



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

May 4, 2020

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Suffolk County Supreme Court Justice Resigns After Pleading Guilty to Driving While Impaired by Alcohol

Supreme Court Justice William B. Rebolini (Suffolk County) has agreed to resign from office after being served with formal charges by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct for conduct relating to his arrest for drunken driving, including the assertion of his judicial title to avoid the consequences. Judge Rebolini will resign from office effective May 28, 2020, and has agreed 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, his attorney and the Commission's Administrator and closed its formal proceeding.¹

Judge Rebolini was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated January 27, 2020, containing two charges alleging that the judge:

1. on September 30, 2018, operated his motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, and;

¹ The Stipulation was signed on March 16, 2020. The Commission accepted it on April 30, 2020, and thereafter issued an Order closing the matter.

May 4, 2020

2. in connection with his arrest for Driving While Intoxicated and related charges, Judge Rebolini asserted his judicial office in an attempt to avoid arrest or other adverse consequences.

On January 29, 2019, Judge Rebolini pleaded guilty to Driving While Ability Impaired by Alcohol. He was sentenced to a 1-year Conditional Discharge, 40 hours of community service, a \$500 fine and a \$260 surcharge.

Judge Rebolini waived the statutory provision of confidentiality applicable to Commission proceedings, to the limited extent that the stipulation and Commission's order accepting it and closing the case would be public.

The stipulation and the Commission's order closing the case can be found on the Commission's website: www.cjc.ny.gov.

Statement by Commission Administrator

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

“Judges are obliged to respect and comply with the law. Driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious violation of law that threatens the safety and lives of pedestrians, passengers and other motorists, as well as the offending driver. It is made worse when a judge asserts the prestige of judicial office to evade the consequences of having been caught.”

Statistics Relating to Prior Commission Decisions

The Commission has accepted 93 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 272 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 333 determinations of censure and 175 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 99 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 83 cases (74 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. Three requests for review are pending.

*May 4, 2020***Counsel**

In the proceedings before the Commission, Judge Rebolini was represented by David H. Besso, of Long Tuminello, LLP, 120 Fourth Avenue, Bay Shore, New York 11706, (631) 666-2500.

The Commission was represented by Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator and Counsel to the Commission; Mark Levine, Deputy Administrator in Charge of the New York City office; Staff Attorney Stella Gilliland; and Special Counsel Alan Friedberg. Investigator Andrew Zagami was assigned to the case.

Background Information on Judge Rebolini

First took office (Supreme Court):	2004
Current term expires:	December 31, 2027
Prior Judicial Office - Suffolk County District Court:	1993-2003

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:

61 Broadway Suite 1200 New York, New York 10006	Corning Tower, Suite 2301 Empire State Plaza Albany, New York 12223	400 Andrews Street Suite 700 Rochester, New York 14604
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*May 4, 2020***MEMBERS OF THE STATE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT**

Member	Appointing Authority	Term End
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq., Chair	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2024
Paul B. Harding, Esq., Vice Chair	Former Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb	March 31, 2021
Jodie Corngold	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2023
Taa Grays, Esq.	Former Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins	March 31, 2023
Hon. John A. Falk	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2021
Hon. Leslie G. Leach	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2024
Hon. Angela M. Mazzarelli	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2022
Hon. Robert J. Miller	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2022
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie	March 31, 2022
Ronald J. Rosenberg, Esq.	Senate Minority Leader John J. Flanagan	March 31, 2024
Akosua Garcia Yeboah	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2021