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Judicial Discipline Decisions to be Published in Official Reports Supplement

New Supplement to Improve Access to CJP Decisions

San Francisco—The California Supreme Court today announced that a new supplement containing the decisions of the Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP) will be published in the *Official California Reports*, which contains all opinions of the state Supreme Court.

The CJP Supplement will be found in a separate section following the Supreme Court's opinions. It will contain written decisions issued by the commission following formal hearings considering allegations of judicial misconduct.

“The publication and annotation of commission decisions will make them more accessible both for the public and for judges,” said Administrative Presiding Justice Judith McConnell, of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, and Chairperson of the commission. “This is a very important step in maintaining high standards of ethics in the judiciary.”

California Chief Justice Ronald M. George observed that “the Supreme Court is pleased to include the commission's decisions in the *Official Reports*. Doing so will expand public access to information about judicial discipline and help guide judges and justices as they seek to ensure that they comport with the high ethical standards imposed on all judicial officers.”

A constitutional amendment approved by voters as Proposition 190 in November 1994, effective March 1, 1995, authorized the Commission on Judicial Performance to consider and hear allegations of judicial misconduct and to impose disciplinary sanctions as set forth in California

(over)

Constitution, article VI, section 18. A disciplinary order by the commission is final, subject to a request for discretionary review by the Supreme Court.

Prior to the passage of Proposition 190, the Supreme Court had exclusive final authority to impose public censure and to order the removal of a judge from office, and its decisions in these matters were published in the official reports in the same manner as any other decision of the court.

Only commission decisions in cases that are fully adjudicated before the commission and are subject to discretionary review by the Supreme Court will be included in the *Official Reports*. Commission decisions in cases with stipulated decisions will not be published in these volumes. In cases in which the Supreme Court grants review, the court's opinion will appear in the official reports in the same manner as any other decision of the court.

In order to present the entire body of decisions by the commission to date, supplements in the next few volumes of the *Official California Reports*, Fourth Series (Cal.4th) will contain commission decisions filed between February 11, 1997 and June 26, 2008. Later decisions of the commission will be reported in the supplement as they are issued for publication by the commission.

Computer versions of the commission's decisions also are available on the LexisNexis research system in a library called "State of California Commission on Judicial Performance." As-filed versions of the decisions, as well as decisions in matters with stipulated dispositions, also are available on the commission's Web site, <http://cjp.ca.gov>.

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