

Inquiry Concerning  
a Judge, No. 15

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BEFORE THE COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS

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IN THE MATTER OF ANTONIO E. CHAVEZ,  
JUDGE OF THE MUNICIPAL COURT, LOS  
ANGELES JUDICIAL DISTRICT

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RESPONSE TO CHARGES

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COMES NOW, Antonio E. Chavez, Judge of the  
Municipal Court, Los Angeles Judicial District, for  
convenience hereinafter referred to as respondent, and in  
response to the charges herein, denies, generally, that he  
has engaged in any willful misconduct in office or in any  
conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice that  
might bring his judicial office into dispute and in support  
of this general denial, further responds to the specific  
allegations as follows:

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COUNT ONE

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1. In response to the allegations contained in  
paragraph A, respondent admits that he did furnish to Frank  
"Tico" Maldonado, (hereinafter referred to as "Maldonado"),  
a certain number of documents entitled "Order for Release of  
Prisoner on Bail", (hereinafter referred to as "Order for

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1 Release"), a certain number of which were blank in all  
2 respects except for respondent's signature.

3           Except as otherwise admitted herein, respondent  
4 denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining  
5 allegation in paragraph A.

6           2. In response to the allegations contained in  
7 paragraph B, respondent admits that he signed for said  
8 Maldonado a certain number of surety bond facesheets, a  
9 certain number of which were blank in all respects except for  
10 respondent's signature thereon.

11           Except as otherwise admitted herein, respondent  
12 denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining  
13 allegation in paragraph B.

14           3. In response to the allegations in paragraph  
15 C, respondent admits that said Maldonado personally, or at  
16 his direction, through certain employees, did fill in and  
17 complete said certain "Orders for Release which it has here-  
18 tofore been admitted that respondent furnished to said  
19 Maldonado; that said Maldonado did personally, or at his  
20 direction, through certain employees did fill in and complete  
21 said form by insertion of the amount of bail. Respondent  
22 alleges, however, that in each instance bail on said certain  
23 Orders for Release were fixed by respondent personally or at  
24 his direction.

25           Respondent further admits that said orders for  
26 release of prisoner on bail completed by said Maldonado as

1 hereinabove set forth were used to secure the release on bail  
2 of certain prisoners who had been arrested for felonies and  
3 who were in the custody of law enforcement agencies in Los  
4 Angeles County.

5           Except as otherwise admitted herein, respondent  
6 denies, generally and specifically, each and every remaining  
7 allegation in paragraph C.

8           4. In response to the allegations in paragraph  
9 D, respondent hereby incorporates by reference each and every  
10 allegation contained in his response to paragraph C. With  
11 regard to the allegations of sales of said orders for release  
12 by said Maldonado to independent bailbondsmen, respondent  
13 alleges that he is informed and believes and upon that basis  
14 alleges that said Maldonado or his employees on occasion made  
15 a monetary charge to said independent bailbondsmen for their  
16 services rendered to said independent bailbondsmen.

17           In response to the allegations that refer to  
18 Jay Allan Belonick, respondent has no information or belief  
19 sufficient to admit or deny that allegation and basing his  
20 denial upon that ground, denies generally and specifically,  
21 each and every allegation with regard to said Jay Allan Belonick  
22 except as otherwise admitted herein.

23           Respondent denies, generally and specifically,  
24 each and every remaining allegation in paragraph D.

25           5. In response to the allegations in paragraph  
26 E, respondent hereby incorporates each and every allegation

1 contained in his response to paragraph C. With regard to the  
2 specific transaction alleged to have occurred on January 12,  
3 1972, and with regard to the specific allegation with regard  
4 to the person named under DR No. 72 907 756, respondent alleges  
5 that a certain independent bail bondsman by subterfuge mis-  
6 represented certain facts in connection with the background of  
7 the prisoner and fabricated the name of a police officer as  
8 the officer that had recommended certain bail. Respondent is  
9 informed and believes, and therefor alleges, that no forfeiture  
10 resulted on the bond. That the prisoner made her appearances.

11           6. In response to the allegations in paragraph  
12 F, respondent hereby incorporates all the allegations of his  
13 response to paragraph C; in response to the specific allegation  
14 of a transaction which is alleged to have occurred on August  
15 29, 1972, that certain prisoner, John Araujo, respondent is  
16 informed and believes, and therefor alleges, that by subterfuge,  
17 a certain independent bail bondsman fabricated the name of a  
18 police officer as the officer who recommended the bail for the  
19 prisoner in question. Respondent is informed and believes, and  
20 therefor alleges that upon investigating the whereabouts of the  
21 prisoner in question, he was advised that the prisoner either  
22 had remained, or had been taken back, in custody.


23           7. In response to the allegations in paragraph  
24 G, respondent hereby incorporates all of the allegations of  
25 his response to paragraph C; and in response to the allegation  
26 which is alleged to have occurred on August 29, 1972,

1 involving Antonio Macedo Monzon, John Cormona and that  
2 certain prisoner, Frank Martinez, respondent is informed and  
3 believes, and therefor alleges, that by subterfuge, a certain  
4 independent bail bondsman fabricated the name of a police  
5 officer as the officer who recommended the bail for the prisoner  
6 in question. Respondent is informed and believes, and therefor  
7 alleges that upon investigating the whereabouts of the prisoner  
8 in question, he was advised that the prisoner either had  
9 remained, or had been taken back, in custody.

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COUNT TWO

1. Respondent hereby incorporates each and every allegation of his response to paragraphs A through G of Count One, the same as if set forth in full herein

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BY   
FRANK C. MORALES  
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