



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN
ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSEL

61 BROADWAY, SUITE 1200
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006

MARISA E. HARRISON
PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICER

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

NEWS RELEASE

August 18, 2016

Contacts:	<p><i>Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator</i> <i>(646) 386-4800</i></p> <p><i>Marisa E. Harrison, Public Records Officer</i> <i>(646) 386-4791</i></p>
------------------	---

Putnam County Town Justice Resigns After Complaints of Political Misconduct

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct announced that Philipstown Town Court Justice Alan F. Steiner has resigned from office effective September 20, 2016, and agreed never to seek or accept judicial office at any time in the future.¹ The Commission accepted a stipulation to that effect signed by the judge and the Commission's Administrator, and the investigation is now closed.²

The Commission apprised Judge Steiner in April 2016 that it was investigating complaints alleging that he:

- Used his Facebook account to engage in direct or indirect political activity;
- Delayed decision for more than a year in a small claims case; and,
- Failed to timely complete required Continuing Judicial Education for the years 2010, 2011 and 2014.

¹ Judge Steiner also serves as an Acting Justice of the Cold Spring Village Court and will relinquish that position as well on September 20, 2016.

² The Stipulation was signed on August 1, 2016. The Commission accepted it on August 11, 2016, and has now confirmed that Judge Steiner received its decision.

Judge Steiner has served as a Justice of the Philipstown Town Court and an Acting Justice of the Cold Spring Village Court since 2000.

Judge Steiner 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 63 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 261 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 316 determinations of censure and 169 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. One request for review is pending.

Counsel

In the proceedings before the Commission, Judge Steiner was represented by Deborah A. Scalise of Scalise & Hamilton, LLP, 670 White Plains Road, Scarsdale, New York 10583, (914) 725-2801.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission; Mark H. Levine, Deputy Administrator in Charge of the New York City office; and Staff Attorney Kelvin S. Davis. Senior Investigator Ethan Beckett assisted in the investigation.

Background Information on Judge Steiner

First took office: 2000
 Current Terms Expires: 12/31/2016
 Year Admitted to NYS Bar: 1972
 Salary (Philipstown): \$26,000 (Source: Town of Philipstown 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
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq., Chair	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2020
Paul B. Harding, Esq., Vice Chair	Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb	March 31, 2017
Hon. Rolando T. Acosta	Former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2018
Joel Cohen, Esq.	Former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver	March 31, 2018
Jodie Corngold	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2019
Richard D. Emery, Esq.	Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins	March 31, 2020
Hon. Thomas A. Klonick	Former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	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
Vacant	Chief Judge	March 31, 2020