

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE DEBRA R. ARCHULETA

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Judge Debra R. Archuleta of Los Angeles County Superior Court.

The commission determined that it should publicly admonish Judge Archuleta for engaging in a pattern of discourteous, undignified, and impatient behavior, in seven dependency matters; conducting an improper independent investigation; initiating an ex parte communication; and, in contravention of applicable law, conducting off-the-record discussions that concerned substantive matters, without properly preserving the record.

In the dependency matters, instead of fostering a collaborative atmosphere, Judge Archuleta created the appearance that she issued orders concerning removal, placement, or, in one matter, a clothing allowance, out of pique. At times, Judge Archuleta treated parents and children as if they were criminal defendants, instead of participants in dependency court.

Judge Archuleta's misconduct was aggravated by prior discipline.

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 Archuleta is represented by David S. McMonigle, Esq. of Long & Levit, LLP of San Francisco and Gabrielle M. Jackson, Esq. and Abigail W. Henderson, Esq. of Long & Levit, LLP of Los Angeles.

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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 Hon. Lisa B. Lench and Ms. Beatriz E. Tapia are recused in this matter.

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