



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Lewis County Town Justice Resigns in Connection with Alleged Administrative and Financial Mismanagement

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has completed formal proceedings against James E. Chase, a Justice of the Turin Town Court, Lewis County. Pursuant to a stipulation dated December 1, 2011, Judge Chase resigned from judicial office and agreed never to be a judge again. On that basis, the proceedings were discontinued and the matter was closed on December 8, 2011.

The judge was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated August 30, 2011 alleging among other things that he failed to: (1) regularly deposit court funds within 72 hours of receipt, as required by law; (2) notify the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, as required by law, to order the suspension of the drivers' licenses of 1,008 defendants who had failed to appear in response to traffic charges and 320 defendants who had failed to pay over \$54,000 in fines and surcharges; and (3) properly administer his court by mishandling court funds, resulting in an apparent shortage of available funds.

Under the terms of the stipulation, Judge Chase waived the statutory provision of confidentiality applicable to Commission proceedings, to the limited extent that the stipulation would be made public.

Judge Chase, who had served as a Justice of the Turin Town Court since August 1, 1998 and who is not an attorney, tendered his resignation from judicial office by letter dated November 30, 2011, effective December 8, 2011.

The Commission has accepted 34 stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

The stipulation and the Commission's order closing the case can be found on the Commission's website: www.cjc.ny.gov.

Counsel

In the proceedings before the Commission, Judge Chase was represented by Michael F. Young, The Young Law Firm, 7659 North State Street, Suite 301, Lowville, New York 13367, (315) 376-7543.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission, and John J. Postel, Deputy Administrator in Charge of the Commission's Rochester office. 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 stipulation and order are attached. They are also available for inspection during regular business hours at the Commission's three offices:

61 Broadway, Suite 1200 New York, New York 10006	Corning Tower, Suite 2301 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223	400 Andrews Street Rochester, New York 14604
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MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Member	Appointing Authority	Term End
Hon. Thomas A. Klonick, Chair	Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2013
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Vice Chair	Former Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye	March 31, 2012
Hon. Rolando T. Acosta	Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2014
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq.	Former Governor David A. Paterson	March 31, 2012
Joel Cohen, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver	March 31, 2014
Richard D. Emery, Esq.	Former Senate Minority Leader Malcolm A. Smith	March 31, 2012
Paul B. Harding, Esq.	Former Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco	March 31, 2013
Nina M. Moore	Former Governor David A. Paterson	March 31, 2013
Hon. Karen K. Peters	Former Governor David A. Paterson	March 31, 2014
Richard A. Stoloff, Esq.	Senate President Pro Tem Dean Skelos	March 31, 2015
Vacant	Governor	March 31, 2015