

State of Arizona
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT
1501 W. Washington St., Suite 229
Phoenix, Arizona 85007
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News Release

JUDICIAL ETHICS CHARGES FILED AGAINST PAGE JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

PHOENIX. The Commission on Judicial Conduct announced today that disciplinary counsel has filed formal ethics charges against Page Justice of the Peace Donald G. Roberts.

The statement of formal charges alleges that the judge violated various rules contained in the Arizona Code of Judicial Conduct and Article 6.1, Section 4, of the Arizona Constitution in connection with permitting his court employed bailiff to simultaneously work for two court service providers. The statement of formal charges also alleges Judge Roberts engaged in an improper ex-parte communication.

Judge Roberts is represented by attorney Geoffrey Sturr of the Phoenix firm Osborn Maledon, P.A. Meredith Vivona will serve as disciplinary counsel for the commission during the proceedings. Commission member and Pima County Superior Court Judge Gus Aragon has been appointed to serve as the presiding member of the commission hearing panel that will hold a hearing on the formal charges. No date has been set for the formal hearing.

The commencement of formal proceedings against a judge does not mean that the charges have been proven; it only means that a commission investigative panel has found reasonable cause to file charges, which still must be proven by clear and convincing evidence in a formal hearing.

If the panel of commission members hearing the charges finds that the judge committed judicial misconduct, it can impose a public reprimand or recommend the judge be censured, suspended without pay, or removed from office. No appeal exists from the imposition of a public reprimand. Absent an appeal of a censure by the judge or disciplinary counsel, a censure is final. A recommendation of a suspension without pay or removal from office is subject to review and approval by the Arizona Supreme Court. Charges that are not proven are dismissed.

The commission is an independent state agency with disciplinary jurisdiction over all state and local judges. It is comprised of six judges, two attorneys, and three public members.

Its office is located in the Arizona State Courts Building at the State Capitol complex in Phoenix.

For more information, contact

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