

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE
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FOR RELEASE
March 24, 2026

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES
DECISION AND ORDER IMPOSING PUBLIC CENSURE AND BAR
ON FORMER JUDGE ISRAEL CLAUSTRO PURSUANT TO STIPULATION

The Commission on Judicial Performance has issued a decision and order imposing a public censure and bar upon Former Judge Israel Claustro of the California Superior Court, County of Orange, pursuant to stipulation. Former Judge Claustro, through his counsel, Paul S. Meyer, entered into a stipulation with Director-Chief Counsel Gregory Dresser of the Commission on Judicial Performance to resolve the investigation of Former Judge Claustro. The commission approved the stipulation and issued the Decision and Order Imposing Public Censure and Bar Pursuant to Stipulation. A public censure and bar is the strongest sanction the commission may impose on a judge who has resigned from judicial office.

The commission issued the public censure to Former Judge Claustro and barred him from future judicial service because, before he took the bench, Former Judge Claustro committed felony fraud, a crime of moral turpitude. Specifically, Former Judge Claustro was involved in a scheme to defraud the California Subsequent Injuries Benefits Trust Fund. Former Judge Claustro pled guilty to a felony count of mail fraud and resigned from the bench. Commission of a felony is sufficient basis for the commission to impose a censure and bar.

The commission's Decision and Order Imposing Public Censure and Bar 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"). Former Judge Claustro is represented by Paul S. Meyer of Costa Mesa.

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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>.