



NEW YORK STATE  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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## NEWS RELEASE

*June 4, 2014*

<b><i>Contacts:</i></b>	<b><i>Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator</i></b> <i>(646) 386-4800</i> <b><i>Marisa E. Harrison, Records Access Officer</i></b> <i>(646) 386-4791</i>
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### **Rockland County Village Justice Agrees to Leave Bench at End of Term and Stipulates Not to Hold Judicial Office in the Future**

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The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct has closed its investigation of complaints against Richard H. Ackerson, a Justice of the Suffern Village Court, Rockland County, who agreed pursuant to a stipulation dated May 20, 2014, that he will vacate his judicial office when his current term expires on December 1, 2014, and that he will neither seek nor accept judicial office at any time in the future. The Commission accepted the stipulation on May 29, 2014, concluding the matter.

Judge Ackerson was apprised by the Commission in August 2013 that it was investigating complaints that he was suffering from a medical condition that interfered with his ability to perform the duties associated with his judicial office.

On March 25, 2014 the Chief Administrative Judge of the New York State Unified Court System issued an administrative order reassigning all cases pending before the judge to another Village Justice, and directed that no further matters be assigned to Judge Ackerson.

Under the terms of the stipulation, Judge Ackerson waived the statutory provision of confidentiality applicable to Commission proceedings, to the limited extent that the stipulation would be public upon being approved by the Commission. The judge also affirmed that he would not challenge the Chief Administrative Judge's order.

Judge Ackerson has served as an elected Justice of the Suffern Village Court since 2010 and had served as an appointed Suffern Village Justice for various time periods between 1974 and 2010.

The stipulation and the Commission's order closing the case can be found on the Commission's website: [www.cjc.ny.gov](http://www.cjc.ny.gov).

### **Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions**

The Commission has accepted 46 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 253 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 310 determinations of censure and 168 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 94 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 78 cases (69 of which were removals, six were censures and three were admonitions). Of the remaining 16 cases, two sanctions were increased from censure to removal, and 13 were reduced: nine removal determinations were modified to censure, one removal was modified to admonition, two censures were modified to admonition, and one censure was rejected and the charges dismissed. The Court remitted one matter to the Commission for further proceedings. One request for review is pending.

### **Statement by Commission Administrator**

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

“In recognizing that his medical situation is such that he can no longer serve effectively on the bench, Judge Ackerson has acted in the best interests of the court system by agreeing to retire. We wish him well.”

**Press Availability**

Mr. Tembeckjian will be in New York City on June 4, 2014, and is available throughout the day by telephone: (646) 386-4800.

**Counsel**

In the proceedings before the Commission, Judge Ackerson was represented by Brian Nugent, Esq, of Ferrick Lynch MacCartney, PLLC, 96 South Broadway, South Nyack, New York, (845) 353-2000.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission, Principal Attorney Pamela Tishman, and Mark Levine, Deputy Administrator in Charge of the New York City office. Senior Investigator Ethan Beckett and Investigator Esther Carpenter assisted in the investigation.

**Background Information on Judge Ackerson**

First took office (elected):	2010
First took office (appointed):	1974
Current Term Expires:	December 1, 2014
Year Admitted to NYS Bar:	1967
Salary:	\$27,892

**Members of the Commission**

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

**The Public File**

The stipulation and order are attached. They are also available for inspection during regular business hours at the Commission's three offices:

<p>61 Broadway Suite 1200 New York, New York 10006</p>	<p>Corning Tower, Suite 2301 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223</p>	<p>400 Andrews Street Suite 700 Rochester, New York 14604</p>
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**MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Term End</b>
Hon. Thomas A. Klonick, Chair	Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2017
Hon. Terry Jane Ruderman, Vice Chair	Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2016
Hon. Rolando T. Acosta	Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2018
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq.	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2016
Joel Cohen, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver	March 31, 2018
Jodie Corngold	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2015
Richard D. Emery, Esq.	Former Senate Minority Leader John L. Sampson	March 31, 2016
Paul B. Harding, Esq.	Former Assembly Minority Leader James Tedisco	March 31, 2017
Richard A. Stoloff, Esq.	Senate President Pro Tem Dean Skelos	March 31, 2015
Hon. David A. Weinstein	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2018
Vacant	Governor	March 31, 2017