



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006

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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE

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The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has completed formal proceedings against Rebecca McGowan, a justice of Jewett Town Court, Greene County. Pursuant to a stipulation, the judge, who is not an attorney, resigned from office effective July 31, 2008. She also agreed never to seek or accept judicial office in the future. The proceedings were therefore discontinued and the case was closed.

Under the terms of the stipulation, Judge McGowan waived the statutory provision of confidentiality applicable to Commission proceedings, to the limited extent that the stipulation would be made public. The stipulation indicates the following:

- The Commission served a Formal Written Complaint on Judge McGowan on October 19, 2007, containing *inter alia* three charges. The complaint alleged that the judge:
 - Granted special consideration to her brother-in-law, Charles Tatar. Mr. Tatar is also the son of Stanley Tatar, Judge McGowan's former co-justice who is no longer on the bench. At Stanley Tatar's request, Judge McGowan dismissed two charges against Mr. Tatar alleging violations of the Jewett Dog Control Law;

- Failed to disqualify herself from five other matters in which the defendants were either her relatives or a family friend. She presided over these matters, and was charged with granting “special consideration” to these defendants; and
 - Failed to make timely deposits of court funds from eight cases within 72 hours of receipt, as required by Section 214.9(a) of the Uniform Rules for the Trial Courts (22 NYCRR Section 214.9[a]).
- Judge McGowan answered the Formal Written Complaint on November 28, 2007. She admitted some of the charges and denied others;
 - Judge McGowan tendered her resignation in a July 15, 2008 letter to the Town of Jewett Board; and
 - She affirmed that she would neither seek nor accept judicial office in the future.

The stipulation and the Commission’s order closing the case can be found on the Commission’s website: www.scjc.state.ny.us

Counsel

Judge McGowan was represented by Scott W. Bush, Esq. of Roche, Corrigan, McCoy & Bush, 36 South Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12207 (518) 436-9370. Robert H. Tembeckjian, Esq., Administrator and Counsel to the Commission, Cathleen S. Cenci, Deputy Administrator for the Commission’s Albany Office, and Jill S. Polk, Esq., a Senior Attorney in the Commission’s Albany office, served as counsel for the Commission. Senior Investigator Donald R. Payette also assisted in the Commission’s investigation.

Members of the Commission

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

The Public File

The stipulation and order are attached. They are also available for inspection by appointment during regular business hours at the Commission's three offices:

61 Broadway
New York, New York 10006

Corning Tower, Suite 2301
Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223

400 Andrews Street
Rochester, New York 14604

MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Member	Appointing Authority	Term End
Hon. Thomas A. Klonick, Chair	Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye	March 31, 2009
Stephen R. Coffey, Esq., Vice Chair	Former 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
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Marvin E. Jacob, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver	March 31, 2010
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Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman	Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye	March 31, 2012