



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

March 13, 2014

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Albany County Town Justice Resigns, Ending Inquiry into Misconduct Allegations

Philip A. Crandall has resigned as a Justice of the Coeymans Town Court and an Acting Justice of the Ravena Village Court, Albany County, pursuant to a stipulation in which he also agreed not to seek or accept judicial office in the future. At the time, Judge Crandall was facing formal disciplinary charges authorized by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct, which has now closed the matter in view of his resignation.

Judge Crandall, 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 Crandall was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated October 30, 2013, containing four charges, which included:

- Improperly intervening and granting a lenient disposition in a traffic case involving the son of a former member of the Coeymans Town Board;
- Failing to disqualify himself from, and granting a lenient disposition in, a matter involving the judge's brother-in-law;

- Failing to disqualify himself from a traffic case involving a Coeymans Town Board member who participates in setting the judge's salary;
- Improperly intervening and invoking his judicial office in a dispute between the local police, and his daughter and son-in-law.

Judge Crandall filed an answer dated November 18, 2013, in which he denied the allegations of misconduct.

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

Judge Crandall served as a Justice of the Coeymans Town Court since 2012 and as an Acting Justice of the Ravena Village Court since 2008.

Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions

The Commission has accepted 45 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 252 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 309 determinations of censure and 168 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 94 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 78 cases (69 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.

Counsel

In the proceedings before the Commission, Judge Crandall was represented by Scott W. Bush, Esq., of Corrigan, McCoy & Bush, PLLC, 220 Columbia Turnpike, Rensselaer, New York 12144, (518) 477-4575.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission, and Staff Attorney S. Peter Pedrotty. Investigator Ryan Fitzpatrick assisted in the investigation.

Background Information on Judge Crandall**Coeymans Town Court**

First took office: 2012
Current term expires: December 31, 2015
Judicial Salary: \$17,850 (Source: Town of Coeymans 2013 Adopted Budget)

Ravena Village Court

First took office: 2008
Current term expires: May 31, 2014
Judicial Salary: \$1,967 (Source: Village of Ravena Adopted 2013-2014 Budget)

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

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.	Former Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco	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