

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES DECISION AND ORDER IMPOSING PUBLIC CENSURE AND BAR ON JUDGE GREGORY J. KREIS

The Commission on Judicial Performance has issued a decision and order imposing a public censure and bar upon Judge Gregory J. Kreis of the California Superior Court, County of Humboldt, pursuant to stipulation. The decision and order resolved the pending formal proceedings involving Judge Kreis. Judge Kreis stipulated to an imposition of a public censure; an irrevocable resignation from office, effective May 27, 2024; and an agreement not to serve as a judicial officer in the State of California at any time after May 27, 2024. A public censure and bar is the most severe sanction that the commission may issue to a judge who has resigned or retired.

The commission issued a censure and bar to Judge Kreis as a result of multiple acts of misconduct. In at least 44 cases over which he presided, Judge Kreis failed to disclose his relationships with seven attorneys; his familiarity with individuals involved in matters before him; or the extent of his relationships with the individuals. The extent and type of this misconduct is serious. Also, the commission commented that it took particularly seriously the judge's sexual misconduct with a female acquaintance. Further, the commission based the censure and bar on Judge Kreis's conduct in treating attorneys and litigants poorly, including making inappropriate, sarcastic, and gratuitous comments to them.

Judge Kreis's misconduct was aggravated by prior discipline. In 2018, the commission issued an advisory letter to Judge Kreis for intemperate and inappropriate remarks he made about a criminal defendant during a sentencing hearing.

The commission's Decision and Order is available on the commission's website at <https://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Pending Cases - Press Releases & Documents" and "Public Discipline & Decisions"). Judge Kreis is represented by James A. Murphy, Esq. and Christopher R. Ulrich, Esq. of Murphy Pearson Bradley & Feeney of San Francisco.

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

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