

**State of Illinois  
Judicial Inquiry Board  
555 W. Monroe Street, Suite 800-N  
Chicago, IL 60661**

(312) 814-5554, (800) 227-9429, TTY (866) 451-5724, Fax (312) 814-5719

**REQUEST FOR INVESTIGATION OF A JUDGE FORM**

(Please type or print all information and return request to the above address.)

**Kindly be aware that the Judicial Inquiry Board:**

- DOES NOT PROVIDE - legal counsel, advice, services, or referrals
- CANNOT - file motions/petitions on your behalf; change the judge's ruling, decision, or judgment; remove/replace the judge hearing your court case; have your case moved to another place/county; act as your attorney; intervene in your case; remove/change your attorney; and
- HAS NO AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT AGAINST - retired Illinois state court judges, attorneys, court personnel, police officers, federal judges, administrative law judges, or arbitrators.

You should also note that: Filing a request for investigation with the JIB is not a substitute for appeal and has no effect on your legal or appellate rights. Your Request is separate from your court case.

**Your Name:** Janelle Babington

**Address:** 1319 Military Cutoff Road, Suite CC, Unit #101

**City:** Wilmington      **State:** NC      **Zip:** 28405

**Daytime telephone:** (800) 634-3439

**Evening telephone:** (800) 634-3439

**Note: You must provide the Board with any change of address information to receive correspondence after you have submitted your request for investigation.**

**How did you hear about the Judicial Inquiry Board?**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice Posted in the Courthouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Another State Agency            | <input type="checkbox"/> News Media <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney <input type="checkbox"/> Family/Friend |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Internet             | Other: _____   |

**I have information of possible judicial misconduct or disability on the part of the following Illinois judge:**

**First and Last Name of Judge:** Associate Judge Sharon Arnold Kanter

**City and County:** Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

**Court Level:**       Supreme Court       Appellate Court       Circuit Court

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

### 1. When and where did this happen?

Date(s): June 22, 2026 Time: Morning session

Location: George N. Leighton Criminal Courthouse, 2600 S. California Ave., Chicago, IL 60608

### 2. If your information arises out of a court case, please answer these questions:

#### (a) What is the name and number of the case?

Case Name: People v. Thomas Martel

Case Number: 23CR0852301

#### (b) What kind of case is it? (Please check one below)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal | <input type="checkbox"/> Chancery               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Domestic Relations  | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Claims           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Traffic                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Municipal           | <input type="checkbox"/> Juvenile               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Probate             | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |

#### (c) What is your relationship to the case? (Please check one below)

- Plaintiff/Petitioner  Defendant/Respondent
- Witness for: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (specify): Petitioner, Concerned Citizen, and Animal Welfare Advocate

#### (d) If you were represented by an attorney at the time of the conduct, please identify the attorney:

Name: N/A

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

#### (e) Identify any other attorney(s) who represented you or any person involved in the case:

Name of Attorney: N/A

Address of Attorney: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney Represented: \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Identify, if you can, any other witnesses to the conduct about which you complain:

Name: Cook County State's Attorney's Office

Address: 2650 S. California Ave., Chicago, IL 60608

Telephone Number: ( ) 773) 674-3181

### 4. Only list and send a copy of those court documents which support your claim that the judge has engaged in judicial misconduct or has a disability.

1. Illinois Department of Corrections Inmate Status Report for Thomas Martel (Y76103)

2. Certified Petition with 61,000+ signatures opposing the plea agreement

3. Case Docket / Disposition Order, Case No. 23CR0852301, dated June 22, 2026

**5. In the space below, specifically describe the factual details concerning your claim that the judge engaged in judicial misconduct or has a disability. Please type or print legibly.**

If additional space is required, attach and number pages.

Pursuant to the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct, specifically Rule 1.2 (Promoting Confidence in the Judiciary), Rule 2.2 (Impartiality and Fairness), and Rule 2.4 (External Influences on Judicial Conduct), I submit this complaint regarding Associate Judge Sharon Arnold Kanter in People v. Thomas Martel, Case No. 23CR0852301, Cook County Circuit Court.

On June 22, 2026, the morning the case was scheduled for jury selection, Judge Kanter reinstated a plea agreement that the Cook County State's Attorney's Office had formally withdrawn. The defendant, Thomas Martel, was charged with 10 felony counts (five counts of Animal Torture and five counts of Aggravated Cruelty to Animals) for the serial torture and killing of kittens. Over 61,000 citizens had petitioned the court opposing any plea deal. The prosecution was prepared to proceed to trial.

Judge Kanter intervened on the morning of jury selection to reinstate the withdrawn plea over prosecutorial objection. The defendant accepted immediately. The resulting 54-month sentence was fully satisfied by pretrial home electronic monitoring credit, resulting in zero days served in the Illinois Department of Corrections. IDOC records confirm admission and parole on the same date: June 23, 2026.

**Specific conduct violations:**

Rule 1.2: Reinstating a withdrawn plea on the morning of trial, over prosecutorial objection, created a serious appearance of impropriety and undermined public confidence in the integrity of the judiciary.

Rule 2.2: This action is inconsistent with objective and impartial application of the law, as the judge effectively assumed an adversarial posture against the prosecution.

Rule 2.4: The conduct reflects exercise of judicial power not consistent with the independent and proper administration of justice.

I respectfully request that the Board investigate whether Judge Kanter's conduct on June 22, 2026 violated the Illinois Code of Judicial Conduct.

**Your Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** June 28, 2026