



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Town Justice in Otsego County Resigns While Under Investigation for Mishandling Court Funds

Corrie A. Damulis, a Justice of the Burlington Town Court, Otsego County, resigned while under investigation by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

In June 2023, the Commission apprised Judge Damulis that it was investigating two complaints, alleging that (1) she mishandled court funds in her previous position as Justice of the Richfield Springs Village Court and as a Justice of the Burlington Town Court, and (2) she failed to file reports or remit funds to the State Comptroller as required by law, resulting in her salary being stopped.

Judge Damulis was scheduled to give testimony regarding this matter at the Commission on June 27, 2023. Instead, the judge tendered her resignation effective June 30, 2023, 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

¹ The Stipulation was signed on June 27, 2023. The Commission issued an order accepting it on July 20, 2023.

Judge Damulis 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 Damulis, who is an attorney, had been a Justice of the Burlington Town Court since 2020. Her current term would have expired on December 31, 2023. She previously served as a Justice of the Richfield Springs Village Court from 2016-2022.

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.

“Public confidence in the town and village courts is undermined whenever a judge fails to account properly for court-collected fines and fees, and fails to deposit those funds in a timely manner. Judge Damulis's failure to do so resulted in her salary being stopped and her departure from the bench.”

Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions

The Commission has accepted 128 such permanent resignation stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has also issued 281 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 348 determinations of censure and 179 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. One request for review is pending.

Counsel

Judge Damulis was represented by Harpremjeet Kaur, Esq., P.O. Box 207, Fly Creek, New York, 13337, (310) 869-2946.

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

Background Information on Judge Damulis

Judicial Tenure:

Richfield Springs Village Court	October 2016 – March 30, 2022
Burlington Town Court	January 1, 2020 – June 30, 2023
Current Term Would Have Expired:	December 31, 2023
Year Admitted to NYS Bar:	2016

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, 2027
Hon. Fernando M. Camacho	Former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2024
Hon. John A. Falk	Former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2025
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
Hon. Anil C. Singh	Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson	March 31, 2026
Akosua Garcia Yeboah	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2025
Vacant	Governor	March 31, 2027