

STATE OF ALASKA
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

In the matter of the proceeding
pursuant to AS 22.30.011(a) in
relation to,

ROMANO DIBENEDETTO

Judge of the Superior Court,
SECOND Judicial District at
Nome Alaska

ACJC File No. **2025-001**

**To Honorable Romano DiBenedetto
 c/o John Cashion
 Cashion Gilmore & Lindemuth
 510 L Street, #601
 Anchorage, Alaska 99501**

COMPLAINT

The Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct pursuant to Article IV, sec. 10 of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, AS 22.30.011, and Rule 11 of the Rules of the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct charges that Judge Romano DiBenedetto engaged in the following conduct that violates AS 22.30.011(a)(3)(C), (D), and (E) and Canons 1, 2A and 3A, and 3B(5) of the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct.


(1) On January 8, 2024, Judge DiBenedetto participated in a motion hearing occurring in Unalakleet in *State v. Nance*, 2UT-23-00081 CR, et al. The motion hearing occurred after normal work hours, and Judge DiBenedetto's participation in the hearing was delayed close to one hour due to the fact that he was watching a televised sporting event. When subsequently interacting with the involved attorneys and while off record, Judge

DiBenedetto explained his delay to the lawyers as due to “getting lost.” This conduct violates Canons 2A and 3A by creating the appearance that the court matter did not take precedence over a personal activity. This conduct appears to be part of a pattern where Judge DiBenedetto canceled, moved, or delayed hearings for personal reasons with little or no advance notice to participants, or started hearings late, or did not make himself available during full court hours.

(2) Complaints against Judge DiBenedetto have also been made for other conduct occurring outside of the courtroom. While in the presence of court staff, Judge DiBenedetto, on more than one occasion, discussed testimony occurring in his courtroom. When discussing the testimony or comments of participants in judicial proceedings including persons who are part of ethnic groups other than his own, he would imitate ethnic voices. By imitating ethnic voices of court participants, Judge DiBenedetto undermined confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. This conduct violates Canon 2A and Canon 3B(5) by creating an appearance of bias or prejudice.

Commission Rule 11 (b) (4) (B) requires that a response be filed within twenty days.

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska this 18th day of November 2025.

By: 
Honorable Amy Mead
Chairperson

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION