



Vol. 2, Issue 2 | September 21, 2022



MESSAGE FROM COMMITTEE: SPOTLIGHT ON LEADERSHIP

The California Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions (CJEO) is proud to bring you this edition of our newsletter, The Source, with a focus on judicial leadership. Many judges, at some point in their careers, will have the opportunity to serve as presiding, assistant presiding, or supervising judges, or in other leadership positions in their courts. The transition to a supervisory role can be challenging because it involves personnel, administrative, management, and ethical concerns that extend well beyond the typical duties of a judge on the bench.

To assist with this transition, CJEO is excited to introduce its new webpage, Resources for Presiding and Supervising Trial Court Judges, which compiles judicial ethics opinions and other key resources for presiding and supervising judges. Read our full article below ("CJEO: A



Justice Ronald B. Robie Chair Justice Douglas P. Miller Vice-Chair

Leading Resource for Presiding and Supervising Judges") to learn more about how this hub of information can help judges currently serving as supervisors or those exploring future leadership positions.

Serving in a leadership role can be extremely rewarding. Acting as a presiding or supervising judge allows judicial officers to help shape the policy and practice of their courts, support and mentor colleagues, encourage positive change, and inspire the next generation of leaders. As California Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye said when she announced her upcoming retirement, "I have said before that I hold my office in trust until it is time for the next leaders to protect and expand access to justice—that time is now."

IN THIS ISSUE

Recent Opinions

CJEO: A Leading Resource for Presiding and Supervising Judges

Don't Miss...

Member Spotlight

CJEO in the News

RECENT OPINIONS

Invitation to Comment: Judicial Consultations With Other Judges

Disqualification and Disclosure Obligations When Coaching Youth Sports

Commenting on or Endorsing Legal Education Books Written by Others

Fundraising by Retired Judges Engaged in Private Dispute Resolution Services

CJEO: A LEADING RESOURCE FOR PRESIDING AND SUPERVISING JUDGES

CJEO is pleased to introduce the newest one-stop reference page on its website: Resources for Presiding and Supervising Trial Court Judges. Whether you aspire to be a leader in your court, are already serving as a presiding or supervising judge, or simply want to know more about these important roles, be sure to check out this helpful resource, which is dedicated to issues facing presiding and supervising judges and provides support and practical guidance for the entire judiciary.



The Resources for Presiding and Supervising Trial Court Judges webpage contains a handy index providing quick access to relevant CJEO advisory opinions and incorporates useful reference materials from other sources. For example, the page includes a link to the Commission on Judicial Performance (CJP) compendium of case summaries of private and public discipline involving the breach of judicial duties by presiding or supervising judges. The webpage also directly links to CJP's Public Decisions Database, which contains all CJP decisions on public disciplinary matters, including those in which presiding or supervising judges have been involved in addressing or witnessing a subordinate judicial officer's misconduct.

Read the full article...

DON'T MISS...

CJEO has created a first-of-its-kind resource for judges and members of the public searching for disciplinary decisions relating to judicial ethics in California. On the CJEO website, judges can view CJEO's California Code of Judicial Ethics annotated with CJP disciplinary decisions. This annotated code provides comprehensive annotations of CJP's public disciplinary decisions organized by canon. Designed to be used in conjunction with CJP's Public Decisions Database, this robust research tool is an excellent companion to CJEO's other research publications, including CJEO's California Code of Judicial Ethics annotated with CJEO opinions, the CJEO opinions compendium, and the CJEO opinions database. Click here for an instructional video on how to use this tool.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: JUDGE GEORGE J. ADBALLAH, JR.

Judge George J. Abdallah, Jr. is currently assigned to hear unlimited civil cases for the San Joaquin County Superior Court and has been a member of CJEO since 2009. Below, he answers questions from Sanna Singer, CJEO Staff Attorney and Editor of The Source, about hot topics in judicial ethics.

Q: You were appointed as one of the initial members of CJEO in 2009. How did you first become interested in judicial ethics?

A: I became interested in judicial ethics for three reasons. First, I was appointed fairly early in my judicial career as a special master for the Commission on Judicial Performance, which required an analysis of the canons and their application to specific facts. Second, as a teacher for New Judge Orientation, I observed that a significant proportion of new judges' questions had to do with ethics. The transition from attorney advocate to judge is an incredible change, and newer judges often need support learning how to apply the canons to their lives and their families' lives. Third, when I served as chair for CJER's [Center for Judicial Education and Research] governing committee, we made a conscious decision to incorporate the canons and notions of judicial ethics into the substantive curricula as much as we could.

Through CJER, I was asked to participate in a video about the top 10 most frequently asked judicial ethics questions along with Judge [David M.] Rothman. Working closely with Judge Rothman, who had been the dean of my judicial college years prior and whom I had always greatly admired, was quite an inspiration and really sparked my interest in judicial ethics.

Read the full interview...



CJEO committee meeting, June 2022 - Top row from left: Committee Staff Attorney Kristy Topham, Judge Robert Trentacosta, Judge Kenneth So, Judge Mike Garcia (Ret.), Judge Curtis Karnow; bottom row from left: Commissioner Belinda Handy, Justice Ronald Robie, Committee Counsel Nancy Black, Judge George Abdallah, Jr.; on screen clockwise from upper left: Justice Judith Haller, Committee Staff Attorney Sanna Singer, Justice Douglas Miller, Justice Marla Miller; not pictured: Judge Samantha Jessner, Judge Erica Yew.

CJEO IN THE NEWS

- Coaching an Attorney's Kid Doesn't Automatically Disqualify Judge, Ethics Panel Says—The Recorder
California Judges Can't Blurb Books They Didn't Contribute To—Bloomberg Law
Retired, Private Judges Can Solicit Charitable Donations, Ethics Committee Says—The Daily Journal

ABOUT US

CJEO is an independent California Supreme Court committee of 12 judicial officers, appointed by the court, with delegated constitutional authority to issue opinions on judicial ethics. Click here to learn more about CJEO's history, mission, and our membership.

To speak with a judge on the CJA Judicial Ethics Committee for quick informal responses to questions about the Code of Judicial Ethics, judicial officers and candidates may call:

CJA Judicial Ethics Hotline: 916-239-4068
Toll free: 866-432-1CJA (1252)
Email: info@caljudges.org
Monday-Friday, 9a.m. to 5p.m., excluding holidays



Please see the CJA website ethics hotline page for more information.

Thank You to our Readers from our Members

- Acting Administrative Presiding Justice Ronald B. Robie (Chair), Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District
Justice Douglas P. Miller (Vice-Chair), Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two
Justice Judith L. Haller, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One
Justice Marla J. Miller, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, Division Two
Judge Kenneth K. So, Superior Court of San Diego County
Judge Robert J. Trentacosta, Superior Court of San Diego County
Assistant Presiding Judge Samantha P. Jessner, Superior Court of Los Angeles County
Judge George J. Abdallah, Jr., Superior Court of San Joaquin County
Judge Michael T. Garcia (Ret.), Superior Court of Sacramento County
Judge Curtis E.A. Yew, Superior Court of Santa Clara County
Commissioner Belinda A. Handy, Superior Court of Riverside County
Sanna Singer, CJEO Staff Attorney and Editor of The Source
Nancy Black, CJEO Committee Counsel
Kristy Topham, CJEO Staff Attorney



QUESTIONS, SUGGESTIONS? Email: Judicial.Ethics@jud.ca.gov Phone: 415.865.7169 Toll Free: 855.854.5366

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