



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Judicial Conduct Commission Releases Annual Report of Activity in 2025

The New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct received 3,363 complaints in 2025, virtually the same as the 3,353 received the previous year.

The Commission also rendered 25 public decisions last year, which is one more than the 24 it issued in 2024.

The information is reported in the Commission's newly released 2026 Annual Report, covering its activities in 2025, available online at www.cjc.ny.gov.

The Commission also reported the following:

- 582 preliminary inquiries were conducted.
- 330 full-fledged investigations were conducted: 141 new ones and 189 carried forward from 2024.
- 28 judges resigned while under investigation
 - 15 resigned publicly and agreed never to return to judicial office.
 - 13 resigned before it had been determined whether permanent departure was warranted. Investigation would resume were any such judge to return to the bench.
- 7 judges were publicly censured.

- 3 judges were publicly admonished.
- 31 judges were issued confidential cautionary letters.
- 190 matters were pending at year's end.

Established in the State Constitution as an independent agency in 1978, the Commission evaluates and investigates complaints of misconduct against judges of the state unified court system and, where appropriate, disciplines such judges for ethics violations. Through 2025, it rendered public decisions against 994 judges, including 185 who were removed from office and 159 who resigned and publicly agreed never to return to the bench.

All Commission decisions and the Annual Reports are available on the agency's website: www.cjc.ny.gov.

Commentary

In addition to summaries of the year's public disciplines, confidential cautions and statistics, the 2026 Annual Report highlights some types of misconduct that seem to recur, including alcohol-related offenses, failure to cooperate with Commission inquiries, undue delays in performing judicial duties, late or inaccurate financial disclosure filings, misuse of judicial office for personal advantage, and prohibited political activity. The Annual Report notes that while the vast majority of judges conscientiously adhere to ethical standards, the persistence of these issues, often involving newer judges unfamiliar with the scope of the Rules Governing Judicial Conduct, underscores the importance of continued education and vigilance, in order to maintain public confidence in the judiciary.

The Commission's Budget

Governor Hochul's Executive Budget proposal for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2026, recommends the \$9,330,000 requested by the Commission.

Statement by Commission Chair Joseph W. Belluck

"Faith in the courts is essential to the administration of justice. The Commission on Judicial Conduct strives to promote public confidence in the rule of law, and in a judiciary that is both independent and accountable, by disciplining those judges who have engaged in misconduct, while exonerating those who have been wrongly accused. We appreciate the support extended to us by the leaders of all three branches of state government, in our common pursuit of the public interest."

Office Addresses

The Commission's offices are located at the following addresses:

61 Broadway
Suite 1200
New York, NY 10006

Corning Tower, Suite 2301
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223

400 Andrews Street
Suite 700
Rochester, NY 14604

Commission Members

There are 11 members of the Commission on Judicial Conduct. Four are appointed by the Governor, three by the Chief Judge and four by the leaders of the Legislature. Members serve overlapping 4-year terms and are eligible for re-appointment. The present Commission members are:

Joseph W. Belluck, Esq., *Chair*
Taa Grays, Esq., *Vice Chair*
Hon. Fernando M. Camacho
Stefano Cambareri, Esq.
Brian C. Doyle, Esq.

Hon. John A. Falk
Robin Chappelle Golston
Nina M. Moore, Ph.D.
Hon. Peter H. Moulton
Marvin Ray Raskin, Esq.