



NEW YORK STATE  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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## NEWS RELEASE

*March 11, 2026*

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### **Town Justice in Ulster County Should Be Censured for a Hostile Work Environment**

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The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that Susan L. Kesick, a Justice of the Ulster Town Court (Ulster County), should be censured for contributing to a hostile work environment by mishandling a dispute with a court clerk and for using her judicial title in a personal email address.

Judge Kesick agreed to the censure, for the following:

- In July 2023, Judge Kesick disputed a part-time court clerk's right to work overtime. The judge acted discourteously and improperly sought police assistance to remove the clerk from the courthouse. The following day, Judge Kesick emailed town officials, trying to get the clerk fired and, during a subsequent personnel meeting, inappropriately disclosed highly confidential information against the clerk.
- Contrary to precedents and the rule prohibiting judges from using the prestige of their office for private interests, Judge Kesick used a personal email address referencing her judicial title, ("slkjudge@") for personal business, including online shopping and bill payments. She has since created a new email address that does not reference her judicial status.

In accepting the jointly recommended sanction of censure, the Commission noted that the judge “acknowledged that her conduct was improper and warrants public discipline and that she has committed to working collegially with court staff.”

Judge Kesick, who is not an attorney, has been a Justice of the Ulster Town Court since 2006. Her current term expires on December 31, 2029.

### **Statement by Commission Administrator**

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

“Judges are obliged to be patient, dignified and courteous toward all with whom they deal in their official capacity. They must maintain decorum, not act so intolerably as to create a hostile work situation or disclose confidential information in attempting to get a colleague fired.”

### **The Commission Proceedings**

Judge Kesick was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated March 27, 2025, containing two charges, and filed an Answer dated September 16, 2025.

On January 23, 2026, the Administrator of the Commission, Judge Kesick and her attorney entered into an Agreed Statement of Facts, stipulating to the facts and sanction and waiving further submissions and oral argument.

The Commission accepted the Agreed Statement on January 29, 2026.

### **The Commission Determination**

The Commission filed a determination dated February 20, 2026, in which 10 members concurred.<sup>1</sup>

### **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. The Commission

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<sup>1</sup> At the time the determination was filed, one seat on the Commission was vacant. Judge David Fried was appointed to the Commission on March 3, 2026.

was notified on March 11, 2026, that Judge Kesick had received the determination. Consequently, the matter is now public.

A judge may either accept the Commission's determination or, within 30 days from receipt, make a written request to the Chief Judge for a review of the determination by the Court of Appeals.

Pursuant to Judiciary Law Section 44, subdivision 7, if Judge Kesick does not request review by the Court of Appeals, the Commission will censure her in accordance with the determination.

If a Commission determination is reviewed by the Court of Appeals, the Court may accept the determined sanction, impose a different sanction including admonition, censure or removal, or impose no sanction.

### **Statistics Relating to Prior Determinations**

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 360 determinations of censure against judges in New York State. The Commission has issued 185 determinations of removal and 292 determinations of admonition.

The Commission has accepted 162 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 Kesick was represented by Peter A. Lauricella of Wilson Elser, LLP, 200 Great Oaks Boulevard, Suite 228, Albany, New York 12203, (518) 320-3607.

The Commission was represented by Deputy Administrator Cathleen S. Cenci, Principal Attorney S. Peter Pedrotty, Staff Attorney Shruti Joshi and Senior Investigator Laura Misjak.

**Background Information on Judge Kesick**

First Took Office: 2006  
 Current Term Expires: December 31, 2029

**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](http://www.cjc.ny.gov).

**MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Term End</b>
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, 2026
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie	March 31, 2026