



NEW YORK STATE  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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## NEWS RELEASE

*November 1, 2018*

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### **Yates County Town Court Justice Resigns Under Investigation for Interfering in a Custody Case**

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Barrington Town Court Justice Rennee N. Crofoot (Yates County) has resigned while under investigation by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct for allegedly interjecting herself in a custody proceeding pending before another judge. Judge Crofoot resigned from office effective October 3, 2018, and 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 and closed its investigation.<sup>1</sup>

In September 2018, the Commission apprised Judge Crofoot that it was investigating a complaint alleging that she sent in an email to the court in a pending custody proceeding, criticizing one of the parties, identifying herself as a judge and lending the prestige of judicial office to advance a private interest.

Judge Crofoot waived the statutory provision of confidentiality applicable to Commission proceedings, to the limited extent that the stipulation and Commission's order accepting it and closing the case would be public.

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<sup>1</sup> The Stipulation was signed on October 9, 2018. The Commission accepted it on October 25, 2018, and thereafter closed the matter.

The stipulation and the Commission's order closing the case can be found on the Commission's website: [www.cjc.ny.gov](http://www.cjc.ny.gov).

### **Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions**

The Commission has accepted 80 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 269 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 322 determinations of censure and 172 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 99 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 83 cases (74 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.

### **Statement by Commission Administrator**

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

“A judge must scrupulously avoid tipping the scales in a case pending before another judge by interjecting views promoting one party, criticizing another or otherwise trying to influence the outcome.”

### **Counsel**

In the proceedings before the Commission, Judge Crofoot represented herself.

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. Investigator Betsy Sampson assisted in the investigation.

**Background Information on Judge Crofoot**

First took office: 2014  
 Term Expires: December 13, 2021  
 Salary: \$3,943 (Source: seethroughny.org)

**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**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Term End</b>
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, 2021
Jodie Corngold	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2019
Taa Grays, Esq.	Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins	March 31, 2020
Hon. John A. Falk	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2021
Hon. Leslie G. Leach	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2020
Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2022
Hon. Robert J. Miller	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2022
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie	March 31, 2022
Richard A. Stoloff, Esq.	Former Senate President Pro Tem Dean Skelos	March 31, 2019
Akosua Garcia Yeboah	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2021