

PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE JOHN T. DOYLE

The Commission on Judicial Performance has ordered Judge John T. Doyle publicly admonished pursuant to article VI, section 18(d) of the California Constitution and commission rule 115, as set forth in the following statement of facts and reasons found by the commission:

STATEMENT OF FACTS AND REASONS

Judge Doyle has been a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court since 2001. Prior to 2001, Judge Doyle served as a court commissioner in the Los Angeles courts. Judge Doyle's current term began in 2009.

On July 2, 2009, at approximately 10:45 p.m., Judge Doyle caused a traffic collision while driving his vehicle under the influence of alcohol in Los Angeles. After breath tests showed that Judge Doyle had blood-alcohol levels of .21 and .20 percent, the judge was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol in violation of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (a). On July 27, 2009, Judge Doyle was charged with violations of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivisions (a) and (b). (Case No. 9MP08210.) On October 6, 2009, following a plea of nolo contendere, Judge Doyle was convicted in the Los Angeles County Superior Court of driving with a blood-alcohol level of .08% or more, in violation of Vehicle Code section 23152, subdivision (b).

Judge Doyle's unlawful action described above evidences a serious disregard of the principles of personal and official conduct embodied in the California Code of Judicial Ethics, including failure to observe high standards of conduct so that the integrity and independence of the judiciary will be preserved (canon 1) and failure to respect and comply with the law and act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity of the judiciary (canon 2A). "Public confidence in the judiciary is eroded by irresponsible or improper conduct by judges." (Canon 2A advisory committee commentary.) Judge Doyle's unlawful conduct was also prejudicial to the administration of justice and brought the judicial office into disrepute within the meaning of article VI, section 18, subdivision (d) of the California Constitution.

Commission members Hon. Judith D. McConnell, Hon. Katherine Feinstein, Mr. Anthony P. Capozzi, Mr. Peter E. Flores, Mr. Samuel A. Hardage, Hon. Frederick P. Horn, Ms. Barbara Schraeger, Mr. Lawrence Simi, Ms. Maya Dillard Smith, Ms. Sandra Talcott and Mr. Nathaniel Trives voted to impose a public admonishment.

Dated: October 21, 2010