

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE BARBARA L. ROBERTS

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Judge Barbara L. Roberts of the Butte County Superior Court. The commission determined that it should publicly admonish Judge Roberts for misconduct on the bench and in the courthouse. Judge Roberts engaged in a pattern of poor demeanor in multiple dependency cases over which she presided in 2019 and 2020. This misconduct included treating parents, attorneys, and a social worker in a harsh and discourteous manner. Judge Roberts also abused her authority and became embroiled in a case.

The commission also found that, on one day in January 2020, Judge Roberts yelled at court staff and engaged in a display of impatient and frustrated behavior in the clerk's office, in an adjoining internal court hallway, and in her chambers. The next day, again while in chambers, the judge treated another judge discourteously.

Judge Roberts stated that she had employed a "tough love" approach to litigants in dependency cases. The commission, however, found that belittling and demeaning litigants is not appropriate in any court, and that such conduct violates the Code of Judicial Ethics.

The 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 Roberts 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 Hon. Michael B. Harper.

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