



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

ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN  
ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSEL

646-386-4791 646-458-0037  
TELEPHONE FACSIMILE

[www.scjc.state.ny.us](http://www.scjc.state.ny.us)

BETH S. BAR  
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

## NEWS RELEASE

*FOR RELEASE February 24, 2009*

<b>Contacts:</b>	<b>Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator</b> (646) 386-4800
	<b>Beth S. Bar, Public Information Officer</b> (646) 386-4791

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that Dandrea L. Ruhlmann, a Judge of the Family Court, Monroe County, should be censured.

In a determination dated February 9, 2009, the Commission found that Judge Ruhlmann ordered her confidential secretary to perform babysitting duties on several occasions for her two young children. Judge Ruhlmann also required her secretary to perform personal typing duties for her husband and to access a confidential court database to get information for the judge's husband.

“[Judge Ruhlmann's] repeated use of her court staff for personal, non-governmental purposes without a compelling reason violated her obligation to ‘act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary,’” the Commission said in its determination.

The determination can be found on the Commission's web site:  
[www.scjc.state.ny.us](http://www.scjc.state.ny.us).

### **The Commission Proceedings**

Judge Ruhlmann was served with a Formal Written Complaint on June 24, 2008 containing four charges, and filed a verified answer dated September 9, 2008.

On December 12, 2008, the Administrator of the Commission, the judge's counsel and Judge Ruhlmann entered into an Agreed Statement of Facts stipulating that the Commission would make its determination based upon the agreed facts, recommending that the judge be censured, and waiving further submissions and oral argument.

The Commission accepted the Agreed Statement on January 28, 2009.

### **The Commission Determination**

The Commission filed a determination dated February 9, 2009.

Judge Thomas A. Klonick (the Commission Chair), Stephen R. Coffey, Esq. (the Vice Chair), Joseph W. Belluck, Esq., Richard D. Emery, Esq., Paul B. Harding, Esq., Elizabeth B. Hubbard, Marvin E. Jacob, Esq., Judge Jill Konviser, Judge Karen K. Peters, and Judge Terry Jane Ruderman concurred.

### **Court of Appeals Review**

The Commission transmitted its determination to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 7.

A judge may either accept the Commission's determination or, within 30 days of receipt, make a written request to the Chief Judge for a review of the determination by the Court of Appeals.

Pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 7, if Judge Ruhlmann does not request review by the Court of Appeals, the Commission will censure her in accordance with the determination.

If the Commission's determination is reviewed by the Court of Appeals, the Court may accept the determined sanction, impose a different sanction including admonition, censure or removal, or impose no sanction.

### **Statistics Relating to Prior Determinations**

Since 1978, the Commission has censured 274 judges in New York State, 81 of them full time judges. (More than two-thirds of the judiciary in New York State are part-time). The Commission has issued a determination of removal as to 160 judges and has admonished 227 judges.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 88 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 74 cases. Of the remaining 14 cases, two were increased from censure to removal, and twelve were reduced: nine removal determinations were modified to censure, two censure determinations were modified to admonition, and one censure was rejected and the charges dismissed.

### **Counsel**

In the proceedings before the Commission, Judge Ruhlmann was represented by Lawrence J. Andolina of Trevett Cristo Salzer & Andolina, 2 State Street, Rochester, New York 14614 (585) 454-2181.

Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission, and John J. Postel, Deputy Administrator for the Commission's Rochester office, served as counsel to the Commission. Senior Investigator Rebecca Roberts assisted in the investigation.

### **Members of the Commission**

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

### **The Public File**

The determination is attached. The record of the proceedings upon which the determination is based is 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**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Term End</b>
Hon. Thomas A. Klonick, Chair	Former 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
Richard D. Emery, Esq.	Former 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	Former Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye	March 31, 2010
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman	Former Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye	March 31, 2012
VACANT	Governor David A. Paterson	March 31, 2009