

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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HEARING SCHEDULED AND SPECIAL MASTERS APPOINTED IN
MATTER CONCERNING JUDGE MICHAEL F. MURRAY

On January 12, 2022, the Commission on Judicial Performance announced that it had instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Michael F. Murray, a judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Orange. A hearing has been scheduled to begin on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., at the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Third Division, at 601 W. Santa Ana Boulevard, Santa Ana, California. The hearing will be open to the public.

Under the rules that govern commission proceedings, the hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the California Supreme Court: Honorable Judith M. Ashmann-Gerst, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Two; Honorable Patricia D. Benke (Ret.), Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One; and Honorable George Abdallah, Superior Court of California, County of San Joaquin.

At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel Mark Lizarraga and Assistant Trial Counsel Melissa G. Murphy will serve as Examiners for the commission. Judge Murray is represented by Edith R. Matthai of Los Angeles.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the commission with a report containing their findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to respond to the report through briefing and argument before the commission. If the commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to impose discipline as provided in the California Constitution. Charges that the commission determines are not proved will be dismissed.

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

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