



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER

NEWS RELEASE

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City Court Judge in Jefferson County Resigns While Under Investigation

Eric T. Swartz, a part-time Judge of the Watertown City Court, Jefferson County, has resigned while under investigation by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

In April 2024, the Commission apprised Judge Swartz that it was investigating a complaint alleging that he was suffering from a condition that interfered with his ability to perform his judicial duties.

Judge Swartz agreed to leave office on December 31, 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

Judge Swartz 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.

¹ The Stipulation was signed on December 2, 2025. The Commission issued an order accepting it on December 11, 2025.

Judge Swartz has been a Judge of the Watertown City Court since 2021, having previously served as a Justice of the Watertown Town Court from 2020 to 2021. His current term would have expired on December 31, 2026.

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 159 such permanent resignation stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has also issued 290 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 358 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

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

"While the Commission has authority to retire a judge for disability, Judge Swartz's agreement to leave the bench, in the face of a condition that interfered with his judicial duties, is commendable. We wish him well."

Counsel

Judge Swartz was represented by Paul G. Ferrara of Costello, Cooney & Fearon, PLLC, 211 West Jefferson Street, Syracuse, New York 13202, (315) 422-1152.

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

Background Information on Judge Swartz

First took office (City Court):	January 1, 2021
Current term expires:	December 31, 2026
Prior Judicial Experience (Watertown Town Court):	January 2020 – January 1, 2021
Year Admitted to NYS Bar:	1994

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