

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
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FOR RELEASE  
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
INSTITUTES FORMAL PROCEEDINGS CONCERNING  
FORMER JUSTICE WILLIAM J. MURRAY, JR.

The Commission on Judicial Performance has instituted formal proceedings to inquire into matters concerning former Justice William J. Murray, Jr. of the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. The commencement of formal proceedings is not a determination of judicial misconduct. A copy of the Notice of Formal Proceedings is posted on the commission's website at <https://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Announcements"). Former Justice Murray's Answer to the Notice is due June 30, 2025. Upon filing, the former justice's answer will be made available for public inspection.

In accordance with the rules that govern commission proceedings, a hearing will be conducted by special masters appointed by the Supreme Court. At the hearing, the parties will have an opportunity to introduce evidence and examine and cross-examine witnesses. Commission Trial Counsel, Mark A. Lizarraga, and Assistant Trial Counsel, Melissa G. Murphy, will serve as Examiners for the commission. Former Justice Murray is represented by Attorney Andrew J. Waxler of Los Angeles.

Following completion of the hearing, the special masters will provide the commission with a report containing findings with respect to the charges. The parties will have an opportunity to present their views on the report to the commission through briefing and argument. If the commission determines that the charges are proven by clear and convincing evidence, it is empowered to censure, publicly admonish, or privately discipline the former justice. Charges that the commission determines are not proven will be dismissed. A determination by the commission to censure or admonish a former justice is subject to discretionary review by the Supreme Court upon petition by the former justice.

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The commission is composed of six public members, three judges, and two lawyers. The chairperson is Hon. Lisa B. Lench. Commission members Rickey Ivie, Esq. and Hon. Kimberly Merrifield are recused in this matter.

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