

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

Contact: Gregory Dresser
Director-Chief Counsel
(415) 557-1200

FOR RELEASE
August 31, 2023

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES DECISION AND
ORDER IMPOSING PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT ON
FORMER JUDGE DEREK W. HUNT

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished former Judge Derek W. Hunt of the Orange County Superior Court.

The commission issued a public admonishment to Judge Hunt for misconduct in three separate civil actions. In the first matter, Judge Hunt made remarks that were discourteous, gave the appearance of bias and prejudgment, and violated his duties to be patient, dignified, and courteous to litigants and lawyers. Judge Hunt also made remarks that gave the appearance that he was embroiled in the matter and had prejudged the case.

In the second matter, after the Court of Appeal had vacated an order that Judge Hunt had issued, Judge Hunt engaged in an improper ex parte communication by sending an email to a Court of Appeal justice about the case. The email created the impression that Judge Hunt was embroiled in the case.

In the third matter, Judge Hunt abused his authority and discretion by intentionally disregarding the law and disregarding a litigant's due process rights to a trial on the merits. Judge Hunt also made remarks that gave the appearance of bias against the litigant and of prejudgment of the merits of the underlying action.

The commission determined that Judge Hunt's recent prior discipline was a significantly aggravating factor. In July 2022, the commission issued a public admonishment to Judge Hunt, in part, for misconduct similar to the misconduct at issue in the public admonishment that the commission issued today. Judge Hunt also received an advisory letter in 2009.

The commission's Decision and Order Imposing 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 Hunt is represented by Paul S. Meyer, Esq., of Costa Mesa.

* * *

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>.