

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: Hon. Romano DiBenedetto  
c/o John Cashion  
Cashion, Gilmore, and Lindemuth  
510 L Street, Suite 300  
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 former Judge Romano DiBenedetto engaged in the following conduct that violates AS 22.30.011(a)(3)(C), (D), and (E) for violations of Canons, 1, 2A and 4A(1) and 4A(2) of the Alaska Code of Judicial Conduct.

(1) Judge DiBenedetto was the subject of a complaint in 2023 that alleged an appearance of impropriety by the judge's use of Facebook in a way that implied Facebook friendships with apparent female sex workers and was easily publicly viewable.

(2) When questioned by the Commission through its staff, Judge DiBenedetto expressed surprise at the apparent Facebook connections and denied knowing about their existence or how they could have a connection to him. He agreed to take steps that would eliminate the problematic public posts that created the appearance of impropriety and would work with court staff to ensure that his personal Facebook page would conform with expected standards. Judge DiBenedetto misrepresented his knowledge of why the posts were on his Facebook page with the intent to affect the Commission's actions. Based on those false statements and misrepresentations, the Commission closed that complaint file.


(3) On February 10, 2026, the Commission's Executive Director was contacted by the Director of the Alaska Department of Law Criminal Division to convey information from a Department of Public Safety analyst who recognized Judge DiBenedetto's name as one associated with two separate closed criminal investigations into sex trafficking. In a follow-up conversation with the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety more details were provided. One investigation was in 2021, the other in 2023. As part of the electronic data collection in those investigations, the judge's phone number appeared once in each investigation. Each call was to a different victim of the sex trafficking operation and was brief, lasting about 20 seconds.

By associating with individuals who appeared to be sex workers on a Facebook page that showed him as a judge, and further misrepresenting his knowledge and intent to associate with those individuals throughout the Judicial Conduct investigation, Judge DiBenedetto intentionally deceived the Commission, and 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.

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

Dated at Anchorage, Alaska, this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April 2026

ALASKA COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

By:   
\_\_\_\_\_

Honorable Amy Mead  
Chairperson

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

**RETURN**

I served the above Notice of Probable Cause Determination Meeting on Judge Romano DiBenedetto, the person to whom it is addressed, through his counsel on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2026, by e-mail and hand-delivery.



Signature

Administrative Assistant Aleta Bartimmo

Title

Name

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