

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Clinton County Town Justice Resigns After Being Charged with Misconduct

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has completed formal proceedings against Richard H. Reome, Sr., a Justice of the Schuyler Falls Town Court, Clinton County. Pursuant to a stipulation dated April 2, 2012, Judge Reome, who resigned by letter dated March 21, 2012, agreed to vacate judicial office on or before April 28, 2012, and agreed not to seek or accept judicial office in the future. On that basis, the proceedings were discontinued and the matter was closed on May 3, 2012.

Under the terms of the stipulation, Judge Reome, who had been a part-time judge since 1998 and who is not an attorney, waived the statutory provision of confidentiality applicable to Commission proceedings, to the limited extent that the stipulation would be made public.

The stipulation indicates that the judge was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated February 3, 2012, alleging that he engaged in judicial misconduct

in his handling of cases between April 2009 and September 2010. The allegations in the Formal Written Complaint included:

- Engaging in and/or considering improper out-of-court communications.
- Expressing bias in favor of law enforcement officers and/or against the defendants.
- Reducing charges against defendants without the consent of the district attorney.
- Misinforming defendants that they were not entitled to court-appointed attorneys and/or failing to inform them of their right to plead guilty and demand supporting depositions from officers.
- Allowing and considering unsworn testimony and finding defendants guilty of zoning/housing violations without conducting a trial; and
- Engaging in inappropriate questioning of defendants at arraignment and failing to rule on a motion to dismiss.

The Commission has accepted 35 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 Reome was represented by Darrell L. Bowen, 60 Court Street, P.O. Box 2822, Plattsburgh, New York 13332, (518) 566-8284.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission, and Senior Attorney Thea Hoeth. Investigator Ryan T. Fitzpatrick 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

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	Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2016
Hon. Rolando T. Acosta	Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2014
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq.	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2016
Joel Cohen, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver	March 31, 2014
Richard D. Emery, Esq.	Senate Minority Leader John L. Sampson	March 31, 2016
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