

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION ISSUES DECISION AND ORDER IMPOSING PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE MORRIS D. JACOBSON

The Commission on Judicial Performance has issued a decision and order imposing a public admonishment of Judge Morris D. Jacobson of Alameda County Superior Court pursuant to stipulation (Commission Rule 127). Judge Jacobson, through his counsel, and the examiner for the commission proposed a Stipulation for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Commission Rule 127(b). The Decision and Order Imposing Public Admonishment is issued pursuant to that Stipulation, which the commission approved.

The commission determined that it should issue a public admonishment of Judge Jacobson for (1) hitting the hand of an attorney while she was at the bench speaking to Judge Jacobson, and (2) using crude and inappropriate language during a conversation with a court administrator, while describing the sexual misconduct of another judge.

On June 29, 2011, Judge Jacobson presided over a felony trial department. After a hearing, Judge Jacobson asked to speak to a deputy public defender. The deputy public defender approached and put her hand on the bench. Judge Jacobson admitted that, after apologizing for speaking sharply to her during a hearing that day, he “hit her hand, and inadvertently used enough force to leave a visible impression.” The commission confirmed that this action “constitutes particularly serious misconduct.”

In early 2016, while he was the presiding judge, Judge Jacobson spoke with a court administrator who had previously worked in the Tarrant County (Texas) Court. Judge Jacobson then used crude and inappropriate language when he told the court administrator about a case against a Tarrant County judge who had exchanged sex acts for better outcomes in cases. The commission noted that Judge Jacobson’s conversation with the court administrator did not pertain to a case before him, and that it is improper for a judge to use crude and inappropriate language in discussions with court personnel.

Judge Jacobson stipulated to the truth of the facts that formed the basis for the public admonishment.

The public admonishment 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 Jacobson 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>.