

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS

Inquiry Concerning a Judge,
No. 15

To: Judge Antonio E. Chavez

It appearing that from February 14, 1968 to the present you have been a Judge of the Municipal Court of Los Angeles Judicial District;

Preliminary investigation having been made, during the course of which preliminary investigation you were afforded a reasonable opportunity to present such matters as you chose, and did so, and this Commission as a result of said preliminary investigation, having concluded that formal proceedings to inquire into the charges against you should be instituted;

NOW, THEREFORE, you are hereby charged with willful misconduct in office and with conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that brings the judicial office into disrepute.

The specifications of the charges and the alleged facts upon which such charges are based are as follows:

COUNT ONE

You are charged in Count One with willful misconduct in office:

A. Between December 1, 1969 and October 15, 1972, you did furnish, on a regular and weekly basis, to Frank "Tico" Maldonado, a bail bondsman, numerous form documents entitled "Order for the Release of Prisoner on Bail" which were blank in all respects except for your signature.

B. Between December 1, 1969 and October 15, 1972, you did furnish, on a regular and weekly basis, to Frank "Tico" Maldonado numerous surety bond facesheets which were blank in all respects except for your signature on the stub of said surety bond facesheets.

C. Between December 1, 1969 and October 15, 1972, enabled to do so by your aforesaid conduct, Frank "Tico" Maldonado did personally, and did cause and allow his employees, Albert Tamez, David Sanchez, Robert Logan, and Antonio Macedo Monzon, to fill in and complete form documents entitled "Order for Release of Prisoner on Bail" and did fix, and did cause his said employees to fix bail, on said presigned documents without authority from a judicial officer, and did use these documents to secure the release

on bail of prisoners who had been arrested for felonies and who were in the custody of law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County. You were aware of the foregoing filling in, setting of bail without judicial authority, and use of said presigned documents.

D. Between December 1, 1969 and October 15, 1972, Frank "Tico" Maldonado did personally sell, and did cause the aforesaid employees to sell, to independent bail bondsmen, documents entitled "Order for Release of Prisoner on Bail" which had been filled in and completed by Frank "Tico" Maldonado personally or one of said employees. On said documents, Frank "Tico" Maldonado, did set the bail and did cause his said employees to set the bail without authority from a judicial officer. The said documents, which had been filled in and completed without judicial authority, were sold to independent bail bondsmen by Frank "Tico" Maldonado, for the purpose of securing the release on bail of prisoners who had been arrested for felonies and who were in custody of law enforcement agencies in Los Angeles County. Jay Allan Balonick, a bondsman employed by Glasser Brothers, personally saw said presigned documents at the office of Frank "Tico" Maldonado, at times personally filled out and fixed bail on said documents without judicial authority, and used said documents to secure the release of a number of the aforesaid prisoners. You were aware

that Frank "Tico" Maldonado was making said documents available to other independent bail bondsmen.

E. Prior to January 12, 1972, you did furnish to Frank "Tico" Maldonado, a form document entitled "Order for Release of Prisoner on Bail" which was blank in all respects except for your signature. The said presigned document was completed and bail was set on said document without consultation with a judicial officer, and the said document was used to secure the release of one "Jane Doe" who was a felony arrestee in the custody of the Los Angeles Police Department under DR No. 72-907756.

F. Prior to August 29, 1972, you did furnish to Frank "Tico" Maldonado, a form document entitled "Order for Release of Prisoner on Bail" which was blank in all respects except for your signature. Frank "Tico" Maldonado caused his employee, Antonio Macedo Monzon, to fill in and complete said document and to fix bail without the authority of a judicial officer, and caused said employee to sell said document to bail bondsman, John Carmona, for the purpose of securing the release on bail of John Araujo who was in the custody of the Los Angeles Police Department charged with a parole violation pursuant to section 3052 of the Penal Code.

G. Prior to August 30, 1972, you delivered to Frank "Tico" Maldonado, a form document entitled "Order for Release of Prisoner on Bail" which was

blank in all respects except for your signature.
Frank "Tico" Maldonado caused his employee, Antonio
Macedo Monzon, to fill in and complete said document
and to fix bail without authority of a judicial
officer, and caused the said employee to sell said
document to bail bondsman John Carmona for the
purpose of securing the release on bail of Frank
Martinez who was in the custody of the Los Angeles
Police Department charged with a parole violation
pursuant to section 3052 of the Penal Code.

COUNT TWO

For a further and separate cause of action,
you are charged in Count Two with conduct prejudicial
to the administration of justice that brings the judicial
office into disrepute. In support of this cause of action,
paragraphs A through G of Count One are hereby incorporated
by this reference as if fully set out herein.

You have the right to file written answer
to the charges against you within 15 days after service
of this notice upon you with the Commission on Judicial
Qualifications, Room 3041 State Building, 350 McAllister
Street, San Francisco, California 94102. Such answer
must be verified, must conform in style to subdivision

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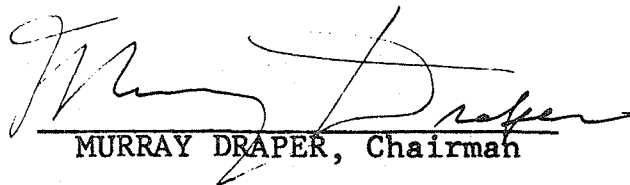
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(c) of Rule 15 of the Rules on Appeal, and must consist of an original and 11 legible copies.

By Order of the Commission on Judicial Qualifications.

Dated:

January 26, 1973


MURRAY DRAPER, Chairman