



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Westchester County Supreme Court Justice Should Be Censured for 13 Years of Significant Financial Disclosure Omissions

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that Linda S. Jamieson, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Ninth Judicial District, Westchester County, should be censured for intentionally omitting any information about a \$50,000 cash loan on 13 years of financial disclosure statements.¹

In August 2005, Judge Jamieson lent \$50,000 to Nicholas Natrella, a family friend, but did not report the loan as required until October 2019, after the Commission started its inquiry. (At that point, only about \$11,000 in principal and interest had been repaid.)

In 2014, both directly and through intermediaries, Judge Jamieson attempted to get a confession of judgment from Mr. Natrella by calling him and his attorney, and when she learned Mr. Natrella was filing for bankruptcy, she used the prestige of her judicial office to try to get Mr. Natrella's lawyer to omit the loan from the bankruptcy filing. The lawyer declined to do so despite feeling pressured by the judge, and thereafter she moved to disqualify Judge Jamieson from an unrelated case of hers over which the judge was presiding.

¹ All judges except those serving in town or village courts must file annual statements of financial disclosure with the Ethics Commission for the Unified Court System.

The Commission stated: “The public has an interest in the timely and accurate disclosure of a judge’s financial information on the annual financial disclosure form.” The Commission stated that “over the course of 13 years, [Judge Jamieson] repeatedly filed inaccurate financial disclosure forms in violation of her ethical obligations.” The Commission found it “troubling,” that the judge testified that she did not accurately complete her FDFs because she did not take them “that seriously.”

In censuring Judge Jamieson, the Commission noted that the judge had no prior disciplinary history as a judge or an attorney.

Judge Jamieson has been a Justice of the Supreme Court, Ninth Judicial District, Westchester County, since 2003. Her current term expires on December 31, 2030. She previously served as a Judge of the Westchester County Family Court from 1998 to 2002.

Statement by Commission Administrator

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

“Accurate financial disclosure is essential to reassure litigants, their lawyers and the public that judges are presiding without conflicts of interest. Judge Jamieson’s intentional failure to report a \$50,000 cash loan, for 13 years, was staggering, and her explanations were unsatisfactory. She seriously compounded her initial misconduct by trying to pressure the debtor’s attorney to omit the loan from his bankruptcy filing. That there were four votes to remove her from office underscores the gravity of her wrongdoing.”

The Commission Proceedings

Judge Jamieson was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated July 22, 2019, containing two charges, and filed an answer dated September 12, 2019.

The Commission designated Hugh H. Mo, Esq. as referee to hear and report proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. A hearing was held on January 20 and 21 and March 5, 2021 via videoconference. The referee filed a report dated September 16, 2021.

The Administrator recommended that the referee’s report be confirmed and that Judge Jamieson be removed from office. Judge Jamieson’s attorney recommended that the referee’s report be confirmed in part and disaffirmed in part

and that, in any event, a sanction no greater than a private letter of caution be imposed. On December 9, 2021, the Commission heard oral argument.

The Commission Determination

The Commission filed a determination dated February 11, 2022, in which seven members concurred: Taa Grays, Esq. (the Vice Chair), Judge Fernando M. Camacho, Judge Angela M. Mazzarelli, Judge Robert J. Miller, Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq., Ronald J. Rosenberg, Esq., and Graham B. Seiter, Esq.

Four members, Joseph W. Belluck, Esq. (the Commission Chair), Jodie Corngold, Judge John A. Falk, and Akosua Garcia Yeboah dissented as to the sanction, voting that the judge should be removed from office.

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 March 21, 2022, that Judge Jamieson 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 Jamieson does not request review by the Court of Appeals, the Commission will censure her 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 341 determinations of censure against judges in New York State. The Commission has issued 176 determinations of removal and 280 determinations of admonition.

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.

Counsel

Judge Jamieson was represented by Richard M. Maltz, of Richard M. Maltz, PLLC, 2424 Broadway, Box 209, New York, New York 10024, (212) 705-4804.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission; Mark Levine, Deputy Administrator in Charge of the New York City office; Senior Attorney Melissa DiPalo; and Litigation Counsel David Stromes. Investigator Drew Zagami was assigned to the case.

Background Information on Judge Jamieson

First took office (Westchester Family Court):	1998
First took office (Supreme Court):	2003
Current Term Expires:	December 31, 2030
Year Admitted to NYS Bar:	1980

Members of the Commission

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

The Public File

The determination is attached. The record of the proceedings upon which the determination is based is available for inspection by appointment during regular business hours at the Commission's three offices:

61 Broadway Suite 1200 New York, New York 10006	Corning Tower, Suite 2301 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223	400 Andrews Street Suite 700 Rochester, New York 14604
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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	March 31, 2022
Hon. Robert J. Miller	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2022
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie	March 31, 2022
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