

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF COMMISSIONER WENDY M. HARRIS

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Commissioner Wendy M. Harris of Riverside County Superior Court.

The commission determined that it should publicly admonish Commissioner Harris for misconduct during two hearings, taking place on two consecutive days, that related to a custody dispute and a request for a domestic violence restraining order. The commission determined that, during both hearings, Commissioner Harris was discourteous, argumentative, impatient, and demeaning to the litigants, and appeared to be embroiled in the proceedings.

At the first hearing, present in the courtroom were a deputy district attorney (DDA) and an investigator, both from the Child Abduction Unit (CAU). On the second day of the hearings, the same members of the DA's CAU who attended the first hearing, plus two additional DDAs with supervisory roles in the CAU, were present. All of the DDAs from the CAU made appearances for the record. At both hearings, Commissioner Harris did not give the DDAs or the investigator an opportunity to provide her with any information.

Commissioner Harris's misconduct was aggravated by prior discipline implemented by the Presiding Judge of Riverside County Superior Court, regarding Commissioner Harris's poor temperament in the handling of another family law matter.

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"). Commissioner Harris is represented by Attorney Paul S. Meyer of Costa Mesa.

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The commission is composed of six public members, three judges and two lawyers. The chairperson is Dr. Michael A. Moodian.

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