

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES DECISION AND ORDER
REMOVING JUSTICE JEFFREY W. JOHNSON FROM OFFICE

The Commission on Judicial Performance has issued a decision and order removing Justice Jeffrey W. Johnson of the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division One, from office. The commission's determination becomes final in 30 days, subject to discretionary review by the California Supreme Court.

The commission ordered Justice Johnson removed from office for 18 acts of prejudicial misconduct, comprised of more than 40 proven allegations. The commission found that Justice Johnson engaged in the unwanted touching of four women; engaged in conduct that would reasonably be perceived as sexual harassment of seven women at his court; misused the prestige of his position and demeaned his judicial office by attempting to develop personal relationships with three other women, and further demeaned his office by his offensive conduct toward a fourth woman, as well as by multiple incidents of undignified conduct (including conduct at the courthouse for the Court of Appeal) while intoxicated; and displayed poor demeanor to coworkers and made a disparaging remark about judicial colleagues.

Justice Johnson's misconduct was aggravated by his lack of candor throughout the commission proceedings. The commission found that Justice Johnson "testified untruthfully in many instances." As a result of his misconduct and his lack of candor during the course of the proceedings, the commission concluded that Justice Johnson "cannot meet the fundamental expectations of his position as a judge."

The commission's Decision and Order is available on the commission's website at <https://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Pending Cases - Press Releases & Documents" and "Public Discipline & Decisions"). Justice Johnson is represented by Paul S. Meyer of Costa Mesa and Reginald A. Vitek of San Diego.

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The commission is composed of six public members, three judges, and two lawyers. The chairperson is Hon. Michael B. Harper. Commission members Sarah Kruer Jager and Hon. Lisa B. Lench are recused in this matter.

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