



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Judicial Conduct Commission Issues Annual Report Covering 2013 Activities

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has released its 2014 Annual Report, covering the Commission's activities in 2013. The Commission reports having received 1,770 complaints, conducting 654 preliminary inquiries and investigations, and issuing 17 public decisions in 2013. In addition, 10 judges resigned from office while complaints against them were pending.

The Commission is the New York State government agency responsible for investigating complaints of misconduct against judges of the state unified court system and, where appropriate, disciplining such judges for ethics violations.

The Annual Report is available online at www.cjc.ny.gov.

Statistics for 2013

- 1,770 new complaints were received and processed.
- 477 preliminary inquiries were conducted.
- 177 full-fledged investigations were authorized.
- 17 public decisions were rendered:
 - 2 Removals from office
 - 5 Public Censures
 - 5 Public Admonitions
 - 5 Public Stipulations in which judges resigned and agreed to never again hold judicial office
 - 5 other judges resigned at a point before the proceedings against them became public.
- 18 confidential cautionary letters were issued.
- 201 matters were pending at year's end.

1975-2013 Statistics

Since 1975, the Commission has received 48,710 complaints and conducted 8,345 investigations. Through 2013, 826 judges were publicly disciplined for judicial misconduct, including 166 judges who were removed from office. In addition, 1,516 judges have been confidentially cautioned, and 493 judges resigned while under investigation or formal charges.

Also in the Annual Report

The Report discusses the following topics on pages 21-26:

- The disciplinary consequences when a judge drives while under the influence of alcohol.
- The impropriety in a judge's writing certain recommendation or reference letters.
- The importance of filing timely and accurate annual financial disclosure statements.

The Commission's Budget

After several years without any increase in its annual budget, which has been under \$5.4 million since 2008, the Commission requested an increase for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2014, in order to meet annual rises in mandated costs (such as rent) while keeping up with a growing caseload. The Legislature responded with an increase of approximately 2%, which puts the Commission's budget at \$5.484 million.

Statement by Commission Administrator

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

"The Commission's very existence both tempers the judiciary and reassures the public. I believe the judiciary as a whole has become significantly more sensitive to its ethical obligations since the constitutional amendment of 1978 created this Commission, and the public has come to expect the Commission to take appropriate disciplinary action when judicial ethics rules are violated. The immeasurably valuable result is greater public confidence in the integrity of the judiciary and the courts."

Press Availability

Mr. Tembeckjian is available throughout the day by telephone: (646) 386-4791.

Office Addresses

The Commission's offices are located at the following addresses:

61 Broadway	Corning Tower, Suite 2301	400 Andrews Street
Suite 1200	Empire State Plaza	Suite 700
New York, NY 10006	Albany, NY 12223	Rochester, NY 14604

Commission Members in 2013

There are 11 members of the Commission on Judicial Conduct. Members, who are appointed by the Governor, Chief Judge and legislative leaders, serve 4-year terms and are eligible for re-appointment.

The following individuals served on the Commission in 2013:

Hon. Thomas A. Klonick, Chair
Hon. Terry J. Ruderman, Vice Chair
Hon. Rolando T. Acosta
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq.
Joel Cohen, Esq.
Jodie Corngold (Appointed March 6, 2013)
Richard D. Emery, Esq.
Paul B. Harding, Esq.
Nina M. Moore (Served until March 31, 2013)
Richard A. Stoloff, Esq.
Hon. David A. Weinstein

There is currently one vacancy on the Commission which must be filed by the Governor and by law must be a non-lawyer/non-judge.