

STATE OF MICHIGAN

BEFORE THE JUDICIAL TENURE COMMISSION

Complaint against:

**Hon. Paul J. Cusick
Third Circuit Court
Detroit, Michigan**

**Docket No. 165050
Complaint No. 104**

DECISION OF THE JUDICIAL TENURE COMMISSION

At a session of the Judicial Tenure
Commission, Detroit, Michigan, on
February 12, 2024

PRESENT: Hon. John H. Hulsing, Chairperson
Mr. James W. Burdick, Esq., Vice-Chairperson
Hon. Brian R. Sullivan, Secretary
Hon. Monte J. Burmeister, Commissioner
Hon. Pablo Cortes, Commissioner
Siham Awada Jaafar, Commissioner
Thomas J. Ryan, Esq., Commissioner

The Judicial Tenure Commission¹ has reviewed de novo the transcripts of the hearing held before the Master over seven days, the Report of the Master, the post-Report submissions of Disciplinary Counsel and the Respondent, and heard oral argument on January 8, 2024.

¹ Commissioner Thomas C. Cameron recused himself from the case because he was identified as a potential witness in this matter. Commissioner Danielle Chaney did not participate in the ultimate disposition of this case because her term expired December 31, 2023.

1. The Commission unanimously adopts and accepts the Report of the Master as to counts I, II, IV and V of the Complaint, except as to the first paragraph under the heading of “Conclusion” on page 34 of the Report.

2. A majority of the Commission adopts and accepts the Report of the Master as to count III of the Complaint, with two Commission members in dissent.

3. Accordingly, by order of the Commission, the Complaint filed in this case is dismissed.

The Master issued a well-reasoned report with a legally sound conclusion based on competent evidence presented at the hearing.

The Commission recognizes that it reviews the entirety of the Master’s decision *de novo*. *In re Chrzanowski*, 465 Mich 468, 480-481; 636 NW2d 758 (2001). This *de novo* review would necessarily include the important credibility determinations made by the Master. But, here, having reviewed the entirety of the record, we conclude that the Master did not abuse its role in making the credibility determinations that he did. The Master concluded the testimony of several trial attorneys, each of whom had extensive experience prosecuting or defending drug trials with confidential informants (CI), was credible and we adopt those determinations.

JUDICIAL TENURE COMMISSION

/s/ Hon. Jon H. Hulsing
HON. JON H. HULSING,
Chairperson

/s/ James W. Burdick
JAMES W. BURDICK, ESQ.,
Vice-Chairperson

/s/ Hon. Brian R. Sullivan
HON. BRIAN R. SULLIVAN,
Secretary

/s/ Thomas J. Ryan
THOMAS J. RYAN,
Commissioner

/s/ Siham Awada Jaafar
SIHAM AWADA JAAFAR,
Commissioner