

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF FORMER JUDGE ROBERT F. COCHRAN

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished former Judge Robert F. Cochran of Del Norte County Superior Court.

The commission determined that it should publicly admonish former Judge Cochran for conveying the appearance of embroilment and bias, and exhibiting discourtesy, toward a victim of domestic violence by his conduct at a Domestic Violence Restraining Order (DVRO) hearing and a change of plea hearing in a criminal matter. At the DVRO hearing, Judge Cochran faulted the victim for staying in an abusive relationship, called her “manipulative” on a number of occasions, and told the respondent that he had fallen into her “trap.” Many of former Judge Cochran’s comments at the DVRO hearing were gratuitous, not relevant to a determination of whether to grant the DVRO, and also reflected offensive and outdated stereotypes and beliefs regarding victims of domestic violence. At the change of plea hearing in the criminal matter, the judge denied the victim an opportunity to be heard and made demeaning comments to her, in violation of Marsy’s Law.

Former Judge Cochran engaged in serious misconduct that negatively affected a victim of domestic violence. His misconduct was aggravated by his failure to fully appreciate the impropriety of his comments towards the domestic violence victim.

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 Cochran is represented by Randall A. Miller, Esq. of Miller Law Associates, APC of Los Angeles.

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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>.