

Anthony Zappin

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Date: January 19, 2017

BY E-MAIL AND REGULAR MAIL

Joseph W. Belluck
New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct
61 Broadway, Suite 1200
New York, NY 10006

Re: Complaint against Justice Matthew F. Cooper (File No. 2016/N-0665)

Dear Mr. Belluck:

On July 27, 2016, I filed a complaint against Justice Matthew F. Cooper of the New York County Supreme Court. The complaint detailed repeated instances of misconduct committed by Justice Cooper, which included disclosure of non-public information to the media, threats of physical violence against me, making overtly sexist and discriminatory statements and engaging in numerous instances of undignified and discourteous conduct on the bench. To date, I have not received a response to my complaint. I would be very grateful if the Commission could provide an update on the status of the complaint.

Along those same lines, it appears that Robert Tembeckjian provided to Justice Cooper a letter dated January 4, 2017 stating that the “Commission dismissed the complaint upon first review as without merit.” (*See Ex. A.*) Upon reviewing this letter, it came as a surprise to me as I have not received any correspondence from the Commission concerning my complaint. Justice Cooper attempted to submit the letter to the court in the matter *Anthony Zappin v. Matthew F. Cooper*, Case No. 16-cv-5985-KPF pending in the Southern District of New York, as evidence to “undermine” my claims in the action. Again, I would appreciate if you could advise me as to whether the representations in Mr. Tembeckjian’s purported letter are accurate.

I must note that if the letter is authentic, it is deeply troubling. Mr. Tembeckjian is the husband of Barbara Ross of *The New York Daily News*. Ms. Ross is alleged to be one of the newspapers reporters that Justice Cooper disclosed non-public information to in *Zappin v. Comfort* as well as other matters. Indeed, her conduct is specifically at issue in the Southern District action referenced above as well as in related cases. I specifically raised this issue in my initial complaint and asked that Mr. Tembeckjian be recused from investigating the complaint. Mr. Tembeckjian’s involvement in any form or fashion is deeply concerning given that he has a clear and present conflict of interest in the matter. Given the appearance of impropriety, I would be grateful if you could detail the specific involvement of Mr. Tembeckjian’s participation in investigating and/or determining the merits of my July 27, 2016 complaint.

I appreciate your time and attention to this matter and look forward to hearing your response.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anthony Zappin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anthony Zappin

Enclosures

EXHIBIT A



NEW YORK STATE
COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL CONDUCT

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ROBERT H. TEMBECKJIAN
ADMINISTRATOR & COUNSEL

JEAN M. SAVANYU, CLERK

CONFIDENTIAL

January 4, 2017

Honorable Matthew F. Cooper
Justice of the Supreme Court
111 Centre Street
New York, New York 10013

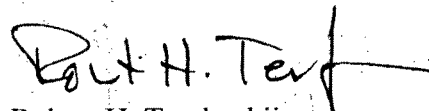
Re: File No. 2016/N-0665

Dear Judge Cooper:

The Commission on Judicial Conduct has considered a complaint from Anthony Zappin, dated July 27, 2016, alleging *inter alia* that you provided non-public information about his matrimonial case to the press.

The Commission dismissed the complaint upon first review as without merit. I am advising you of this disposition because you were copied on the complaint.

Very truly yours,


Robert H. Tembeckjian