

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 14400  
San Francisco, CA 94102

---

Contact: Emma Bradford  
Legal Advisor to Commissioners  
(415) 557-1200

---

FOR RELEASE  
October 27, 2022

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES DECISION AND ORDER  
IMPOSING PUBLIC CENSURE ON  
JUDGE MICHAEL J. MULVIHILL PURSUANT TO STIPULATION

The Commission on Judicial Performance has issued a decision and order imposing a public censure upon Judge Michael J. Mulvihill of the California Superior Court, County of San Joaquin, pursuant to stipulation. Following a preliminary investigation, Judge Mulvihill, through his counsel Paul S. Meyer, Esq., and Commission on Judicial Performance Senior Staff Counsel Sonya Smith, proposed a Stipulation for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Commission Rule 116.5. The Decision and Order Imposing Public Censure is issued pursuant to that stipulation, which was approved by the commission.

The commission determined that it should issue a public censure of Judge Mulvihill for his conduct in driving under the influence of alcohol and causing an accident, his conduct following the accident, including attempting to leave the scene of the accident, making false statements to bystanders, misleading law enforcement officers about the cause of the accident, and underreporting to law enforcement the amount of alcohol he had consumed. Judge Mulvihill's conduct reflects poorly on his integrity, negatively impacts the public's perception of him, and of the judiciary in general, and is seriously at odds with the canons and expected judicial behavior. Judge Mulvihill promptly reported his arrest, acknowledged that he had committed serious misconduct, and cooperated fully and honestly in commission proceedings. The judge also made discourteous remarks towards a litigant in court, which he acknowledged and expressed regret for his lack of dignity and patience.

The commission's Decision and Order Imposing Public Censure Pursuant to Stipulation is available on the commission's website at <https://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Pending Cases - Press Releases & Documents" and "Public Discipline & Decisions"). Judge Mulvihill is represented by Attorney Paul S. Meyer of Costa Mesa.

\* \* \*

The commission is composed of six public members, three judges, and two lawyers. The chairperson is Hon. Michael B. Harper. There is one attorney member vacancy on the commission.

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