

Record Before the Commission

Contents of Record:

- **Audio Files For Formal Hearing, January 30, 2026**
(Commission File #2025-001 30 January 2026 Formal Hearing Audio Part 1.mp3)
(Commission File #2025-001 30 January 2026 Formal Hearing Audio Part 2.mp3)
- **Formal Hearing Audio Notes**
- **Complaint (November 18, 2025)**
- **Answer to Complaint (December 4, 2025)**

Commission File #2025-001 Formal Hearing: 30 January 2026

Present:

Commission Chair Amy Mead, Judge Member
Commissioner Tom Temple, Judge Member
Commissioner Ian Wheeles, Judge Member
Commissioner Don McClintock, Attorney Member
Commissioner Jane Mores, Attorney Member
Commissioner Todd Fletcher, Public Member
Commissioner Aldean Kilbourn, Public Member
Commissioner Robert Sheldon, Public Member (via Zoom)

Commission Executive Director, Marla Greenstein
Judge's Counsel, John Cashion
Commission Special Counsel, Jessica Dillon
Commission Administrative Assistant, Aleta Bartimmo

Recused: Commissioner William Satterberg, Jr., Attorney Member

Members of the public also attended.

Speaking:

Formal Hearing Audio Part I

00:02	Administrative Assistant Aleta Bartimmo
00:04	Chair Mead
01:17	Ms. Dillon
04:01	Chair Mead
04:11	Mr. Cashion
05:03	Chair Mead
05:25	Ms. Dillon
05:30	Chair Mead
05:46	Ms. Dillon
05:48	Chair Mead

Formal Hearing Audio Part II

00:00	Chair Mead Asks Procedural Question
00:26	Executive Director Greenstein Answers
00:28	Chair Mead Requests Motion/Vote
00:29	Commissioner Temple Moves to Accept Stipulation and Recommendation
00:43	Commissioner Kilbourn Seconds
00:44	Commissioner Sheldon Seconds
00:46	Chair Meads Asks for Further Questions
00:52	Chair Mead Requests Vote
00:53	Unanimous Vote

00:56 None Opposed
00:58 Chair Mead Records Motion as Carried
01:03 Chair Mead Records Further Commentary by Commission
01:29 Ms. Dillon
01:33 Chair Mead Releases Attorneys

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) ACJC File No. **2025-001**
)
Judge of the Superior Court,)
SECOND Judicial District at)
Nome Alaska)

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

1 STATE OF ALASKA

2 COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

3 In the matter of the proceeding
4 pursuant to AS 22.3011(a) in
5 relation to,

6 ROMANO DIBENEDETTO

ACJC File No. 2025-001

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

10 **ANSWER TO COMPLAINT**

11 Judge Romano DiBenedetto, by and through counsel Cashion Gilmore &
12 Lindemuth, hereby answers the Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct's
13 Complaint as follows:

14 (1) Judge DiBenedetto agrees that on January 8, 2024, he participated in
15 a motion hearing occurring in Unalakleet in *State v. Nance*, 2UT-23-00081 CR, et al.
16 The motion hearing occurred after normal work hours, and Judge DiBenedetto's
17 participation in the hearing was delayed close to one hour due to the fact that he was
18 watching a televised sporting event. When subsequently interacting with the
19 involved attorneys and while off record, Judge DiBenedetto explained his delay to
20 the lawyers as due to "getting lost." Judge DiBenedetto acknowledges that this
21 conduct violates Canons 2A and 3A by creating the appearance that the court matter
22 did not take precedence over a personal activity.

Judge DiBenedetto denies, however, that this conduct is part of a pattern of behavior as alleged in the Complaint.

(2) Judge DiBenedetto is aware that complaints have 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. In the course of doing so, he has occasionally attempted to reenact the testimony or comments of participants in judicial proceedings, including persons who are part of ethnic groups other than his own. Judge DiBenedetto acknowledges that this conduct violates Canon 2A by undermining confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary.

Judge DiBenedetto denies, however, that this conduct violates Canon 3B(5), governing adjudicative responsibilities.

1 CASHION GILMORE & LINDEMUTH
2
3 Attorneys for Romano DiBenedetto
4

5 DATE: 12/4/25

6
7 

8 John P. Cashion
9 Alaska Bar No. 9806025
10

11 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

12 I hereby certify that a copy of the
13 foregoing was served via email
14 on December 4, 2025 on the following:

15 Marla Greenstein
16 Alaska Commission on Judicial Conduct
17 510 L Street, Suite 585
18 Anchorage, Alaska 99501
19 mgreenstein@acjc.state.ak.us

20 Jessica Dillon
21 Dillon Findley & Simonian
22 1049 W 5th Ave., Ste. 100
23 Anchorage, AK 99501
24 jessica@dillonfindley.com

25 CASHION GILMORE & LINDEMUTH

26 By: 
Jennifer Witaschek

Additional records of proceedings prior to October 30, 2025, are available in
S-19524: In the Disciplinary Matter Involving Honorable Romano DiBenedetto,
Superior Court Judge