



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 11, 2020*

**Contact:**

**Marisa E. Harrison, Public Records Officer**  
(518) 288-8658

### **Town Court Justice in Chenango County to Resign after Being Charged with Financial and Administrative Deficiencies**

---

Plymouth Town Court Justice Gladys C. Branagan (Chenango County) has submitted her resignation after being charged by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct for the improper or untimely execution of various judicial duties, such as reporting and accounting for court cases and funds, and her failure to cooperate with inquiries into such matters by various government agencies. Judge Branagan, who will leave office effective August 31, 2020, 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 formal proceeding.<sup>1</sup>

Judge Branagan previously served as a Justice of the Plymouth Town Court from 2000 to 2007 and, after being out of office for 11 years, was elected to a new term that began on January 1, 2019. The judge was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated May 14, 2020, containing five charges, alleging that:

- From August 2001 to November 2008, she failed to report or remit at least \$14,560 in court funds to the Office of the State Comptroller as required

---

<sup>1</sup> The Stipulation was signed on July 22, 2020. The Commission accepted it and issued an order closing the matter on August 6, 2020.

- and failed to act promptly to correct an erroneous check she had written to the Comptroller for the funds;
- She repeatedly failed to file monthly reports and remit court funds to the Comptroller as required;
  - She failed to report any dispositions of traffic tickets to the Department of Motor Vehicles as required by law;
  - From April 2007 through December 2007, she failed to cooperate with the Commission's investigation of two complaints alleging that she:
    - failed in two criminal cases to timely return bail money, and;
    - failed to file reports or remit funds to the State Comptroller as required, resulting in her judicial salary being stopped; and,
  - She failed to cooperate with the State Comptroller, the Chenango County District Attorney's Office, other judges and court officials concerning her apparent financial, reporting and recordkeeping practices and deficiencies.

Judge Branagan 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.

Judge Branagan, who is not an attorney, has been a Justice of the Plymouth Town Court since 2019, having previously served as a Justice of the Plymouth Town Court, Chenango County, from January 1, 2000, to December 31, 2007. Her current term would have expired on December 31, 2022.

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).

### **Statement by Commission Administrator**

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

“Public confidence in the courts demands that a judge account for court funds and cooperate with official inquiries into the disposition of court finances, cases and records. Leaving the bench and returning years later does not absolve a judge of these responsibilities. The Commission will pick up where it left off and, where appropriate, negotiate the judge's permanent resignation.”

**Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions**

The Commission has accepted 95 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 274 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 334 determinations of censure and 175 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 100 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 84 cases (75 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 Branagan represented herself.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission; Cathleen S. Cenci, Deputy Administrator in Charge of the Albany office; and Senior Attorney S. Peter Pedrotty. Senior Investigator Ryan Fitzpatrick was assigned to the case.

**Background Information on Judge Branagan**

First Took Office:	2019
Current Term Expires:	December 31, 2022
Prior Tenure:	2000-2007

**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**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Term End</b>
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq., Chair	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2024
Taa Grays, Esq., Vice Chair	Senate President Pro Tem Andrea Stewart-Cousins	March 31, 2023
Jodie Corngold	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2023
Paul B. Harding, Esq.	Former Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb	March 31, 2021
Hon. John A. Falk	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2021
Hon. Leslie G. Leach	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2024
Hon. Angela M. Mazzairelli	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
Ronald J. Rosenberg, Esq.	Senate Minority Leader John J. Flanagan	March 31, 2024
Akosua Garcia Yeboah	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2021