

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
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FOR RELEASE  
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES DECISION AND ORDER  
IMPOSING SEVERE PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT ON  
FORMER JUDGE DAVID A. MASON PURSUANT TO STIPULATION

The Commission on Judicial Performance has issued a decision and order imposing a severe public admonishment on former Judge David A. Mason of the Modoc County Superior Court pursuant to stipulation. Following a preliminary investigation, former Judge Mason, through his counsel, David S. McMonigle, and Director-Chief Counsel Gregory Dresser proposed a Stipulation for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Commission Rule 116.5. The stipulation included former Judge Mason's agreement not to serve in a judicial capacity again. The Decision and Order Imposing Severe Public Admonishment is issued pursuant to that stipulation, which the commission approved.

The commission determined that it should impose a severe public admonishment on Judge Mason for his failure to properly disclose his personal relationship with an attorney on the record in a multitude of cases. Also, in two separate investigations, Judge Mason engaged in a lack of candor by making untrue statements to the commission about his compliance with his disclosure obligations. Judge Mason also engaged in discourteous and biased conduct toward the Modoc County District Attorney's Office. Judge Mason's misconduct was significantly aggravated by a public admonishment that the commission issued to Judge Mason in December 2019 for the same misconduct, failure to disclose his personal relationship with the same attorney in a multitude of cases.

Judge Mason stipulated to the truth of the facts upon which the commission based the severe public admonishment. Judge Mason also agreed that the severe public admonishment was appropriate in light of those facts. The commission's decision to resolve the matter with a severe public admonishment was conditioned upon former Judge Mason's agreement not to serve in a judicial capacity ever again.

The commission's Decision and Order Imposing Severe Public Admonishment is available on the commission's website at <https://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Pending Cases - Press Releases & Documents" and "Public Discipline & Decisions"). Judge Mason is represented by David S. McMonigle, Esq., of San Francisco.

The commission is composed of six public members, three judges, and two lawyers. The chairperson is Hon. Michael B. Harper.

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