

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION INSTITUTES FORMAL
PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING JUDGE VALERIANO SAUCEDO

The Commission on Judicial Performance has instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Valeriano Saucedo of the Tulare County Superior Court. The commencement of formal proceedings is not a determination of judicial misconduct. The formal proceedings concern the judge engaging in a course of conduct toward his courtroom clerk that included using an anonymous letter accusing her of an affair and furnishing her with numerous gifts. The actions are alleged to have violated several canons of the Code of Judicial Ethics.

In accordance with the rules that govern commission proceedings, a hearing will be conducted by Special Masters appointed by the Supreme Court. At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Attorney James Harrigan of Sausalito will serve as Examiner for the commission. Judge Saucedo is represented by Attorney Randall A. Miller of Los Angeles.

Following completion of the hearing, the Special Masters will provide the commission with a report containing findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to present their views on the report to the commission through briefing and argument. If the commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to remove, censure, publicly admonish, or privately discipline the judge. Charges that the commission determines are not proved will be dismissed. A determination by the commission to remove, censure, or admonish a judge is subject to discretionary review by the Supreme Court upon petition by the judge.

The Notice of Formal Proceedings is available for public inspection at the commission office. A copy of the Notice of Formal Proceedings is also posted on the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Pending Cases - Press Releases & Documents"). Judge Saucedo's Answer to the Notice is due January 30, 2015. Upon filing, the judge's answer will be made available for public inspection.

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The commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers and six public members. The chairperson is Honorable Erica R. Yew of the Santa Clara County Superior Court. Commission member Anthony P. Capozzi, Esq. is recused in this matter.

For further information about the Commission on Judicial Performance, see the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov>.