

O'CONNELL ARONOWITZ
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

September 8, 2026

Via FedEx Priority Overnight Mail

State of New York Court of Appeals
Honorable Rowan Wilson, Chief Judge
20 Eagle Street
Albany, NY 12207

**Re: Matter of Hon. Frank M. Mora
Request Pursuant to Judiciary Law 44 (8)(c)**

Dear Judge Wilson:

This office represents Hon. Frank M. Mora, a City Court Judge for the City of Poughkeepsie. This letter is respectfully submitted in response to this Court's letter dated August 25, 2026, inviting Judge Mora to present in writing why he should not be suspended, with or without pay, pending this Court's review of the determination by the Commission on Judicial Conduct dated August 21, 2026, that he be removed from office. This Court granted an extension until September 9, 2026, to submit this letter.

Pursuant to Judiciary Law section 44(7) Judge Mora intends to file separately and timely a letter requesting such review, and, for the reasons hereinafter set forth, he respectfully requests that pending such review he should not be suspended, and, that in any event, he should continue to be paid. See Judiciary Law section 44(8)(c)- a judge, even if suspended, is entitled to continue to be paid during such suspension unless the court directs otherwise.

Judge Mora has served on the bench since January 1, 2011, having been first appointed by then Mayor John Tkazyik and then reappointed for an additional 10-year term commencing January 1, 2021, by Mayor Robert Rolison. Moreover, the allegations that were the predicate for the Commission's determination did not involve criminality, moral turpitude, corruption, favoritism toward litigants appearing before him or misuse of his position to influence the actions of others or to gain favors from them. Moreover, the allegations do not present a current threat to public safety or the integrity and administration of the justice system.

Judge Mora has led an exemplary life. He has been married for 25 years and is the father of three children. He is an active member of his community and deeply religious, having served as a trustee of the Holy Trinity Church and currently he is a member of the Church's Finance Committee, a religious education teacher, lector, altar server and Eucharistic Minister.

EDWARD J. O'CONNELL
1925-1939
SAMUEL E. ARONOWITZ
1925-1973
LEON ARONOWITZ
1941-1969
LEWIS A. ARONOWITZ
1951-1979

IN MEMORIAM:
ROBERT J. KOSHGARIAN
2015-2025

STEPHEN R. COFFEY
THOMAS J. DINOVO
PAMELA A. NICHOLS
DAVID R. ROSS
KURT E. BRATTEN
MICHAEL P. McDERMOTT
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September 8, 2026

Without dwelling at length on the specifics of the allegations that became the basis of the Commission's determination, suffice it to say that they did not involve any actions Judge Mora undertook in his capacity as a judge. The entire proceeding arose out of a private dispute over his alleged obligation to wear a mask while visiting a medical office during the COVID-19 pandemic in December 2021. That incident escalated into the filing of charges with the Commission against Judge Mora by a staff member in the medical office and Judge Mora's good faith filing of a defamation suit against her which he initiated only after she had publicly made accusations against him and only after he sought the advice of a distinguished legal attorney who advised him that he had a valid cause of action against her.

Judge Mora sincerely believes the Commission's determination was erroneous and looks forward to pursuing a review of that determination which was not warranted by the facts. Meanwhile he respectfully requests that he be allowed to continue to serve as a City Court Judge.

Respectfully submitted,

O'CONNELL AND ARONOWITZ, P.C.

By:


Stephen R. Coffey

SRC/meh

cc: Via Electronic and FedEx Priority Overnight Mail

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Hon. Frank Mora ([REDACTED])