



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Town Justice in Ulster County Resigns While Under Investigation for Various Misconduct

Claudia Andreassen, a Justice of the Saugerties Town Court, Ulster County, resigned while under investigation by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

At various times over the past two years, Judge Andreassen was apprised by the Commission that it was investigating a total of six complaints against her, among other things alleging as follows:

- Her relationship with the Saugerties Police Department was at times adversarial;
- She was discourteous toward and made disrespectful comments about court staff and courtroom spectators;
- She attempted to effectuate certain staffing decisions without involving her co-judge or the town board;
- She violated various prohibitions on campaign activity by judges; and
- She failed to maintain professional competence in the law.

Judge Andreassen agreed to resign from judicial office on or before September 30, 2022, 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, her attorney and the Commission's Administrator.¹

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

Judge Andreassen, who is not an attorney, had been a Justice of the Saugerties Town Court since 2012. Her current term would have expired on December 31, 2024.

The stipulation and the Commission's order 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.

“Judges are obliged to be competent in the law, to be and appear fair in the administration of justice, and to be courteous toward all with whom they deal in an official capacity. The multiple complaints against Judge Andreassen were serious, and her permanent departure from the bench was appropriate.”

Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions

The Commission has accepted 120 such permanent resignation stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has also issued 280 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 343 determinations of censure and 178 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 101 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 85 cases (76 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

¹ The Stipulation was signed on September 2, 2022. The Commission issued an order accepting it on September 22, 2022.

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 Andreassen was represented by Deborah A. Scalise of Scalise and Hamilton, P.C., 111 Brook Street, Suite 202, Scarsdale, New York 10583, (914) 725-2801.

The Commission was represented by Deputy Administrator Cathleen S. Cenci, Senior Attorney Kathleen E. Klein, and Investigator Laura Misjak.

Background Information on Judge Andreassen

First Took Office:	2012
Current Term Expires:	December 31, 2024

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	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2024
Taa Grays, Esq., Vice Chair	Senate President Pro Tem Andrea Stewart-Cousins	March 31, 2023
Hon. Fernando M. Camacho	Former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2024
Jodie Corngold	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2023
Hon. John A. Falk	Former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2025
Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli	Former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	December 31, 2022 ²
Hon. Robert J. Miller	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2026
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie	March 31, 2026
Ronald J. Rosenberg, Esq.	Former Senate Minority Leader John J. Flanagan	March 31, 2024
Graham B. Seiter, Esq.	Assembly Minority Leader William A. Barclay	March 31, 2025
Akosua Garcia Yeboah	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2025

² Judge Mazzarelli's term on the Commission will end upon her retirement from judicial office on December 31, 2022.