



NEW YORK STATE  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN  
ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSEL

61 BROADWAY, SUITE 1200  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10006

MARISA E. HARRISON  
PUBLIC RECORDS OFFICER

646-386-4800 646-458-0037  
TELEPHONE FACSIMILE  
www.cjc.ny.gov

## NEWS RELEASE

*June 21, 2017*

<b>Contacts:</b>	<p><i>Robert H. Tembeckjian, Administrator</i> (646) 386-4800</p> <p><i>Marisa E. Harrison, Public Records Officer</i> (518) 453-4614</p>
------------------	---

### **Rockland County Village Court Justice Resigns, Ending Inquiry into His Qualifications for Judicial Office**

---

Jacques Michel, a Justice of the Spring Valley Village Court, Rockland County, resigned from office because his felony record disqualified him from being a judge. The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct accepted a stipulation to that effect, signed by the judge, his attorney and the Commission's Administrator, and closed its formal proceeding against the judge.<sup>1</sup>

Judge Michel was served with a Formal Written Complaint dated May 1, 2017, containing one charge, alleging that he does not meet the legal qualifications to serve as a Village Justice as a result of a 1978 federal felony conviction. He resigned effective June 5, 2017. In doing so, he agreed never to seek or accept judicial office at any time in the future, unless his felony conviction were vacated by a final order of a court of the United States.

---

<sup>1</sup> The Stipulation was signed on June 7, 2017. The Commission accepted it on June 14, 2017, and thereafter issued an Order closing the matter.

Judge Michel, who is not an attorney, was appointed Justice of the Spring Valley Village Court by the Mayor of Spring Valley on or about October 31, 2016, to fill a vacancy created when the Court of Appeals accepted the Commission's determination to remove Justice Alan M. Simon from that office. Judge Michel's term would have expired on December 31, 2017.

Judge Michel 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](http://www.cjc.ny.gov).

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

The Commission has accepted 66 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 267 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 319 determinations of censure and 170 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 96 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission's sanctions in 80 cases (71 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:

“Judge Michel was ineligible to serve as a village justice in the first place because he is a convicted felon. Under the circumstances, his departure from office was inevitable, and his agreement to do so sooner rather than be forced into it later was responsible.”

**Counsel**

In the proceedings before the Commission, Judge Michel was represented by Jeffrey T. Millman of Phillips & Millman, LLP, 148 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, New York 10980, (845) 947-1100.

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; and Principal Attorney Pamela Tishman. Investigator Andrew Zagami assisted in the investigation.

**Background Information on Judge Michel**

First took office: 2016  
Current Term Expires: 12/31/2017

**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
---	---	--

**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 Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2020
Paul B. Harding, Esq., Vice Chair	Assembly Minority Leader Brian M. Kolb	March 31, 2021
Hon. Rolando T. Acosta	Former Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman	March 31, 2018
Joel Cohen, Esq.	Former Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver	March 31, 2018
Jodie Corngold	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2019
Taa Grays, Esq.	Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins	March 31, 2020
Hon. John A. Falk	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2021
Hon. Leslie G. Leach	Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2020
Richard A. Stoloff, Esq.	Former Senate President Pro Tem Dean Skelos	March 31, 2019
Hon. David A. Weinstein	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2018
Akosua Garcia Yeboah	Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2021