



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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NYC Civil Court Judge Should be Removed for Unauthorized Practice of Law and Other Misconduct

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that Joseph F. Kasper, a Judge of the New York City Civil Court, Queens County, should be removed from office for continuing to practice law after assuming the bench, enabling a convicted felon to perform legal services despite never having been a lawyer, failing to file required financial disclosures, and refusing to cooperate with the Commission's inquiry.

The Commission found the following:

- Although full-time judges are prohibited from practicing law, Judge Kasper continued to do so for approximately two years after taking the bench in January 2022. Among other things, he advised clients, negotiated settlements, participated in conferences, reviewed and edited legal documents, signed legal filings, maintained active attorney escrow accounts and failed to disburse funds to his clients. Moreover, he received some cash payments for the legal work he should not have been performing once he became a judge.

- Although Judge Kasper knew Janice Bar was never an attorney and had been convicted of two felonies – forgery and making a false statement – he facilitated and did not supervise her acting as an attorney. For about two years after becoming a judge, when his work for clients should have stopped, he paid her approximately \$600 a week, allowed her to work out of the law office he continued to maintain, and permitted her to use his credit card and court system credentials to file documents in his clients’ cases.¹ Ms. Bar communicated with clients and opposing counsel as though she were an attorney, and Judge Kasper knew she was signing emails as “Attorney at Law,” appearing at court conferences, examining witnesses, negotiating settlement terms and commencing a new legal action using his court system credentials. Judge Kasper knew what Ms. Bar was doing and enabled rather than stopped it.
- Judge Kasper failed to respond to Commission inquiries regarding funds in his attorney escrow accounts, despite being granted multiple extensions.
- Judge Kasper did not file a mandatory financial disclosure statement required of judicial candidates, and he filed a mandatory judicial financial disclosure form 19 months late, as to which the Commission noted: “It has not gone unnoticed ... that the defect in [his filing] was his failure to complete Section 13 thereof, which required respondent to list and explain any income in excess of \$1,000, broken down by nature and source, earned by himself or his spouse.”

In determining to remove Judge Kasper from office, the Commission stated: “The totality of the evidence established that [Judge Kasper’s] repeated violations of the Rules [Governing Judicial Conduct] were egregious and he is unfit for the bench.” The Commission noted that “Rather than demonstrating respect for the judiciary, [Judge Kasper] detracted from the dignity of judicial office and showed disrespect for the judicial system,” and that his “pattern of misconduct...undermined confidence in the integrity of the judiciary.”

Judge Kasper has served as a Judge of the New York City Civil Court since 2022. His current term expires on December 31, 2031; however as he turns 70 years of age in 2026, he will no longer be eligible to serve as a judge after December 31, 2026.

¹ Ms. Bar used Judge Kasper’s New York State Courts Electronic Filing account (NYSCEF).

Statement by Commission Administrator

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement:

“A full-time judge is prohibited from practicing law. That Judge Kasper continued to do so for two years after taking the bench was bad enough. That he also facilitated a felon’s masquerade as a lawyer is even more shocking. Such contempt for the rule of law is inimical to the role of a judge and requires his removal from office.”

The Commission Proceedings

Judge Kasper was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated January 14, 2025, containing three charges, and filed an Answer dated April 18, 2025. The judge was served with a Second Formal Written Complaint dated September 3, 2025, containing one charge, and filed a Second Answer dated October 9, 2025. Judge Kasper was served with a Supplemental Formal Written Complaint dated November 4, 2025, which contained additional factual allegations regarding Charges I and II (which were included in the first Formal Written Complaint). The judge filed a Supplemental Answer dated December 8, 2025.

On March 26, 2026, the Administrator, the judge and the judge’s attorney entered into an Agreed Statement of Facts, stipulating that the Commission make its determination based on the agreed facts and requesting that briefing and oral argument be scheduled on the issue of sanction.

Counsel to the Commission filed a brief arguing for the judge’s removal and the judge’s counsel argued that a sanction no greater than censure be imposed. On June 18, 2026, the Commission heard oral argument.

The Commission Determination

The Commission filed a determination dated August 3, 2026, in which all 11 members concurred.

Court of Appeals Review

The Commission transmitted its determination to the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals, pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 7. Judge Kasper received it on August 5, 2026, and the Commission was subsequently notified by the Court of Appeals that service was complete. Consequently, the matter is now public.

After a removal determination is rendered, it is the Court’s practice to suspend the judge, with pay. A judge has 30 days to request full review of the Commission’s determination

by the Court of Appeals. Should the judge request review of the Commission's removal determination, the Court's practice is to continue the suspension while the review is pending.

If the judge requests review, the Court sets a schedule for the parties to file briefs and appear for oral argument. On review, the Court may accept or reject the Commission's findings of fact or conclusions of law, may accept the determined sanction, impose a different sanction including admonition or censure, or impose no sanction.

Pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 7, if Judge Kasper does not request review by the Court of Appeals, the Court of Appeals will remove him in accordance with the determination.

Statistics Relating to Prior Determinations

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 189 determinations of removal against judges in New York State. The Commission has issued 361 determinations of censure and 292 determinations of admonition.

The Commission has accepted 163 permanent resignation stipulations, in which the judge has agreed to leave office and never seek or accept judicial office in the future, since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

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

Counsel

Judge Kasper was represented by Richard D. Emery and Sana F. Mayat of Emery, Celli, Brinckerhoff, Abady, Ward & Maazel, LLP, 1 Rockefeller Plaza, 8th Floor, New York, New York 10020, (212) 763-5000.

The Commission was represented by Deputy Administrator Mark H. Levine, Senior Attorney Eric Arnone, Principal Attorney Vickie Ma, Senior Litigation Counsel David Stromes, and Investigator Andy Fenwick.

Background Information on Judge Kasper

First Took Office: 2022
 Current Term Expires: December 31, 2031²
 Year Admitted to NYS Bar: 1984

Members of the Commission

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

The Public File

The determination and other records are available on the Commission's website:
www.cjc.ny.gov.

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
Hon. David Fried	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2030
Robin Chappelle Golston	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2029
Nina M. Moore, Ph.D.	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2027
Hon. Peter H. Moulton	Chief Judge Rowan D. Wilson	March 31, 2030
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie	March 31, 2030

² As the judge will reach the mandatory retirement age of 70 this year, he will no longer be eligible to serve after December 31, 2026.