



NEW YORK STATE  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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## NEWS RELEASE

*April 15, 2024*

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### **Previously Cautioned St. Lawrence County Court Judge Should Be Censured for Inappropriate Statements About a Murder Case**

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The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that County Court Judge Gregory P. Storie (St. Lawrence County) should be censured for making statements conveying his bias against a defendant and indicating his sentencing decision would be influenced by public opinion.

Judge Storie, who had been confidentially cautioned by the Commission for other misconduct only a month earlier, agreed to the censure.

Beginning in 2022, Judge Storie presided over a high-profile murder trial, *People v Snow*. St. Lawrence County District Attorney Gary M. Pasqua and Public Defender James M. McGahan were the lawyers. In January 2023, while conferencing unrelated cases in chambers with Mr. McGahan and an assistant district attorney who was not involved in the *Snow* case, Judge Storie raised the *Snow* case, asked whether the defendant would plead guilty as charged, and said he would impose a sentence of 25 years to life, because anything less would not look good to the media or to the victim's family. When asked what incentive there would be to plead guilty under such circumstances, the judge replied that the defendant may do it because he

appeared to be “catatonic.” Subsequently, as a result of the judge’s comments, Public Defender McGahan and DA Pasqua jointly requested that Judge Storie recuse himself from the *Snow* case, which he did.

### **Prior Caution**

In December 2022, Judge Storie was privately cautioned by the Commission for (1) publicly endorsing other candidates for elective office, and posting and/or soliciting posts of photographs of voted ballots on his campaign’s Facebook page; (2) failing to disqualify himself from a matter notwithstanding that he was related to the victim and the victim’s mother, a witness in the case; and (3) arbitrarily increasing bail following an application for bail reduction.

In its determination, the Commission found it “troubling” that [Judge Storie] engaged in this misconduct roughly two weeks after receiving the Letter of Dismissal and Caution and that he “should have been especially attentive to his obligation to follow the Rules [Governing Judicial Conduct].”

In accepting the jointly recommended sanction of censure, the Commission noted that the judge “acknowledged that his conduct was improper and warrants public discipline.”

Judge Storie has been a Judge of the St. Lawrence County Court since 2021, having previously served as a Justice of the Canton Village Court (St. Lawrence County) from 2010 to 2012. His current term expires on December 31, 2030.

### **Statement by Commission Administrator**

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

“It is essential to public confidence in the courts that judges be and appear fair and unbiased, and render decisions on the merits, not public opinion. That Judge Storie did not live up to these standards is especially disappointing, since only a month earlier he had been cautioned to abide by the judicial ethics code applicable to all judges.”

**The Commission Proceedings**

Judge Storie was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated January 4, 2024, containing one charge.

On January 29, 2024, the Administrator of the Commission, Judge Storie and his attorney entered into an Agreed Statement of Facts, stipulating to the facts and sanction and waiving further submissions and oral argument.

The Commission accepted the Agreed Statement on March 14, 2024.

**The Commission Determination**

The Commission filed a determination dated April 3, 2024, in which all 11 members concurred: Joseph W. Belluck, Esq. (the Commission Chair), Taa Grays, Esq. (the Vice Chair), Judge Fernando M. Camacho, Brian C. Doyle, Esq., Judge John A. Falk, Judge Robert J. Miller, Nina M. Moore, Ph.D., Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq., Graham B. Seiter, Esq., Judge Anil C. Singh and Akosua Garcia Yeboah.

**Court of Appeals Review**

The Commission transmitted its determination to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 7. The Commission was notified on April 12, 2024, that Judge Storie had received the determination. Consequently, the matter is now public.

A judge may either accept the Commission's determination or, within 30 days from receipt, make a written request to the Chief Judge for a review of the determination by the Court of Appeals.

Pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 7, if Judge Storie does not request review by the Court of Appeals, the Commission will censure him in accordance with the determination.

If a Commission determination is reviewed by the Court of Appeals, the Court may accept the determined sanction, impose a different sanction including admonition, censure or removal, or impose no sanction.

**Statistics Relating to Prior Determinations**

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 350 determinations of censure against judges in New York State. The Commission has issued 182 determinations of removal and 283 determinations of admonition.

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.

**Counsel**

Judge Storie was represented by William J. Galvin, Esq., P.O. Box 320, Ghent, New York 12075, (315) 262-4185.

The Commission was represented by Deputy Administrator Cathleen S. Cenci, Principal Attorney S. Peter Pedrotty and Senior Investigator Laura Misjak.

**Background Information on Judge Storie**

First Took Office (County Court):	2021
Current Term Expires:	December 31, 2030
Prior Office:	
Canton Village Court	2010-2012
Year Admitted to the NYS Bar:	2007

**Members of the Commission**

The Commission members serve four-year terms. A list of members is appended.

**The Public File**

The determination and other records are available on the Commission's website: [www.cjc.ny.gov](http://www.cjc.ny.gov).

**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 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
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
Graham B. Seiter, Esq.	Assembly Minority Leader William A. Barclay	March 31, 2025
Hon. Anil C. Singh	Chief Judge Rowan Wilson	March 31, 2026
Akosua Garcia Yeboah	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2025