



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN
ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSEL

61 BROADWAY, SUITE 1200
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006

MARISA E. HARRISON
RECORDS ACCESS OFFICER

646-386-4800 646-458-0037
TELEPHONE FACSIMILE
www.cjc.ny.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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Contacts:

Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator
(646) 386-4800
Marisa E. Harrison, Records Access Officer
(646) 386-4791

Madison County Town Justice Resigns, Ending Inquiry into Misconduct Allegations

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has completed formal proceedings against John S.R. Bartlett, a Justice of the Lebanon Town Court, Madison County. Pursuant to a stipulation dated March 1, 2013, Judge Bartlett, who resigned by letter dated February 21, 2013, agreed to vacate judicial office effective March 1, 2013, 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 March 14, 2013.

Under the terms of the stipulation, Judge Bartlett, who is not an attorney, waived the statutory provision of confidentiality applicable to Commission proceedings, to the limited extent that the stipulation and Commission decision and order would be made public. Judge Bartlett had served as a Justice of the Lebanon Town Court since 2011.

The judge was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated January 2, 2013, alleging that he engaged in misconduct by failing to make timely reports to the State Comptroller with regard to the collection of fines and penalties as required

by law. The Formal Written Complaint further alleged that Judge Bartlett failed to cooperate with the Commission with regard to its investigation of the matters.

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

Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions

The Commission has accepted 41 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 248 determinations of admonition, 304 determinations of censure and 166 determinations of removal against judges in New York State.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 92 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 76 cases (67 of which were removals, six were censures and three were admonitions). Of the remaining 16 cases, two sanctions were increased from censure to removal, and 13 were reduced: nine removal determinations were modified to censure, one removal was modified to admonition, two censures were modified to admonition, and one censure was rejected and the charges dismissed. The Court remitted one matter to the Commission for further proceedings. One request for review is pending.

Press Availability

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian will be in New York City on April 9, 2013 and is available throughout the day by telephone: (646) 386-4800.

Counsel

In the proceedings before the Commission, Judge Bartlett represented himself.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission, and Senior Attorney M. Kathleen Martin. Investigator Betsy Sampson 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 Suite 700 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, 2017
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
Jodie Corngold	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2015
Richard D. Emery, Esq.	Former Senate Minority Leader John L. Sampson	March 31, 2016
Paul B. Harding, Esq.	Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb	March 31, 2017
Richard A. Stoloff, Esq.	Senate President Pro Tem Dean Skelos	March 31, 2015
Hon. David A. Weinstein	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2014
Vacant	Governor	March 31, 2017