

COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE  
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FOR RELEASE  
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COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL PERFORMANCE ISSUES  
PUBLIC ADMONISHMENT OF JUDGE THOMAS J. GRIEGO

The Commission on Judicial Performance has publicly admonished Judge Thomas J. Griego of Los Angeles County Superior Court.

The commission determined it should publicly admonish Judge Griego for displaying poor demeanor toward pro per small claims litigants on three different days, and in four different matters. Judge Griego also engaged in misconduct relating to his administrative duties.

Specifically, Judge Griego interrupted litigants when they attempted to answer his questions; made disparaging and gratuitous remarks; abruptly and improperly left the courtroom in the middle of proceedings; and instructed a courtroom employee to “talk to the woman” or “talk to her,” referring to a litigant, thus undermining the integrity of the judicial office.

Judge Griego also failed to check his court and personal mail for months, thus delaying his response to investigation letters the commission had sent to him. This misconduct violated Judge Griego’s duties to maintain professional competence in judicial administration and to cooperate with the commission.

Judge Griego’s misconduct was aggravated by the following factors: he engaged in multiple acts of misconduct during multiple hearings affecting self-represented litigants who appeared before him, and failed to appreciate the impropriety of his conduct. The commission recently disciplined Judge Griego for similar misconduct--a pattern of pervasive poor demeanor toward self-represented litigants.

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 Griego is represented by Joanna L. Mishler, Esq. of Rosing Pott & Strobehn of San Diego.

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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 member Ms. Beatriz E. Tapia was recused in this matter.

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