

ONTARIO JUDICIAL COUNCIL

IN THE MATTER OF a complaint respecting Justice Paul Currie, a judge of the Ontario Court of Justice (Central West Region)

SUMMARY OF DECISION

Note

This summary does not form part of the hearing panel's reasons for decision. The full decision is the only authoritative document.

This summary is offered as an aid to understanding the decision pending its publication on the Council's website. The public version of the decision will be posted on the Council's website once the French translation is complete and the reasons have been reviewed to ensure compliance with the publication ban imposed by the hearing panel in a decision dated March 17, 2025.

A review panel of the Ontario Judicial Council ("Council") directed that a hearing be held under s. 51.6 of the *Courts of Justice Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. C. 43 ("CJA"), regarding a complaint about the conduct of Regional Senior Justice Paul Currie¹ of the Ontario Court of Justice. The complaint was received from then-Chief Justice Lise Maisonneuve of the Ontario Court of Justice² on April 12, 2023.

The complaint letter informed the Council that Justice Currie was charged with one count of assault causing bodily harm pursuant to s. 267(b) of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46, and one count of assault contrary to s. 266 of the *Criminal Code*.

The name of the alleged victim of the conduct underlying the criminal charges against Justice Currie and information that would identify this person are subject to a publication ban imposed by the hearing panel. The alleged victim is referred to as the "primary witness" or "A.A."³

In June 2023, the criminal charges against Justice Currie were withdrawn by the Crown on the ground that there was no reasonable prospect of conviction.

After the criminal charges were withdrawn, a two-member complaint subcommittee of the Council investigated the complaint. Based on the results of this investigation, a four-

¹ Justice Currie's term as Regional Senior Judge of the Central West Region of the Ontario Court of Justice ended on August 31, 2025.

² Chief Justice Maisonneuve's term as Chief Justice ended on May 31, 2023, when Chief Justice Sharon Nicklas assumed the role of Chief Justice of the Ontario Court of Justice.

³ See the panel's Interim Ruling dated March 17, 2025.

member review panel of the Council ordered a hearing into the complaint. The Notice of Hearing into the complaint contains the following allegations against Justice Currie:

- 1) On or around January 11, 2023⁴, Justice Currie engaged in non-consensual sexual intercourse with A.A. and physically assaulted A.A. causing bodily injury.
- 2) On or around April 5, 2023, Justice Currie pushed A.A., causing bodily injury. A.A. called 911. Justice Currie left prior to the arrival of the police.
- 3) On April 6, 2023, Justice Currie engaged in conduct that was – or could be perceived as – an attempt to influence A.A. to decline to give a statement to the police.
- 4) Having been informed that the Ontario Judicial Council was investigating a complaint about his conduct, Justice Currie engaged in conduct that was – or could be perceived as – an attempt to dissuade A.A. from cooperating with the Council's investigation.
- 5) On April 6, 2023, a warrant for Justice Currie's arrest was issued. Justice Currie did not surrender into custody for 5 days following the issuance of the warrant.
- 6) Justice Currie's conduct towards A.A. in the January and April 2023 incidents was related to alcohol consumption and anger management issues. Justice Currie has consumed beer on multiple occasions while driving.

The hearing into the merits of the allegations proceeded on November 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, and 27, 2025 before a hearing panel composed of Justice Paul Rouleau of the Court of Appeal for Ontario, the Chair of the panel; Justice Christine Pirraglia of the Ontario Court of Justice; Ena Chadha, the lawyer member of the panel; and Peter Woolstencroft, the community member of the panel.

The hearing panel heard testimony from the primary witness, three police officers involved with the criminal charges against Justice Currie, the former acting Crown Attorney for Wellington County who conducted the bail hearing, and Justice Currie himself.

⁴ The uncontested evidence at the hearing was that this allegation related to an incident on January 15, 2023.

Based on the evidence adduced at the hearing, the hearing panel was unanimous in concluding that five of the six allegations in the Notice of Hearing were established on a balance of probabilities, and that the test for judicial misconduct was met in relation to each of these allegations.

Regarding the first and second allegations, the hearing panel found that A.A.'s account of the January and April 2023 assaults, and the aftermath of these incidents, was logical, consistent on the material points, and aligned with other evidence in the record. To the extent there were inconsistencies in A.A.'s version of events, the hearing panel found that these inconsistencies were minor, peripheral, or otherwise explained. In contrast, the panel found that Justice Currie's evidence about the events of January and April 2023 was at times internally inconsistent and was undermined by contemporaneous evidence. The panel found that Justice Currie's conduct in respect of the first and second allegations were established and that his conduct constituted judicial misconduct.

Regarding the fourth allegation, the panel found that Justice Currie made telephone calls to A.A. in June or July 2023 that were an attempt to dissuade her from cooperating with the Council's investigation into the complaint about his conduct. The panel concluded that his conduct constituted judicial misconduct.

Regarding the fifth allegation, the panel considered the undisputed evidence that Justice Currie delayed in surrendering to the police until April 11, 2023, despite his knowledge on April 6, 2023 of an outstanding warrant for his arrest. The panel concluded that his conduct constituted judicial misconduct.

Regarding the sixth allegation, the panel found based on A.A.'s evidence that Justice Currie regularly consumed alcohol while driving and that this conduct constituted judicial misconduct.

Regarding the third allegation, the panel was not satisfied on a balance of probabilities that a phone call that Justice Currie made to A.A. on April 6, 2023 was an attempt to influence A.A. to decline to give a statement to the police, or that Justice Currie ought to have reasonably perceived it as such.

Having made findings of judicial misconduct in relation to five of the six allegations of misconduct in the Notice of Hearing, the panel observed that a disposition under s. 51.6(11) of the CJA is necessary to restore confidence in the administration of justice.

A date for the continuation of this hearing on the question of the appropriate disposition has been set for February 4, 2026.