



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Town Justice in Monroe County Resigns While Under Investigation for Unlicensed Operation of Motor Vehicle

Ian E. Penders, a Justice of the Clarkson Town Court, Monroe County, has resigned while under investigation by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct for invoking his judicial office to avoid tickets for traffic offenses, among other things.

In August 2025, the Commission began investigating a complaint alleging that in June 2025, when stopped by police on two separate occasions and charged with a misdemeanor and a violation relating to the unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, Judge Penders invoked his judicial office to avoid being issued tickets.¹ In September 2025, the Commission apprised the judge of its investigation.

Judge Penders agreed to leave office on October 30, 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.²

¹ On August 15, 2025, the judge pleaded guilty to the unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, a violation, in satisfaction of all the charges. He paid a fine and surcharge totaling \$100.

² The Stipulation was signed on October 27, 2025. The Commission issued an order accepting it on October 30, 2025.

Judge Penders 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 Penders, who is an attorney, had been a Justice of the Clarkson Town Court since 2017. His current term would have expired on December 31, 2025.

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 156 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

"Judges are obliged to respect and comply with the laws they are responsible for upholding. They must also refrain from invoking the prestige of judicial office to evade the consequences of an arrest. The Commission takes such matters seriously, and the resignation of Judge Penders is an appropriate resolution."

Counsel

Judge Penders 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 Penders

First took office:	November 7, 2017
Current term expires:	December 31, 2025
Year Admitted to NYS Bar:	2014

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