

STATE OF NEW YORK
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

In the Matter of the Proceeding
Pursuant to Section 44, subdivision 4,
of the Judiciary Law in Relation to

GREGORY P. STORIE,

a Judge of the County Court,
St. Lawrence County.

**NOTICE OF FORMAL
WRITTEN COMPLAINT**

NOTICE is hereby given to Respondent, Gregory P. Storie, a Judge of the County Court, St. Lawrence County, pursuant to Section 44, subdivision 4, of the Judiciary Law, that the State Commission on Judicial Conduct has determined that cause exists to serve upon Respondent the annexed Formal Written Complaint; and that, in accordance with said statute, Respondent is requested within twenty (20) days of the service of the annexed Formal Written Complaint upon him to serve the Commission at its Albany office, Corning Tower, Suite 2301, Albany, New York 12223, with his verified Answer to the specific paragraphs of the Complaint.

Dated: January 4, 2024
Albany, New York

ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN
Administrator and Counsel
State Commission on Judicial Conduct
61 Broadway, Suite 1200
New York, New York 10006
(646) 386-4800

To: William John Galvin, Esq.
Attorney for Respondent
P.O. Box 320
Ghent, New York 12075

STATE OF NEW YORK
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

In the Matter of the Proceeding
Pursuant to Section 44, subdivision 4,
of the Judiciary Law in Relation to

**FORMAL
WRITTEN COMPLAINT**

GREGORY P. STORIE,

a Judge of the County Court,
St. Lawrence County.

1. Article VI, Section 22, of the Constitution of the State of New York establishes a Commission on Judicial Conduct (“Commission”), and Section 44, subdivision 4, of the Judiciary Law empowers the Commission to direct that a Formal Written Complaint be drawn and served upon a judge.
2. The Commission has directed that a Formal Written Complaint be drawn and served upon Gregory P. Storie (“Respondent”), a Judge of the County Court, St. Lawrence County.
3. The factual allegations set forth in Charge I state acts of judicial misconduct by Respondent in violation of the Rules of the Chief Administrator of the Courts Governing Judicial Conduct (“Rules”).
4. Respondent was admitted to the practice of law in New York in 2007. He has been a Judge of the County Court, St. Lawrence County, since January 1, 2021, having previously served as a Justice of the Canton Village Court, St.

Lawrence County, from 2010 to 2012. Respondent's term expires on December 31, 2030.

CHARGE I

5. On or about January 5, 2023, in connection with *People v Michael J. Snow*, in which the defendant was charged with murder, Respondent initiated and engaged in an unscheduled discussion about the case in chambers, during the course of which he made inappropriate statements to the defense attorney and an Assistant District Attorney who was not assigned to the case, conveying that he (A) was biased against the defendant, (B) would accept a guilty plea from the defendant notwithstanding that the defendant appeared "catatonic," and (C) would be swayed by public clamor and/or fear of criticism to impose the maximum sentence upon the defendant.

Specifications to Charge I

6. On or about March 31, 2022, a St. Lawrence County grand jury charged Michael J. Snow with Murder in the Second Degree, Manslaughter in the First Degree, Assault in the First Degree and Criminal Use of a Firearm in the First Degree for allegedly shooting and killing Elizabeth Howell, a SUNY Potsdam student, on or about February 18, 2022. The case received substantial attention from local media outlets.

7. St. Lawrence County District Attorney Gary M. Pasqua personally handled the prosecution of the defendant. The defendant was represented by St. Lawrence County Public Defender James M. McGahan.

8. On or about April 11, 2022, Respondent arraigned the defendant and remanded him to the custody of the St. Lawrence County Sheriff.

9. On or about May 6, 2022, Mr. McGahan filed a Notice of Intent to Proffer Psychiatric Evidence at a trial in *People v Snow*, in connection with the assertion of an affirmative defense of lack of criminal responsibility by reason of mental disease or defect. A copy of the Notice is appended as Exhibit 1.

10. By Order dated November 2, 2022, Respondent scheduled the *Snow* trial to commence on January 30, 2023.

11. On or about January 5, 2023, Respondent was conferencing unrelated cases in chambers with Mr. McGahan and Assistant District Attorney Michael Abbruzzese of St. Lawrence County. A probation officer was also present.

12. Notwithstanding that *People v Snow* was not scheduled to be conferenced, and in the absence of Mr. Pasqua, Respondent raised the topic of the possibility of the *Snow* case being resolved by a plea to the indictment. When Mr. McGahan reported, in sum or substance, that the District Attorney's Office had offered to permit the defendant to plead to the indictment and leave sentencing to the court's discretion, Respondent stated, in sum or substance, that he would

sentence the defendant to the maximum of 25 years to life because anything less would not look good in the media or to the victim's family. When Mr. Abbruzzese asked Respondent what incentive the defendant would have to plead under that circumstance, Respondent stated, in sum or substance, that the defendant might do so rather than proceed to trial because he appeared to be "catatonic."

13. At a pre-trial conference in the *Snow* case on or about January 18, 2023, Mr. McGahan and Mr. Pasqua jointly requested that Respondent recuse himself from that matter based upon his comments during the January 5 conference.

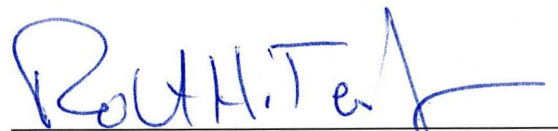
14. On or about January 18, 2023, Respondent recused himself from *People v Snow* and filed a "Reason for Recusal" form, noting the following reason for his recusal: "I wish to avoid any potential appearance of impropriety that my impartiality might be questioned as it may appear that: Counsel has questioned my impartiality in this matter."

15. By reason of the foregoing, Respondent should be disciplined for cause, pursuant to Article VI, Section 22, subdivision (a), of the Constitution and Section 44, subdivision 1, of the Judiciary Law, in that Respondent failed to uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary by failing to maintain high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary would

be preserved, in violation of Section 100.1 of the Rules; failed to avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety, in that he failed to respect and comply with the law and failed to act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary, in violation of Section 100.2(A) of the Rules; and failed to perform the duties of judicial office impartially and diligently, in that he failed to be faithful to the law and maintain professional competence in it and failed not to be swayed by public clamor or fear of criticism, in violation of Section 100.3(B)(1) of the Rules, and failed to perform his judicial duties without bias or prejudice against or in favor of any person and failed to refrain from, by words or conduct, manifesting bias or prejudice, in violation of Section 100.3(B)(4) of the Rules.

WHEREFORE, by reason of the foregoing, the Commission should take whatever further action it deems appropriate in accordance with its powers under the Constitution and the Judiciary Law of the State of New York.

Dated: January 4, 2024
Albany, New York



ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN
Administrator and Counsel
State Commission on Judicial Conduct
61 Broadway, Suite 1200
New York, New York 10006
(646) 386-4800

STATE OF NEW YORK
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

In the Matter of the Proceeding
Pursuant to Section 44, subdivision 4,
of the Judiciary Law in Relation to

VERIFICATION

GREGORY P. STORIE,

a Judge of the County Court,
St. Lawrence County.

STATE OF NEW YORK)
 : ss.:
COUNTY OF ALBANY)

ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am the Administrator of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.
2. I have read the foregoing Formal Written Complaint and, upon information and belief, all matters stated therein are true.
3. The basis for said information and belief is the files and records of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct.



Robert H. Tembeckjian

Sworn to before me this
4th day of January 2024



Notary Public

Marisa Harrison Santos
Notary Public, State of New York
No. 01SA0003835
Qualified in Albany County
Commission Expires March 27, 2027

**STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY COURT**

COUNTY OF ST. LAWRENCE

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,

-against-

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO
PROFFER PSYCHIATRIC
EVIDENCE**

Indictment # 70135-22/001

Index # 24958

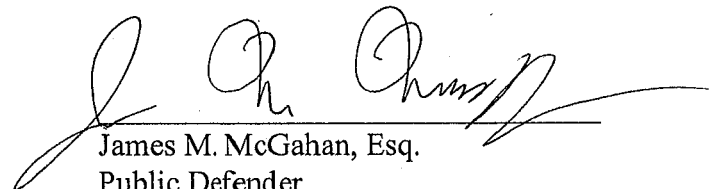
MICHAEL J. SNOW,

Defendant.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the above-named Defendant, upon the trial of above-captioned action will offer psychological and/or psychiatric evidence, including but not limited to expert testimony, opinions and findings made by mental health professionals of the defendant in connection with the assertion of an affirmative defense of lack of criminal responsibility by reason of mental disease or defect.

May 2, 2022

Respectfully submitted,



James M. McGahan, Esq.

Public Defender

St. Lawrence County, New York

(315) 379 - 2115

TO: CLERK
County Court
48 Court St.
Canton, New York 13617

Gary Pasqua
District Attorney
48 Court Street
Canton, New York 13617

