

NEW YORK STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

June 21, 2022

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Town Justice in Oswego County Resigns While Under Investigation for Financial Reporting Failures

Kimberly A. Inman, a Justice of the West Monroe Town Court, Oswego County, resigned while under investigation by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

The Commission apprised Judge Inman in June 2021 that it was investigating a complaint concerning her failure to report to the State Comptroller, as required by law, monies she received for the West Monroe Town Court in connection with her duties as Town Justice.

The subject matter of the Commission's investigation is related to a criminal matter in which Judge Inman was charged in March 2021 with Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a class E felony, in violation of New York State Penal Law Section 155.30(1).

Judge Inman resigned from judicial office effective May 20, 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

MARISA E. HARRISON PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

¹ The Stipulation was signed on May 27, 2022. The Commission issued an order accepting it on June 16, 2022.

Judge Inman 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 Inman, who is not an attorney, had been a Justice of the West Monroe Town Court since 2002. Her current term would have expired on December 31, 2022.

The stipulation and the Commission's order can be found on the Commission's website: <u>www.cjc.ny.gov</u>.

Statement by Commission Administrator

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

"Safeguarding public monies is an important responsibility, and all town and village justices are required to make regular reports and deposits of court-collected funds. Failure to do so raises natural suspicions of negligence or theft, which undermines public confidence in the courts. The serious allegations against Judge Inman rightfully led to her permanent departure from the bench."

Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions

The Commission has accepted 116 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, 342 determinations of censure and 177 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 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.

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Counsel

Judge Inman was represented by Dennis J. Nave, Jr., of the Nave Law Firm, 231 Walton Street, Syracuse, New York 13202, (315) 200-1583.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission; John J. Postel, Deputy Administrator in Charge of the Rochester office; and Senior Attorney David M. Duguay. Senior Investigator Betsy Sampson was assigned to the case.

Background Information on Judge Inman

First Took Office:	2002
Current Term Expires:	December 31, 2022

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.

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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	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2024
Jodie Corngold	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2023
Hon. John A. Falk	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2025
Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli	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.