

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
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FOR RELEASE  
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE RELEASES 2017 ANNUAL REPORT AND  
ANNOUNCES THE ELECTION OF NANCI E. NISHIMURA, ESQ. AS CHAIRPERSON AND  
HON. MICHAEL B. HARPER AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON

The Commission on Judicial Performance has released its 2017 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 Nanci E. Nishimura, Esq., as Chairperson of the Commission and Hon. Michael B. Harper as Vice-Chairperson at its meeting on March 28, 2018.

Ms. Nishimura succeeds Justice Ignazio R. Ruvolo, who retired from the bench. She is a partner at Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy, LLP, where her practice focuses on antitrust and business litigation. She was a legislative assistant to Senator Daniel Inouye, and a clerk to the Overseas Private Investment Corporation and the U.S. International Trade Commission. Prior to law, Ms. Nishimura was a business development consultant to major corporations in Japan. She served on the Judicial Nominees Evaluation Commission from 2004 to 2008. In 2015, she was selected to serve on the White House Initiative on Asian American Pacific Islanders, as part of the President's Commission on Asian American Pacific Islanders. This select group provides strategic guidance to the President and Cabinet on access to higher education, healthcare, and entrepreneurial opportunities. In 2015, she was appointed by U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer to serve on the Judicial Appointments Committee for the Northern District of California. She is involved in numerous professional and nonprofit organizations, including the Board of Trustees of the California Science Center Foundation and the Commission and Board of Trustees of the Asian Art Museum Foundation, San Francisco. Ms. Nishimura received her law degree from The Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Master of Arts degree in International Relations from the University of Southern California. Ms. Nishimura is the first attorney member of the commission, who is a woman, to serve as chair of the commission.

Judge Harper has served on the Trinity County Superior Court since his appointment in 2014, and he was retained by voters in a 2016 election. Judge Harper's court assignments have included civil, small claims, dependency, and criminal cases. He has served as the court's assistant presiding judge and presiding judge of the Juvenile Court, and administers the Peer Court. Judge Harper also provides judicial assistance as required to the neighboring superior courts in Humboldt and Shasta Counties. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Harper served for 20 years, and

conducted investigations, and prosecutions as Trinity County District Attorney, and as deputy district attorney for Trinity, Sacramento, and Placer County District Attorneys' Offices. He graduated from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley.

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The commission is composed of six public members, three judges, and two lawyers. The chairperson is Nanci E. Nishimura, Esq.

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