



CHAMBERS OF
JONATHAN B. CONKLIN
Presiding Judge

Superior Court of California County of Fresno

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An Open Letter to Fresno County Superior Court Users

In July, the Commission on Judicial Performance, comprised of judges, attorneys and other professionals, issued the most severe sanction possible to a Fresno County Superior Court judge short of removing him from the bench. Since then, some letters to the Fresno Bee and online posts have been critical of local judges, alleging in broad accusatory terms that they are all dirty and incompetent. I want to address these comments as they are simply wrong and unsupported. Some are downright malicious.

I have been a judge of the Fresno County Superior Court for ten years and have served as the Presiding Judge since 2014. In that time, I have seen firsthand that our judges and commissioners are exceptionally qualified, hard-working, and more than diligent. Supported by court staff, these judicial officers dedicate themselves daily to serving you, the residents of Fresno County. In more than 200,000 cases last year alone, they helped you obtain justice, settle disputes, and resolve a variety of issues. That's over 800 cases each work day.

Are judges perfect? Of course not. That's why the Commission on Judicial Performance exists as an independent entity to investigate claims of judicial misconduct. Judicial officers even anticipate a certain amount of ongoing criticism since they rule against one of the parties in each case and have to make decisions that are at times controversial. But whether in a private company or at the court, it's unfair to characterize the work of 48 persons by the actions of one. Judicial officers ask -- and deserve -- to be considered on their own merit and with the same fairness, courtesy, and consideration that everyone else expects.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jonathan B. Conklin".

Jonathan B. Conklin
Presiding Judge

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