

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
October 21, 2025

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES
DECISION AND ORDER IMPOSING PUBLIC CENSURE
ON JUDGE ERIC L. HERYFORD PURSUANT TO STIPULATION

The Commission on Judicial Performance has issued a decision and order imposing a public censure upon Judge Eric L. Heryford of the California Superior Court, County of Trinity, pursuant to stipulation. Following a preliminary investigation, Judge Heryford entered into a stipulation to resolve the investigation. The commission approved the stipulation and issued the Decision and Order Imposing Public Censure. A public censure is the strongest sanction that the commission may impose on a judge, short of removal from the bench.

The commission issued the public censure to Judge Heryford because, between 2020 and 2024, Judge Heryford issued delayed decisions in 20 separate matters. Judge Heryford also signed salary affidavits, attesting that he had no matters under submission for more than 90 days, when he was aware there were delayed matters pending before him for decision. In addition, Judge Heryford engaged in a lack of candor during the course of the commission's investigation.

The commission's Decision and Order Imposing Public Censure Pursuant to Stipulation is available on the commission's website at <https://cjp.ca.gov> (under "Pending Cases - Press Releases & Documents" and "Public Discipline & Decisions"). Judge Heryford is not represented by counsel.

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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>.