

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

Contact: Emma Bradford
Legal Advisor to Commissioners
(415) 557-1200

FOR RELEASE
April 4, 2025

NEW SPECIAL MASTER APPOINTED
IN MATTER CONCERNING JUDGE MICHAEL J. CARROZZO

On December 18, 2024, the Commission on Judicial Performance announced that it had instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning Judge Michael J. Carrozzo, a judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Barbara. A hearing has been scheduled to begin on Monday, April 14, 2025, at 9:00 a.m., at the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Sixth Division, 200 East Santa Clara Street, Ventura, California. The hearing will be open to the public.

Under the rules that govern commission proceedings, the hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the California Supreme Court: Honorable Rebecca A. Wiseman (Ret.) of the Court of Appeal, Fifth Appellate District; Honorable C. Don Clay (Ret.) of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda; and Honorable Timothy R. Martella of the Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles. Judge Martella replaces Honorable Matthew P. Guasco of the Superior Court of California, County of Ventura, who had previously been appointed as a special master in this proceeding.

At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and to examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel Mark A. Lizarraga and Assistant Trial Counsel Gregory J. Cleaver will serve as Examiners for the commission. Judge Carrozzo is represented by Heather L. Rosing and Christine C. Roskopf of San Diego, and Gabrielle M. Jackson of Los Angeles.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the commission with a report containing their findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to respond to the report through briefing and argument before the commission. If the commission determines that the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to impose discipline as provided in the California Constitution. Charges that the commission determines are not proved will be dismissed.

* * *

The commission is composed of six public members, three judges and two lawyers. The chairperson is Hon. Lisa B. Lench.

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