



CALIFORNIA JUDGES ASSOCIATION

The Voice of the Judiciary

As you know, for over 30 years, CJA has been directly involved in working to ensure that CJP provide more substantial due process protections, yielding better protection of the public and increasing fair treatment of judges. Some of CJA's successes include discovery rights for judicial officers and recent changes to the CJP's practice of issuing public notices of formal charges.

Your CJA Board recently learned that Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (Santa Barbara/Ventura) and other California Legislators requested approval of a comprehensive audit of the Commission on Judicial Performance by the Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC).

The request letter asks the JLAC to approve an examination of whether the CJP's policies and practices for handling and resolving complaints against judges comply with fundamental concepts of constitutional due process. [The request letter is available here.](#) The impetus for the audit request arises at least partially from very public recent CJP decisions including the California Supreme Court's order that the CJP rescind its advisory letter to Judge Ayers of Ventura County. CJA had filed an amicus letter in the Ayers matter urging the Supreme Court to grant review in this particularly egregious case.

The letter request is just the first step. The California State Auditor's Office then prepares an analysis of the audit request, including a brief objective background, the audit scope and objectives, and the estimated cost to conduct the proposed audit.

The JLAC hearing will take place in the Capitol on August 10 at 9:30 a.m. CJA will provide formal testimony at the hearing in support of the audit.

If the JLAC approves an audit request, the Auditor generally takes at least six months to complete the audit work. Under certain circumstances, an audit can be completed in a shorter timeframe.

Please contact your CJA Board representative if you have any questions or to share your thoughts. As always, it is an honor to represent you. CJA continues to be the Voice of the Judiciary.

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