



NEW YORK STATE  
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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## NEWS RELEASE

*January 31, 2023*

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### **Orange County Court Judge Resigns While Facing Charges of Misconduct**

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William L. DeProspero, a Judge of the Orange County Court, has agreed to leave office to resolve misconduct charges brought against him by the New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct. He also agreed never to seek or accept judicial office in the future.<sup>1</sup>

Judge DeProspero was charged in July 2022 with a Formal Written Complaint, alleging that he was disrespectful, disparaging, sarcastic and otherwise discourteous to petitioners while presiding over five separate Family Court matters. Among other things, the judge:

- Asked a petitioner, “What kind of kook are you?”; belittled her concern about missing school in order to be in court; said “everything that you told me was bullshit”; and told the petitioner to “get your ass out of bed and get here at 9:00 in the morning” or her petition would be dismissed and she could “ask the director [of your school] to protect you.”

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<sup>1</sup> The Stipulation was signed on January 13, 2023. The Commission issued an order accepting it on January 26, 2023. The judge’s resignation is effective March 31, 2023.

- Said to another petitioner: “So listen, why should I give you an order of protection...if you keep going back to this guy? ...You went looking for him. You got into the car, okay, and you obviously want to be with him because you keep going back to him.”
- Said to a third petitioner: “So, three weeks before you found out that he had another honey on the side, were you afraid of him? ...Oh, you were? Well, then what were you with him for then?”

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

Judge DeProspo has served as a Judge of the County Court since 2018. His current term would have expired on December 31, 2027.

The stipulation can be found on the Commission’s website: [www.cjc.ny.gov](http://www.cjc.ny.gov).

### **Statement by Commission Administrator**

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement.

“Judges are obliged to be patient, dignified and courteous toward those with whom they deal in an official capacity. This is especially important in Family Court, which can be volatile enough without the judge making matters worse by insulting or demeaning the litigants.”

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

The Commission has accepted 125 such stipulations since the procedure was instituted in 2003.

Since 1978, the Commission has issued 281 determinations of admonition against judges in New York State, 347 determinations of censure and 178 determinations of removal.

The Court of Appeals has reviewed 101 Commission determinations. The Court accepted the Commission’s sanctions in 85 cases (76 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.

**Counsel**

Judge DeProspero was represented by Deborah A. Scalise of Scalise and Hamilton, P.C., 111 Brook Street, Suite 202, Scarsdale, New York 10583, (914) 725-2801.

The Commission was represented by Deputy Administrator Mark Levine, Senior Attorney Melissa DiPalo, Staff Attorney Adam Kahan, and Investigator Andrew Fenwick.

**Background Information on Judge DeProspero**

First took office:	2018
Current term expires:	December 31, 2027
Year Admitted to the New York State Bar:	1985

**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.

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

<b>Member</b>	<b>Appointing Authority</b>	<b>Term End</b>
Joseph W. Belluck, Esq., Chair	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2024
Taa Grays, Esq., Vice Chair	Senate President Pro Tem Andrea Stewart-Cousins	March 31, 2023
Hon. Fernando M. Camacho	Former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2024
Jodie Corngold	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2023
Hon. John A. Falk	Former Chief Judge Janet DiFiore	March 31, 2025
Hon. Robert J. Miller	Governor Kathy Hochul	March 31, 2026
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.	Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie	March 31, 2026
Ronald J. Rosenberg, Esq.	Former Senate Minority Leader John J. Flanagan	March 31, 2024
Graham B. Seiter, Esq.	Assembly Minority Leader William A. Barclay	March 31, 2025
Akosua Garcia Yeboah	Former Governor Andrew M. Cuomo	March 31, 2025
Vacant	Chief Judge	March 31, 2026