

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

Contact: Gregory Dresser
Director-Chief Counsel
(415) 557-1200

FOR RELEASE
October 29, 2025

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE SUSANNE M. RIZO

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Judge Susanne M. Rizo of Inyo County Superior Court. The commission determined that it should publicly admonish Judge Rizo for the following misconduct.

Judge Rizo failed to cooperate with court administrators and the presiding judge of her court by reporting two court administrators to the State Bar of California. She alleged they were engaging in the “unauthorized practice of law” and asserted the presiding judge “aided and abetted” them. Additionally, Judge Rizo responded to routine scheduling communications from a court administrator in a volatile and disproportionate manner.

Judge Rizo also spoke about litigants and their pending cases in an area of the courthouse where she could be overheard, improperly dismissed a case, and made a probable cause determination concerning a litigant from whose cases she was disqualified.

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 Rizo is represented by Joanna L. Storey Mishler, Esq. of Rosing Pott & Strohbehn of San Diego.

* * *

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>.