfew ordinance, at a time when he was Hudson Falls Village Justice, before whom curfew violations were brought;
- Engaged in improper *ex parte* communications with the mother of a defendant;
- Granted a defendant an adjournment in contemplation of dismissal, without notice to or the consent of the prosecution;
- Presided over numerous cases filed by members of the Hudson Falls Village Police Department, without disclosing his personal friendship with Hudson Falls Assistant Chief of Police Randy Diamond, who supervises other officers in the department who have filed and/or appeared before the judge in these cases.

Counsel

Judge Feeder was represented by Terence L. Kindlon, Esq., Kindlon Shanks & Associates, 74 Chapel Street, Albany, New York 12208, (518) 434- 1493. The Commission was represented by Mr. Tembeckjian, Cathleen S. Cenci, Esq., Deputy Administrator for the Commission's Albany office, and Cheryl L. Randall, Esq, a senior attorney with the Commission. Senior Investigator David Herr also assisted the Commission in its investigation.

Members of the Commission

The Commission members serve four-year terms. A list of members is appended.

The Public File

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Albany, New York 12223

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Rochester, New York 14604

MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT:

Member	Appointing Authority	Term Expiration
Hon. Thomas A. Klonick, Chair	Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye	March 31, 2009
Stephen R. Coffey, Esq., Vice Chair	Senate Majority Leader Joseph L. Bruno	March 31, 2011
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq.	Governor David A. Paterson	March 31, 2012
Colleen C. DiPirro	Former Governor George E. Pataki	March 31, 2009
Richard D. Emery, Esq.	Senate Minority Leader Malcolm A. Smith	March 31, 2012
Paul B. Harding, Esq.	Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco	March 31, 2009
Elizabeth B. Hubbard	Governor David A. Paterson	March 31, 2011
Marvin E. Jacob, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver	March 31, 2010
Hon. Jill Konviser	Former Governor George E. Pataki	March 31, 2010
Hon. Karen K. Peters	Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye	March 31, 2010
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman	Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye	March 31, 2012