



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Peekskill City Court Judge Resigns After Being Formally Charged with Misconduct

Reginald J. Johnson, a Judge of the Peekskill City Court, Westchester County, has resigned from office effective September 30, 2024, and agreed never to return, after formally being charged with numerous acts of misconduct by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct.¹

In August 2024, Judge Johnson was served with a Formal Written Complaint, alleging that he:

1. Dismissed 11 traffic tickets based on his personal relationships with the defendants or persons close to the defendants, not on the merits;
2. Addressed sexual innuendos and other inappropriate remarks to court staff and attorneys on at least two occasions;
3. On at least one occasion touched or caressed his co-judge's her arm without invitation or permission, and otherwise said offensive things to her;

¹ A resignation stipulation was formalized on September 3, 2024. The Commission issued an order accepting it on September 19, 2024.

4. Berated, screamed at, and otherwise treated court staff discourteously; and
5. Engaged in an unauthorized *ex parte* communication with a government official regarding a pending criminal matter.

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

Judge Johnson has served as a Judge of the Peekskill City Court since 2014. His current term would have expired on December 31, 2033.

The stipulation can be found on the Commission's website: www.cjc.ny.gov.

Statement by Commission Administrator

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

“The responsibility to decide cases impartially and on the merits is corrupted whenever a judge fixes traffic cases on behalf of friends or family. The harmony and decorum of the courthouse is undermined whenever a judge mistreats colleagues, attorneys, and court staff. One who repeatedly does all this and more does not belong on the bench.”

Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions

The Commission has accepted 137 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 284 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 352 determinations of censure and 185 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 102 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 86 cases (77 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 currently pending.

Counsel

Judge Johnson was represented by Charles E. Kutner of Kutner Corrado & Friedrich, LLP, 950 Third Avenue, 11th Floor, New York, New York 10022, (917) 730-6998.

The Commission was represented by Deputy Administrator Mark Levine, Principal Attorney Brenda Correa, Staff Attorney Stella Gilliland and Investigator Andy Fenwick.

Background Information on Judge Johnson

First took office:	2014
Current term expires:	December 31, 2033

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.

MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

Member	Appointing Authority	Term End
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq., Chair	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2028
Taa Grays, Esq., Vice Chair	Senate President Pro Tem Andrea Stewart-Cousins	March 31, 2027
Hon. Fernando M. Camacho	Chief Judge Rowan Wilson	March 31, 2028
Stefano Cambareri, Esq.	Assembly Minority Leader William A. Barclay	March 31, 2025
Brian C. Doyle, Esq.	Senate Minority Leader Robert G. Ort	March 31, 2028
Hon. John A. Falk	Former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2025
Hon. Robert J. Miller	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2026
Nina M. Moore, Ph.D.	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2027
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie	March 31, 2026
Hon. Anil C. Singh	Chief Judge Rowan Wilson	March 31, 2026
Akosua Garcia Yeboah	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2025