

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF FORMER JUDGE ROBERT S. BOWERS

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished former Judge Robert S. Bowers of Solano County Superior Court.

The commission determined that it should publicly admonish former Judge Bowers for misconduct in which he engaged while presiding over a homicide case. In that case, former Judge Bowers (1) improperly solicited a Marsden motion, which interfered with the attorney-client relationship; (2) made disparaging remarks about a defense attorney, which conveyed the appearance of bias and embroilment, and which could reasonably interfere with the attorney-client relationship and convey the appearance of retaliation for the attorney's motion to disqualify former Judge Bowers; (3) discussed substitution of attorneys with another attorney, which conveyed the appearance of embroilment, bias, prejudgment, and abuse of authority; and (4) improperly handled a statement of disqualification.

Former Judge Bowers's misconduct was aggravated by a private admonishment and an advisory letter previously issued by the commission to former Judge Bowers.

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"). Former Judge Bowers is represented by Kathleen M. Ewins, Esq. of Long & Levit LLP of San Francisco.

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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>.