

Strong Qualifications and Record of Mindy Sooter and Jim Carpenter

Mindy Sooter – Attorney Member and Chair:

- 20+ years of legal experience; Partner-in-Charge at WilmerHale Denver, specializing in patent, trade secret, and commercial litigation.
- Named a top intellectual property litigator by Chambers USA, Managing IP, and Colorado Super Lawyers.
- **Public Service:**
 - Chair of the Commission during a critical reform period.
 - Led efforts to modernize Commission processes under Amendment H.
 - Spearheaded improvements to victim and complainant engagement.
 - Led pro bono teams on immigration, excessive force, habeas corpus, and reproductive justice cases.
 - Mentor to young attorneys and former adjunct professor at the University of Colorado School of Law.

Jim Carpenter – Citizen Member and Vice Chair:

- Former Chief of Staff to Governor Bill Ritter, with senior-level responsibility for state agencies, budgets, and legislative initiatives.
- Co-founder of Freestone Strategies, advising NGOs, businesses, and governments across diverse sectors like renewable energy, healthcare, and transportation
- **Judicial System Advocate:**
 - Board member of the Colorado Judicial Institute, promoting equity, impartiality, and public trust in the judiciary
 - Played a central role in supporting Amendment H implementation
 - Volunteer leadership in multiple nonprofit and civic organizations.

Concrete Accomplishments Under Their Leadership

- Sought public discipline against judges six times in four years nearly equal to the total public discipline in the prior forty years combined.
- Oversaw the public discipline of former Chief Justice Coats, reinforcing accountability even at the highest judicial levels
- Implemented key reforms to comply with Amendment H:
 - New, accessible Commission website.
 - New fillable online complaint form
 - Improved processing speed for Requests for Evaluation.
 - Increased transparency and communication for complainants
- Eliminated significant case backlogs and filled all new Commission staffing positions.

Reestablished trust and relationships with judiciary stakeholders, setting a stronger foundation for ongoing reforms.

Why some Senators voted no

- During the hearing someone testified against them alleging widespread past conspiracies, the conspiracies focused on leadership in the judicial, all supreme court justices, AG Wieser, Governor Polis, SOS Griswold, DA John Walsh but also had implications for the members of the commission among which are Carpenter and Sooter. The individual that testified against them was Chris Gregory the former executive director of the commission on judicial discipline who was fired as he said in his testimony. The commission and the commissioner are not allowed to currently discuss the termination.
- Senators voted no, as a means of starting fresh. However continuity for the commission is very important. The rest of the commission are all new members, having served less than 2 years.
 - Also want to note that these commissioners Sooter and Carpenter did censure then chief justice Coates after the Maisas scandal.

State of Colorado



Sarah Mercer, Chair

Daniel Wolf, Vice-Chair

Elizabeth Espinosa Krupa, Commissioner

Lori Laske, Commissioner

Cole Wist, Commissioner

Dino Ioannides, Executive Director

Independent Ethics Commission

1300 Broadway, Suite 240

Denver CO 80203

Phone: (720) 625-5697

www.colorado.gov/iec

May 27, 2025

Christopher S. P. Gregory

201 Coffman St., #1822

Longmont, CO 80502

via email to: cspgregory@thegregorylawfirm.net

Re: Complaint No. 25-31

Dear Mr. Gregory,

On May 20, 2025, the Independent Ethics Commission met and reviewed the complaint you filed, which was assigned number 25-31. The Commission dismissed the complaint as frivolous, pursuant to Rules 2(A)(9) and 5(F) of the Commission's Rules of Procedure. Frivolous complaints are those that are filed without a rational basis in fact or law for the Commission's involvement, including complaints over which the Commission lacks jurisdiction.

While the Commission is not unsympathetic to the concerns expressed in your complaint, this is not the proper forum in which to raise them. There may be other, more appropriate avenues through which you may explore relief. However, the Commission cannot provide you with guidance or advice, nor does it take a position on whether relief is ultimately available to you.

Regards,

Dino Ioannides, Executive Director
Independent Ethics Commission

Christopher Gregory

From: Christopher Gregory
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 9:58 PM
To: iecinfo@state.co.us
Subject: IEC Complaint
Attachments: Attachments.txt

ShareFile Attachments

Expires November 2, 2025

241020 Anon FHI Report.pdf	82.3 KB
241020 Anonymous RFE to CCJD.pdf	2 MB
241104 FHI Complaint Addendum w Attachmts.pdf	1.4 MB
250501 CP Op Ed CSPG re CSC Lost Credibility.pdf	144.8 KB
250503 CSPG IEC Complaint.pdf	141 KB
Appendices to 241020 Anon RFE.pdf	61.1 MB

Download Attachments

Christopher Gregory uses ShareFile to share documents securely.

Good Evening,

Attached please find a time-sensitive complaint as to Governor Jared Polis. In addition to the complaint, I have provided the above links to an anonymous October 20, 2025 request for evaluation of judicial conduct (with its appendices) and an anonymous Fraud Hotline report as supplemented. The op ed article that I have also provided provides an overview relevant to the review of the complaint and the other materials.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if there is anything that I can do to assist you with your evaluation and investigation of this complaint.

Warmest regards,
Christopher Gregory



The Gregory Law Firm, LLC

Christopher S.P. Gregory
Attorney at Law

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Independent Ethics Commission – Formal Complaint Form

Before the Independent Ethics Commission
of the State of Colorado

For Commission Use Only

Received date: _____
Case. No.: _____

The Complainant is: Christopher S.P. Gregory

(name)

Mailing Address: 201 Coffman St., #1822
Longmont, CO 80502

Daytime telephone number: 970-648-0642

Email address: cspgregory@thegregorylawfirm.net

The Respondent is: Governor Jared Polis

(name)

Mailing Address: 200 E. Colfax Ave., Rm. 136
Denver, CO 80203

Daytime telephone number: (303) 866-2471

Email address: governopolis@state.co.us

When did the alleged violation occur: Shortly before April 28, 2025, ongoing

Describe the specific acts or things complained of, with facts that provide a full understanding of the alleged violation(s). If possible, cite the specific ethical standards alleged to have been violated and describe how the violation(s) occurred. Use additional pages if necessary. Attach any documentary evidence you wish to submit.

Beginning on July 1, 2021, when without notice he appointed Mindy Sooter to replace me while I was serving as Chair of the Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline (CCJD), Governor Jared Polis has knowingly obstructed the judicial discipline process to protect the Justices of the Colorado Supreme Court. The July 1, 2021 appointment of Sooter occurred as the investigation that resulted in Matter of Coats, 2023 CO 44 was just beginning. Despite being advised of conflicts of interest, the gravity of the Justices' now proven misconduct, and other reasons not to appoint particular individuals to the Commission, Governor Polis has continued to abuse his appointment powers. Most recently, Governor Polis knowingly ignored substantial allegations of malfeasance by the Justices and members of the Commission to reappoint Mindy Sooter and James Carpenter. Even after the problems with the appointments were publicly raised at the Senate Judiciary Committee's April 28, 2025 confirmation hearing, Governor Polis has refused to withdraw his appointment Orders. This has placed the Senate Judiciary Committee in the politically awkward position of needing to reject the appointees contrary to Governor Polis's will.

Description of acts or things complained of (continued):

Governor Polis along with Legislative Leadership, the Colorado judicial performance commissions, the CCJD, and the Colorado Office of the State Auditor all received an extensively detailed anonymous request for evaluation (RFE) of judicial conduct as to the Justices of the Colorado Supreme Court and the judge members of the CCJD. The anonymous RFE was dated October 20, 2024 and contained allegations of the most serious forms of judicial and attorney misconduct.

Despite requests in the anonymous RFE for the creation of a conflict-free special commission and for Governor Polis and a Special Tribunal to consider the removal and replacement of the regular Commissioners, the RFE was ignored. At their April 28, 2025 confirmation hearing, Carpenter and Sooter revealed that, despite being expressly requested to disqualify themselves, the Commissioners, the CCJD's Executive Director, and the CCJD's Special Counsel proceeded to consider and summarily dismiss the anonymous RFE. Their actions included exonerating themselves from the allegations of their own misconduct. Despite the disclosure of this information and the laying over of the confirmation hearing until May 5, 2025, Governor Polis has refused to withdraw his appointments. Effectively, Governor Polis has endorsed, supported, and ratified his appointees' commission of the gravest forms of official misconduct.

Governor Polis's failure to exercise supervision over his appointments to the CCJD has helped facilitate an ongoing pattern of fraud involving tens of millions of taxpayer dollars used to cover up significant judicial misconduct, attorney misconduct, and misconduct by other public officials / public employees. The fraud involved can be summarized as a scheme to facilitate intimidation and retaliation through the repeated illegal use of non-disclosure agreements, self-controlled investigations, and public relations strategies.

I have summarized the significance of the problem in the accompanying op ed piece published in Colorado Politics on May 1, 2025. A complete copy of the anonymous RFE and Fraud Hotline reports included in the legislative record are also provided with this complaint. Because of its time sensitive nature and the need to prevent further imminent harm to the integrity of the Colorado General Assembly, this complaint will be shared with the Colorado Senate Judiciary Committee.

Advisement regarding remedies and penalties: Pursuant to Colo. Const. art. XXIX, § 6, a covered individual found to have breached the public trust for private gain is liable for double the amount of the financial equivalent of any benefits obtained by such actions. The manner of recovery and additional penalties may be provided by law. The Commission does not assess criminal penalties, award injunctive relief, or award damages to complainants.

I hereby acknowledge that the facts presented herein are true to the best of my knowledge, and I will cooperate in the process regarding this complaint and will appear at any proceeding of the Independent Ethics Commission if the complaint is scheduled for a hearing.

Signature:  _____

Attorney (if applicable): **Pro Se Attorney**

Dated at **Longmont** (City), Colorado, this **3rd** day of **May**, 20**25**.

Created by Article XXIX of the Colorado Constitution, the Independent Ethics Commission may review and hold hearings on matters falling within its jurisdiction as outlined in Article XXIX.

Christopher Gregory

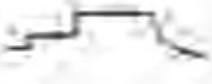
From: Christopher Gregory
Sent: Saturday, May 3, 2025 10:18 PM
To: julie.gonzales.senate@coleg.gov; mike.weissman.senate@coleg.gov; matt.ball.senate@coleg.gov; john.carson.senate@coleg.gov; lindsey.daugherty.senate@coleg.gov; lisa.frizell.senate@coleg.gov; dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov
Cc: Juliann Jenson
Subject: CCJD Senate Confirmation Hearing--May 5, 2025
Attachments: 250503 CSPG IEC Complaint.pdf

Good evening Senators,

I understand that the continued hearing on the reappointments of Jim Carpenter and Mindy Sooter has been scheduled for Monday, May 5, 2025. I further understand that Governor Polis has refused to withdraw his reappointment Orders notwithstanding the information that was revealed at the April 28, 2025 hearing. That information, of course, was the fact that the Commission did not disqualify itself as requested and, instead, exonerated its members and staff by summarily dismissing the anonymous RFE. In that context, I have submitted the attached Independent Ethics Commission complaint. Because the IEC follows an initially confidential screening process, I am providing you with the complaint as a non-public record. The time-sensitive nature of the issue, however, compels me to notify you of the complaint, nevertheless.

Again, please do not hesitate to let me know if you have any questions or if there is any information that I can provide to assist you in your process.

Warmest regards,
Christopher Gregory

 The Gregory Law Firm, LLC

Christopher S.P. Gregory
Attorney at Law

201 Coffman St., #1822, Longmont, CO 80502

● Phone: 970.648.0642 ● Fax: 970.648.0643 ●

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Christopher Gregory

From: Christopher Gregory
Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 4:27 PM
To: judy.amabile.senate@coleg.gov; mark.baisley@senate.co.com; matt.ball.senate@coleg.gov; jeff.bridges.senate@coleg.gov; scott.bright.senate@coleg.gov; john.carson.senate@coleg.gov; marc.catlin.senate@coleg.gov; james.coleman.senate@coleg.gov; lisa.cutter.senate@coleg.gov; jessie.danielson.senate@coleg.gov; lindsey.daugherty.senate@coleg.gov; tony.exum.senate@coleg.gov; lisa.frizell.senate@coleg.gov; julie.gonzales.senate@coleg.gov; nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov; iman.jodeh.senate@coleg.gov; cathy.kipp.senate@coleg.gov; barbara.kirkmeyer.senate@coleg.gov; chris.kolker.senate@coleg.gov; larry.liston.senate@coleg.gov; paul.lundeen.senate@coleg.gov; janice.marchman.senate@coleg.gov; dafna.michaelson.jenet.senate@coleg.gov; kyle.mullica.senate@coleg.gov; byron.pelton.senate@coleg.gov; rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov; janicerichsd7@gmail.com; dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov; robert.rodriguez.senate@coleg.gov; cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov; marc.snyder.senate@coleg.gov; tom.sullivan.senate@coleg.gov; katie.wallace.senate@coleg.gov; mike.weissman.senate@coleg.gov; faith.winter.senate@coleg.gov
Subject: Senate Judiciary Committee Unfavorable Recommendations on CCJD Appointees
Attachments: Page.pdf

Good afternoon Senators,

Earlier this afternoon, the Senate Judiciary Committee rejected motions to forward the re-appointments of the Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline (CCJD) Chair Mindy Sooter and Vice-Chair James Carpenter. The reason for the Committee's votes includes the creation of an extensive legislative record. Nevertheless, even with unfavorable recommendations, the appointments will still come before the full Senate for a final vote. I respectfully encourage each of you to review the full documents that have been submitted into the legislative record. To ensure that you are able to vote based upon complete information, however, I have also attached a complaint that I submitted to the Independent Ethics Commission (IEC) as to Governor Jared Polis's exercise of his appointive powers. Because of the IEC's process, the attached document remains non-public until the IEC may deem it non-frivolous according to the IEC's rules. Imminent and irreparable harm could occur to the General Assembly as an institution, however, if a vote is taken upon incomplete information. Accordingly, I am providing you with a copy of the IEC complaint as a non-public record.

Sincerely,

Christopher Gregory



The Gregory Law Firm, LLC

Christopher S.P. Gregory
Attorney at Law

201 Coffman St., #1822, Longmont, CO 80502

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Christopher Gregory

From: Christopher Gregory
Sent: Tuesday, May 6, 2025 2:43 PM
To: judy.amabile.senate@coleg.gov; mark.baisley@senate.co.com; matt.ball.senate@coleg.gov; jeff.bridges.senate@coleg.gov; scott.bright.senate@coleg.gov; john.carson.senate@coleg.gov; marc.catlin.senate@coleg.gov; james.coleman.senate@coleg.gov; lisa.cutter.senate@coleg.gov; jessie.danielson.senate@coleg.gov; lindsey.daugherty.senate@coleg.gov; tony.exum.senate@coleg.gov; lisa.frizell.senate@coleg.gov; julie.gonzales.senate@coleg.gov; nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov; iman.jodeh.senate@coleg.gov; cathy.kipp.senate@coleg.gov; barbara.kirkmeyer.senate@coleg.gov; chris.kolker.senate@coleg.gov; larry.liston.senate@coleg.gov; paul.lundeen.senate@coleg.gov; janice.marchman.senate@coleg.gov; dafna.michaelson.jenet.senate@coleg.gov; kyle.mullica.senate@coleg.gov; byron.pelton.senate@coleg.gov; rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov; janicerichsd7@gmail.com; dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov; robert.rodriguez.senate@coleg.gov; cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov; marc.snyder.senate@coleg.gov; tom.sullivan.senate@coleg.gov; katie.wallace.senate@coleg.gov; mike.weissman.senate@coleg.gov; faith.winter.senate@coleg.gov
Subject: RE: Senate Judiciary Committee Unfavorable Recommendations on CCJD Appointees
Attachments: 250506 Gov Office Talking Points Senate Vote.pdf; 250501 CP Op Ed CSPG re CSC Lost Credibility.pdf

Good afternoon Senators,

It has come to my attention that the attached document is being circulated by Governor Jared Polis's Office in an effort to discredit the allegations of misconduct that supported the Senate Judiciary Committee's votes not to forward the reappointments of Mindy Sooter and Jim Carpenter with favorable recommendations. Other than confirming the Governor's culpable intent and refusal to withdraw his reappointments, this document does not provide any valid reasons for the full Senate to disregard the Senate Judiciary Committee's judgment. The complaint that I have submitted to the Independent Ethics Commission and which I have shared with you has now been updated to include the Governor's Office's circulation of these talking points. I have also attached my op ed piece published in *Colorado Politics* on May 1, 2025. The op ed distills the significance of the Colorado Judicial Scandal and the reasons for Sooter and Carpenter's non-confirmed into two pages. It is important that the vote on this critically important issue occur with integrity and courage.

Warmest regards,
Christopher Gregory



The Gregory Law Firm, LLC

Christopher S.P. Gregory
Attorney at Law

201 Coffman St., #1822, Longmont, CO 80502

● Phone: 970.648.0642 ● Fax: 970.648.0643 ●

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From: Christopher Gregory

Sent: Monday, May 5, 2025 4:27 PM

To: judy.amabile.senate@coleg.gov; mark.baisley@senate.co.com; matt.ball.senate@coleg.gov; jeff.bridges.senate@coleg.gov; scott.bright.senate@coleg.gov; john.carson.senate@coleg.gov; marc.catlin.senate@coleg.gov; james.coleman.senate@coleg.gov; lisa.cutter.senate@coleg.gov; jessie.danielson.senate@coleg.gov; lindsey.daugherty.senate@coleg.gov; tony.exum.senate@coleg.gov; lisa.frizell.senate@coleg.gov; julie.gonzales.senate@coleg.gov; nick.hinrichsen.senate@coleg.gov; iman.jodeh.senate@coleg.gov; cathy.kipp.senate@coleg.gov; barbara.kirkmeyer.senate@coleg.gov; chris.kolker.senate@coleg.gov; larry.liston.senate@coleg.gov; paul.lundeen.senate@coleg.gov; janice.marchman.senate@coleg.gov; dafna.michaelson.jenet.senate@coleg.gov; kyle.mullica.senate@coleg.gov; byron.pelton.senate@coleg.gov; rod.pelton.senate@coleg.gov; janicerichsd7@gmail.com; dylan.roberts.senate@coleg.gov; robert.rodriguez.senate@coleg.gov; cleave.simpson.senate@coleg.gov; marc.snyder.senate@coleg.gov; tom.sullivan.senate@coleg.gov; katie.wallace.senate@coleg.gov; mike.weissman.senate@coleg.gov; faith.winter.senate@coleg.gov

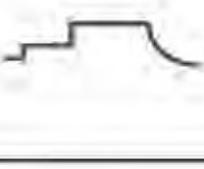
Subject: Senate Judiciary Committee Unfavorable Recommendations on CCJD Appointees

Good afternoon Senators,

Earlier this afternoon, the Senate Judiciary Committee rejected motions to forward the re-appointments of the Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline (CCJD) Chair Mindy Sooter and Vice-Chair James Carpenter. The reason for the Committee's votes includes the creation of an extensive legislative record. Nevertheless, even with unfavorable recommendations, the appointments will still come before the full Senate for a final vote. I respectfully encourage each of you to review the full documents that have been submitted into the legislative record. To ensure that you are able to vote based upon complete information, however, I have also attached a complaint that I submitted to the Independent Ethics Commission (IEC) as to Governor Jared Polis's exercise of his appointive powers. Because of the IEC's process, the attached document remains non-public until the IEC may deem it non-frivolous according to the IEC's rules. Imminent and irreparable harm could occur to the General Assembly as an institution, however, if a vote is taken upon incomplete information. Accordingly, I am providing you with a copy of the IEC complaint as a non-public record.

Sincerely,

Christopher Gregory

 The Gregory Law Firm, LLC

Christopher S.P. Gregory
Attorney at Law

201 Coffman St., #1822, Longmont, CO 80502

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Christopher Gregory

From: Christopher Gregory
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 8:53 PM
To: Indep. Ethics Comm'n
Subject: RE: Polis Complaint--Senate Votes

Mr. Ioannides,

Thank you for your docketing notice and explanation of the timeline for the Commission's next action. As the Commission processes my complaint, I wanted to highlight one additional fact. At no time, including after my testimony at the Senate Judiciary Committee's hearing on April 28, 2025, did the Governor's Office contact me to inquire as to the alleged retaliatory nature of my termination and how such allegations might relate to whistleblower protections or other civil rights. Instead, the Governor's Office proceeded to circulate its talking points categorically defending the reappointments to the Senators. There was no concern for victim interests, and I was not given any opportunity to be heard / to have Governor Polis address my concerns.

Again, I appreciate your follow up. In my earlier email, I misstated the vote counts (which were 16-19 and 19-16, respectively). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if you need anything else prior to the Commission's May 20, 2025 meeting.

Sincerely,
Christopher Gregory

 The Gregory Law Firm, LLC

Christopher S.P. Gregory
Attorney at Law

201 Coffman St., #1822, Longmont, CO 80502

● Phone: 970.648.0642 ● Fax: 970.648.0643 ●

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From: Indep. Ethics Comm'n <iecinfo@state.co.us>
Sent: Thursday, May 8, 2025 7:28 PM
To: Christopher Gregory <cspgregory@thegregorylawfirm.net>
Subject: Re: Polis Complaint--Senate Votes

Mr. Gregory,

Your complaint has been received and docketed as Complaint No. 25-31. The complaint will be considered by the Commission at its regular meeting on May 20, 2025.

The Commission keeps all complaints confidential until it decides that a complaint is non-frivolous. As such, on May 20, the Commission will consider your complaint in closed session. You need not appear at that time. If the Commission finds a complaint is non-frivolous, the Respondent will be afforded an opportunity to respond, an investigation will be conducted, and a public hearing will be set at which the Commission may receive additional testimony and evidence from the parties.

Thank you,

Dino Ioannides
Executive Director
Colorado Independent Ethics Commission
1300 Broadway, Suite 240, Denver, CO 80203
iecinfo@state.co.us | [\(720\) 625-5697](tel:(720)625-5697) | iec.colorado.gov

On Wed, May 7, 2025 at 11:54 AM Christopher Gregory <cspgregory@thegregorylawfirm.net> wrote:

Good Morning,

Just so you are aware, the full Senate voted not to confirm Colorado Commission on Judicial Discipline Chair Mindy Sooter through a vote of 17-19. After an appeal based upon reputation and ethos made by Vice Chair James Carpenter's former employee, current Joint Budget Committee Chair, and State Treasurer candidate Jeff Bridges, Carpenter was confirmed by a mirrored vote of 19-17.

I was able to reduce the file size of the document that I sent yesterday and have attached the updated file for your convenience.

Warmest regards,

Christopher Gregory



The Gregory Law Firm, LLC

Christopher S.P. Gregory

Attorney at Law

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