

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE THOMAS J. GRIEGO

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Judge Thomas J. Griego of Los Angeles County Superior Court.

The commission determined that it should publicly admonish Judge Griego for engaging in a pattern of pervasive poor demeanor during small claims trials and civil harassment restraining order hearings. Judge Griego's misconduct included making discourteous, disparaging, and gratuitous remarks to litigants; making comments conveying the appearance of bias and prejudice; and raising his voice at litigants. Judge Griego's conduct reflected a pattern of intemperate behavior toward self-represented litigants. The commission observed that, although a judge must control their courtroom, it is improper to do so in a way that is discourteous and impolite, especially when dealing with self-represented parties. The commission also expressed criticism of the judge's practice of insisting that litigants insert "Your Honor" into statements where no personal address was necessary.

Judge Griego's misconduct was aggravated by prior discipline.

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"). Judge Griego is represented by Kathleen M. Ewins, Esq. of Long & Levit 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. Two public member positions were vacant.

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