



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Jefferson County Town Justice Resigns After Complaint of Alcohol-Fueled Misconduct

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct announced that West Carthage Village Justice Delmar R. House, who resigned from office effective March 1, 2016, agreed never to seek or accept judicial office at any time in the future. The Commission accepted a stipulation to that effect signed by the judge and the Commission's Administrator.¹

The Commission had commenced an investigation based upon an allegation that, after consuming alcoholic drinks at a local bar, Judge House engaged in public conduct both inside and outside the bar with another patron that was inconsistent with his ethical obligations to act at all times in a manner that protects the integrity of the judiciary and the dignity of his judicial office.

Judge House, who is not an attorney, had served as a Justice of the West Carthage Village Court since 2008.

¹ The Stipulation was signed on March 3, 2016. The Commission accepted it on March 11, 2016, and has now confirmed that Judge House received its decision.

Judge House waived the statutory provision of confidentiality applicable to Commission proceedings, to the limited extent that the stipulation and Commission's acceptance of it would be public.

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 60 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 260 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 315 determinations of censure and 168 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 95 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 79 cases (70 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.

Press Availability

Mr. Tembeckjian is available throughout the day by telephone: (646) 386-4800.

Counsel

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

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission; John J. Postel, Deputy Administrator in Charge of the Rochester office; and Senior Attorney M. Kathleen Martin. Senior Investigator Rebecca Roberts assisted in the investigation.

Background Information on Judge House

First took office: 2008
 Current Term Expires: 12/31/2019
 Salary: \$7,500 (Source: Village of West Carthage 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
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MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Member	Appointing Authority	Term End
Hon. Thomas A. Klonick, Chair	Former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2017
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Vice Chair	Former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2016
Hon. Rolando T. Acosta	Former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2018
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq.	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2016
Joel Cohen, Esq.	Former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver	March 31, 2018
Jodie Corngold	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2019
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.	Former Senate President Pro Tem Dean Skelos	March 31, 2019
Hon. David A. Weinstein	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2018
Vacant	Governor	March 31, 2017