

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION ISSUES DECISION AND ORDER
IMPOSING PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT ON FORMER JUDGE TIMOTHY J. STAFFORD
PURSUANT TO STIPULATION

The Commission on Judicial Performance has issued a decision and order imposing public admonishment on former Judge Timothy J. Stafford of the Orange County Superior Court pursuant to stipulation. Following a preliminary investigation, Judge Stafford, through his counsel Edith R. Matthai, Esq., and Commission on Judicial Performance Director-Chief Counsel Gregory Dresser proposed a Stipulation for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Commission Rule 116.5. The Decision and Order Imposing Public Admonishment is issued pursuant to that Stipulation, which was approved by the commission.

Judge Stafford was issued a public admonishment by the commission for making comments during a restraining order proceeding that were extremely undignified and inappropriate. Judge Stafford made other comments during the proceeding that belittled the parties and that raised the appearance of gender bias. The Court of Appeal reversed Judge Stafford's denial of the restraining order sought in the proceedings, in part, as a result of Judge Stafford's judicial misconduct.

The commission's Decision and Order Imposing Public Admonishment Pursuant to Stipulation is available on the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Pending Cases - Press Releases & Documents" and "Public Discipline & Decisions") and at the commission's office. Judge Stafford is represented by Attorney Edith R. Matthai of Los Angeles.

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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>.