



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN
ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSEL

CORNING TOWER, SUITE 2301
EMPIRE STATE PLAZA
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12223

518-453-4600 518-299-1757
TELEPHONE FACSIMILE
www.cjc.ny.gov

MARISA E. HARRISON
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE

November 4, 2025

Contact:

Marisa E. Harrison, Public Information Officer
(518) 453-4600

Town Justice in Chautauqua County Resigns While Under Investigation for Drinking and Driving

Reid L. Johnson, a Justice of the Ellington Town Court, Chautauqua County, has resigned while under investigation by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct for drinking and driving.

In September 2024, Judge Johnson was charged with two motor vehicle offenses, including aggravated driving while intoxicated. In December 2024 he pleaded guilty to Driving While Ability Impaired, a violation-level offense, in satisfaction of all charges and in June 2024 was sentenced to a \$500 fine, a \$420 surcharge and other mandatory sentencing terms. In July 2025, the Commission apprised the judge that it was investigating a complaint related to the charges, as well as an allegation that he had identified himself as a judge when arrested.

Judge Johnson agreed to leave office on October 3, 2025, and 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 and the Commission's Administrator.¹

¹ The Stipulation was signed on September 29, 2025. The Commission issued an order accepting it on October 30, 2025.

Judge Johnson 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 Johnson, who is not an attorney, has been a Justice of the Ellington Town Court since 2024. His current term would have expired on December 31, 2027.

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

Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions

The Commission has accepted 157 such permanent resignation stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has also issued 289 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 357 determinations of censure and 185 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 102 Commission determinations. The results are available on the Commission's website at "[Appealed Decisions](#)."

Statement by Commission Administrator

"Drinking and driving, which threatens public safety as well as the motorist, also undermines faith in the courts when the offender is a judge. The offense is compounded where the driver invokes judicial office when stopped by the police. Judge Johnson's resignation from the bench brings this matter to an appropriate conclusion."

Counsel

Judge Johnson represented himself.

The Commission was represented by Deputy Administrator John J. Postel, Senior Attorney Cassie M. Kocher and Senior Investigator Betsy Sampson.

Background Information on Judge Johnson

First took office:	January 1, 2024
Current term expires:	December 31, 2027

Members of the Commission

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

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	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2028
Taa Grays, Esq., Vice Chair	Senate President Pro Tem Andrea Stewart-Cousins	March 31, 2027
Hon. Fernando M. Camacho	Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson	March 31, 2028
Stefano Cambareri, Esq.	Assembly Minority Leader William A. Barclay	March 31, 2029
Brian C. Doyle, Esq.	Senate Minority Leader Robert G. Ort	March 31, 2028
Hon. John A. Falk	Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson	March 31, 2029
Robin Chappelle Golston	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2029
Hon. Robert J. Miller	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2026
Nina M. Moore, Ph.D.	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2027
Hon. Peter H. Moulton	Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson	March 31, 2026
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie	March 31, 2026