

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
December 13, 2023

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES DECISION AND
ORDER IMPOSING SEVERE PUBLIC CENSURE ON
JUDGE HOWARD H. SHORE PURSUANT TO STIPULATION

The Commission on Judicial Performance has issued a decision and order imposing a severe public censure upon Judge Howard H. Shore of the California Superior Court, County of San Diego, pursuant to stipulation. Following a preliminary investigation, Judge Shore, through his counsel Heather L. Rosing and David Majchrzak of Klinedinst PC, and Commission on Judicial Performance Director-Chief Counsel Gregory Dresser proposed a Stipulation for Discipline by Consent pursuant to Commission Rule 116.5. The commission approved the stipulation and issued the Decision and Order Imposing Severe Public Censure. A public censure is the strongest sanction that the commission may impose on a judge, short of removal from the bench.

The commission issued the severe public censure to Judge Shore as a result of Judge Shore's serious dereliction of duty. Over a two-year period in 2021 and 2022, Judge Shore was absent from court, without approval or authorization, on at least 155 court days. He was not present in the courthouse on a single Friday between May 28, 2021, and November 18, 2022. Judge Shore's absences exceeded his available vacation time by 87 days. Judge Shore's numerous unauthorized and undocumented absences from the courthouse constituted a dereliction of duty, a persistent failure to perform his judicial duties, and a failure to follow the directives of the presiding judge in matters of court management and administration.

The commission determined that Judge Shore's misconduct demonstrated a flagrant disregard for his obligations to his fellow judges, the public, and the reputation of the judiciary and that Judge Shore's misconduct seriously undermined public confidence in the integrity of the judiciary and cast disrepute on the judicial office.

The commission's Decision and Order Imposing Severe 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 Shore is represented by Attorneys Heather L. Rosing and David Majchrzak of Klinedinst PC in San Diego.

* * *

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>.