

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
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FOR RELEASE  
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JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE COMMISSION INSTITUTES FORMAL  
PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING JUDGE JEFFREY G. BENNETT

The Commission on Judicial Performance has instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Jeffrey G. Bennett of the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura. The commencement of formal proceedings is not a determination of judicial misconduct. The Notice of Formal Proceedings is available for public inspection at the commission office. A copy of the Notice of Formal Proceedings is also posted on the commission's website at <http://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Announcements"). Judge Bennett's Answer to the Notice is due March 16, 2020. Upon filing, the judge's answer will be made available for public inspection.

In accordance with the rules that govern commission proceedings, a hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the Supreme Court. At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel Mark Lizarraga and Assistant Trial Counsel Sei Shimoguchi will serve as Examiners for the commission. Judge Bennett is represented by Heather L. Rosing of San Diego.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the commission with a report containing findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to present their views on the report to the commission through briefing and argument. If the commission determines that the charges are proven by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to remove, censure, publicly admonish, or privately discipline the judge. Charges that the commission determines are not proven will be dismissed. A determination by the commission to remove, censure, or admonish a judge is subject to discretionary review by the Supreme Court upon petition by the judge.

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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>.