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May 27, 2026

**VIA LAWYERS SERVICE**

The Honorable Carmen Messano (ret.)  
Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics  
Administrative Office of the Courts  
Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex  
25 West Market Street  
P.O. Box 037  
Trenton NJ 08625

**Re: ACJC 2021-064 (Judge Carlos H. Acosta, Jr.)**

Dear Judge Messano:

As you are aware, the undersigned filed the above-referenced judicial ethics complaint with the Supreme Court's Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct (ACJC) on November 2, 2020. A copy of same, with all exhibits, is enclosed as **Exhibit A**. Receipt of same was acknowledged by way of letter provided by Mr. Taranto of the ACJC misdated, October 29, 2020, which I received on December 7, 2020. By way of letter dated February 22, 2021, from the Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE), same advised the undersigned that the ACJC had referred the judicial ethics complaint to the OAE "for initial investigation". Subsequently, the undersigned provided the ACJC with additional evidence of Acosta's unethical conduct. Submissions to the OAE dated January 17, 2021, March 6, 2023, June 27, 2023, August 15, 2023, October 20, 2023, November 29, 2023, January 5, 2024, and February 23, 2024, were also provided to ACJC. Copies of these letters, without the exhibits, are again provided for your ease of reference and are attached collectively as **Exhibit B**. By way of my letter to you, dated September 26, 2024, (enclosed as **Exhibit C**) I confirmed that the ACJC had neither acted, nor responded to any of my subsequent submissions, regarding the judicial ethics complaint I filed. My September 26, 2024, correspondence noted, "(Acosta) continues to sit as a municipal court judge in Union City, New Jersey." At that point in time Acosta had sat on the bench as a Union City Municipal Court Judge for almost four (4) years, with no action taken by you, after I had initially notified the AJAC of Acosta's unethical behavior.

As a result of the companion attorney ethics complaint, filed against Acosta by the OAE, he was suspended from practicing law in the State of New Jersey by way of Order of the New Jersey Supreme Court dated November 17, 2025, effective December 17, 2025. The Supreme Court confirmed that Acosta violated RPC 1.1(a) (engaging in gross neglect), RPC 1.1(b) (engaging in a pattern of neglect), RPC 1.3 (lacking diligence), RPC 3.2 (failing to expedite litigation), RPC 8.4(c) (engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation), and RPC 8.4(d) (engaging in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice). A copy of Supreme Court Order is attached as **Exhibit D**. These findings were based upon Acosta's Stipulations, entered into with the OAE, and the findings of the Disciplinary Review Board (DRB) which initially recommended a suspension of his license to practice law for one year to be followed by a two-year probationary period. The Stipulations are attached as **Exhibit E**. The DRB's findings are attached as **Exhibit F**.

After the DRB's decision Acosta resigned from the bench. However, Acosta continued to contest the discipline imposed by the DRB arguing he had "ineffective assistance of counsel" at the time of the DRB hearing. In his Certification, dated December 22, 2024, in support of his application seeking to reduce the discipline imposed, Acosta stated, "I believed that (after the DRB's decision) my continued presence as a sitting judge would likely create embarrassment to the Municipal

Court, Mayor Stack, and the (Union City) Commissioners, as well as erode public trust in the judiciary, and therefore I resigned.”<sup>1</sup>

The ACJC never took any action regarding this matter. By way of letter, dated March 3, 2026, more than five (5) years after the undersigned’s judicial ethics complaint was filed, counsel for the ACJC advised the undersigned that it would take no action with regard to my complaint against Acosta because he “no longer retains their judgeship.” A copy of the March 3, 2025, letter is attached as **Exhibit G**.

I understand that Acosta has been reappointed to the bench, now as the Chief Judge of the Union City Municipal Court.<sup>2</sup> Apparently, Acosta no longer believes that his service on the bench is an embarrassment which “erodes public trust in the judiciary”. As he stipulated, Acosta is a dishonest and unethical attorney and judge. His reappointment as the Chief Judge, shortly **after** the New Jersey Supreme Court affirmed that he engaged in conduct involving “dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation” and “engaged in conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice”, can only sully the reputation of the entire New Jersey judiciary. Same accurately casts our judiciary into disrepute. The public can only conclude that honesty and truthfulness are not necessary to attain a judgeship in this state. Other considerations prevail. Acosta’s own Certification supports this obvious conclusion.

Respectfully, the inaction of the ACJC has enabled an admittedly dishonest and unethical judge to sit on the bench for years. Worse, that same failure has also enabled Acosta’s reappointment, now as the Chief Judge, to the municipal court from which he previously resigned in disgrace due to his admitted dishonesty and unethical conduct.


Please consider this submission as a formal application to “reinstate” my complaint of November 2, 2020. In the alternative, please consider this submission as a “new” judicial ethics complaint. I rely upon this correspondence and all my prior submissions to the ACJC and the OAE. This will confirm that I hereby certify that all the information I have provided to the OAE and ACJC is true and correct.

Please advise in the event you require additional copies of the supporting exhibits which I have already provided to the ACJC over the past five (5) years. As an admittedly dishonest and unethical judge has been permitted to return to the bench, I request that the ACJC list this matter for a prompt hearing. Please provide the undersigned with notice of same and the opportunity to be heard. Respectfully, the public interest requires same.

Please advise if the ACJC intends to take any action with regard to this matter. Please acknowledge your receipt of this judicial ethics complaint.

Thank you for your anticipated attention to this formal judicial ethics complaint.

Respectfully submitted,



James C. Mescall  
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JCM/mjm

Encl.

cc: The Honorable Georgia M. Curio  
The Honorable Robert T. Zane  
The Honorable Hector R. Velazquez

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Brian Stack, also a New Jersey State Senator, serves as the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee which is responsible for approving Superior Court judges statewide.

<sup>2</sup> It is unclear why Mayor Stack and the Union City Commissioners believe it is appropriate that they subject their constituents to an admittedly dishonest and unethical judge.

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Ricardo Solano, Jr., Esq.  
The Honorable Stuart Rabner