

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE RELEASES 2016 ANNUAL REPORT AND
ANNOUNCES THE ELECTION OF JUSTICE IGNAZIO J. RUVOLO AS CHAIRPERSON AND
MR. RICHARD SIMPSON AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Commission on Judicial Performance has released its 2016 Annual Report, which details the commission's activities and statistics from that year. The Annual Report is available on the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov>.

The commission announces the election of Justice Ignazio J. Ruvolo as Chairperson of the Commission and Mr. Richard Simpson as Vice-Chairperson at its meeting on March 22, 2017.

Justice Ruvolo has served as the presiding justice of Division Four of the Court of Appeal, First Appellate District since 2006; he served as an associate justice in Division Two from 1996 to 2006. Prior to his appointment to the appellate bench, Justice Ruvolo was a superior court judge in Contra Costa County. Justice Ruvolo has served on the State Bar Commission for the Revision of the Rules of Professional Conduct, and the San Francisco Bar Association's Ethics Committee. Justice Ruvolo has been a member, vice-chair, and chair of the California Judges Association's Judicial Ethics Committee, a member of the American Bar Association's Litigation Section Committee on Professional Responsibility, chair and special advisor to the State Bar of California's Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, and founder and chair of the Contra Costa County Bar Association's Ethics Committee.

Justice Ruvolo also has been a member of the Judicial Council's Task Force on Jury Instructions, Advisory Committee on Civil and Small Claims Actions, and Appellate Advisory Committee; the Center for Judicial Education and Research's Planning Committee; and the California Judicial College, Robert G. McGrath American Inns of Court, and Chair of the First District Mediation Task Force and Committee. He was awarded Trial Judge of the Year Award by the Alameda Contra Costa Trial Lawyers Association, and received Appellate Justice of the Year Awards from both the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association and the Italian American Bar Association of Northern California. He has served as an adjunct professor at University of California, Hastings College of the Law, Golden Gate University School of Law, the John F. Kennedy School of Law, and as Faculty for the California Judicial College, and the Hastings Center for Trial and Appellate Advocacy.

Before being appointed to the superior court bench, Justice Ruvolo was an attorney and partner with a Bay Area law civil litigation firm, and he began his legal career as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, where he was honored with a formal commendation from the Director of the U.S. Marshal Service. Justice Ruvolo received his undergraduate degree from Rutgers College in 1969, graduated magna cum laude in 1972 from the University of San Diego School of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the San Diego Law Review, and he received a Masters of Law degree from the University of Virginia. Justice Ruvolo served as vice-chairperson of the commission in 2015-2016. Justice Ruvolo was appointed to the commission as the Court of Appeal judicial member by the Supreme Court May 1, 2013, and re-appointed in February 2017; his current term ends February 28, 2021.

Mr. Simpson is a retired Deputy Chief of Staff for the Speaker of the California State Assembly. He served as a senior advisor for eight prior Assembly Speakers. He served for two years as Chief of Staff for the Senate Education Committee and for more than six years as Chief Consultant for the Assembly Education Committee. In 1999, Mr. Simpson served for six months as the first Legislative Secretary for California Governor Gray Davis. He has either written or played a key role in developing most of California's major education reforms of the past three decades, including the Class Size Reduction program, the laws creating California's system of academic standards and assessment, California's school facilities financing laws, and the recent law creating a new structure for school accountability. Mr. Simpson also drafted the budget reform measures contained in Propositions 1A and 1B for the 2009 special election and the education sections of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.'s Proposition 30 in 2012. Mr. Simpson was the Assembly's lead negotiator on the annual budget for public education. He served for 12 years as an elected trustee of the Sacramento County Board of Education and was elected president of that board three times. Mr. Simpson is a frequent speaker at statewide conferences and has received numerous awards for public service including the Golden Oak Service Award of the California State PTA. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of California, Santa Cruz and earned a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. Mr. Simpson was appointed to the commission as a public member by the Speaker of the Assembly June 17, 2013; his current term ended February 28, 2017 and his appointment to a new term is under consideration by the Speaker.

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The commission is composed of three judges, two lawyers, and six public members. The chairperson is Justice Ignazio J. Ruvolo, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District.

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