

**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

Former Judge of the Superior Court,
Second Judicial District at Nome, Alaska

ACJC File No. 2026-002

**To: Romano DiBenedetto
c/o John Cashion
Cashion, Gilmore & Lindemuth
510 L Street, #300
Anchorage, AK 99501**

AMENDED 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 former judge Romano DiBenedetto engaged in conduct that violates AS 22.30.011(a)(3)(C), (D), and (E) and Canons 1, 2A, and 4A(1) and 4A(2) of the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct. This amended complaint replaces the complaint dated April 27, 2026 in its entirety.

GOVERNING LAW

1. AS 22.30.011(a)(3)(C), (D), and (E) provides that:
 - (a) The commission shall on its own motion or on receipt of a written complaint inquire into an allegation that a judge
 - ...
 - (3) within a period of not more than six years before the filing of the

complaint or before the beginning of the commission's inquiry based on its own motion, committed an act or acts that constitute

...

- (C) conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice;
- (D) conduct that brings the judicial office into disrepute;
- (E) conduct in violation of the code of judicial conduct.

2. Canon 1 requires a judge to uphold the integrity and independence of the judiciary.
3. Canon 2A requires a judge, in all activities, to respect and comply with the law; avoid impropriety and the appearance of impropriety; and act in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

The commentary to Canon 2A explains that the appearance-of-impropriety standard applies to a judge's professional and personal conduct. It asks whether the conduct would create, in reasonable minds, a perception that the judge's ability to perform judicial responsibilities with integrity, impartiality, and competence is impaired.

4. Canon 4A requires a judge to conduct extrajudicial activities in a manner that does not: (1) cast reasonable doubt on the judge's capacity to act impartially; or (2) demean the judicial office.

The Commission charges as follows:

Former judge Romano DiBenedetto has engaged in conduct that violates AS 22.30.011(a)(3)(C), (D), and (E) and Canons 1, 2A, 4A(1) and 4A(2) of the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct as set forth in the following three counts:

COUNT I

While Mr. DiBenedetto held judicial office, his Facebook account publicly

identified him as being associated with the Alaska Court System, the Nome courthouse, and judicial chambers. The account's publicly visible presentation reflected apparent associations with adult-oriented, sexually suggestive, and commercial sex-related content. The public presentation of Mr. DiBenedetto's Facebook account while he was a sitting judge created an appearance of impropriety. A reasonable person viewing Mr. DiBenedetto's Facebook account, which clearly identified him as a judicial officer and which presented visible associations with adult-oriented and apparent commercial sex-related content, could reasonably conclude that the account created a serious appearance of impropriety, and could reasonably have substantial grounds to doubt Mr. DiBenedetto's judgment, integrity, impartiality, and fitness to serve as a judge.

The conduct alleged in Count I constitutes violations of Canons 1, 2A, 4A(1), and 4A(2), and constitutes conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, conduct bringing the judicial office into disrepute, and other conduct warranting discipline under AS 22.30.011(a)(3)(C),(D), and (E).

COUNT II

While Mr. DiBenedetto was a sitting superior court judge, his personal telephone number placed calls or had communications with two different telephone numbers associated in available records with online commercial sex advertisements. The telephone contact information was identified through separate criminal investigations and related search warrant records. The Commission does not allege that Mr. DiBenedetto was the subject or target of those investigations or warrants, and does not allege that the telephone contact alone establishes criminal conduct. The Commission alleges that, viewed

objectively and in the context of Mr. DiBenedetto's position as a sitting superior court judge, the contacts created a serious appearance of impropriety, materially undermined public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary, and gave reasonable members of the public substantial grounds to doubt Mr. DiBenedetto's judgment, integrity, impartiality, and fitness to serve as a judicial officer.

The conduct alleged in Count II constitutes violations of Canons 1, 2A, 4A(1), and 4A(2), and constitutes conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, conduct bringing judicial office into disrepute, and other conduct warranting discipline under AS 22.30.011(a)(3)(C), (D), and (E).

COUNT III

The Commission alleges that Mr. DiBenedetto's response to a 2023 Commission inquiry lacked completeness and candor.

In 2023, Mr. DiBenedetto was the subject of a complaint to the Commission alleging an appearance of impropriety by his use of the social media site known as Facebook. The complaint alleged that Mr. DiBenedetto used his personal Facebook page, which identified him as a sitting judge, in a manner that linked his page with adult-oriented, sexually suggestive, and apparent commercial sex-related content. Mr. DiBenedetto was provided with the underlying complaint in 2023, which specifically identified that the issue the Commission was inquiring about was related to his association with the adult-oriented or apparent commercial sex-related content linked to his Facebook page. When questioned by Commission staff, Mr. DiBenedetto denied knowing about the existence of problematic material linked to his page and agreed to take steps that would address the appearance of

impropriety. Mr. DiBenedetto committed to working with court staff to ensure his personal Facebook page conformed to expected standards. Based on Mr. DiBenedetto's denial of knowledge and his assurances to address the concerns, the Commission closed its complaint file.

Since that time, and based on new information received by the Commission, the 2023 investigation was revisited. In 2023, Mr. DiBenedetto claimed ignorance and embarrassment about the "pending friend requests" visible on his page, asserting that he was unaware of their existence. His response to the Commission's inquiry was an overt denial of any association with the adult-oriented or apparent commercial sex-related content linked to his Facebook page. Now being aware that Mr. DiBenedetto had engaged in the contacts as alleged in Count 2, the Commission alleges that Mr. DiBenedetto's response to the Commission in 2023 did not fully or candidly address the broader appearance of impropriety concerns associated with his publicly accessible and judicially identified Facebook account in 2023.

Mr. DiBenedetto has informed the Commission that he closed his Facebook account, deleting any record of the account, in May of 2026.

The conduct alleged in COUNT III constitutes violations of Canons 1, 2A, 4A(1), and 4A(2), and constitutes conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, conduct bringing the judicial office into disrepute, and other conduct warranting discipline under AS 22.30.011(a)(3)(C), (D), and (E).

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Pursuant to Commission on Judicial Conduct Rule of Procedure 11(b)(4)(B), a response must be filed within twenty days.

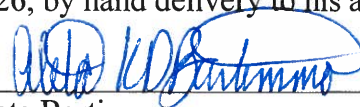
Dated at Anchorage, Alaska this 15th day of October, 2026.

ALASKA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

By: 
Honorable Amy Mead, Chair
On behalf of the Commission

RETURN

I served the above Amended Complaint constituting a statement of formal charges on Judge Romano DiBenedetto, the person to whom it is addressed, on the 15th day of October 2026, by hand delivery to his attorney of record, John Cashion.


Aleta Bartimmo
Administrative Assistant

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