

Justice accused of drunken misbehavior at courthouse in new allegations

New details surrounding the alleged conduct of 2nd District Court of Appeal Justice Jeffrey W. Johnson claims he imbibed alcohol at the appellate courthouse into the late night hours, allowing a woman companion to climb a statue in the lobby and inviting a custodian to join the party.



2nd District Court of Appeal Justice Jeffrey Johnson

New details surrounding the alleged conduct of 2nd District Court of Appeal Justice [Jeffrey W. Johnson](#) claims he imbibed alcohol at the appellate courthouse into the late night hours, allowing a woman companion to climb a statue in the lobby and inviting a custodian to join the party.

The new allegations in an amended notice posted by the Commission on Judicial Performance indicates the commission continues to investigate claims against Johnson, who is accused of sexually harassing or making inappropriate remarks to 14 women, including two fellow justices and a California Highway Patrol officer.

A hearing date in which parties will introduce evidence before a panel of special masters, whose decision can be rejected by the commission, has not yet been set. The panel includes 4th District Court of Appeal Justice [Judith L. Haller](#), San Diego County Superior Court Judge [Louis R. Hanoian](#) and Imperial County Superior Court Judge [William D. Lehman](#).

The amended charges state Johnson returned to the Ronald Reagan State Building three times between 2015 and 2018 with unidentified, intoxicated men and women, including in 2015, when a young woman in his company allegedly climbed a stone lion statue at 1 a.m. in front of Johnson and then fell down.

...

Judges have to put up with a lot. I always thought all the bickering and moaning and complaining and nonsensical arguments were pretty awful but until last week I'd never considered what may be the worst part of the job: boredom.

I realized this after reading the news stories about a federal judge in New York [asking](#) if he could climb onto the Statue of Liberty.

Why would he do that? Well, the news reports seemed to imply he wanted to get up there to help him decide on a sentence for a protester who climbed there by herself and waved a protest T-shirt. The protester didn't hurt anyone and she didn't hurt herself. Some tourists were stopped from looking around but that was really the fault of the Park Service freaking out. Nobody was in any real danger and there was plenty of news video of the incident. So it's pretty obvious this judge was seriously bored and looking for an excuse for a field trip.

I certainly have no quarrel with that. You've seen how cranky some judges get. We need to consider their mental health. Not every case, of course, is going to offer the possibility of a thrilling climb up a national monument, so you're going to have to be imaginative when it comes to rationalizing field trips or other activities for judicial sanity maintenance. I have a few suggestions. These can be used by either litigants who need their judges to stay awake or judges themselves who feel themselves fantasizing on the bench.

Inspect the crime scene. Who doesn't want to be Hercule Poirot or Sherlock Holmes? This is a great chance for a judge to use a magnifying glass and exercise the little gray cells. The police could have missed something.

Mobility. Judges have to sit in one place for a long time and there's really no reason for that. We should encourage them to move around the courtroom at will. Just because someone is pacing doesn't mean he's not paying attention. A mind is more likely to wander if a body is not wandering.

If your judge decides to sit in the back of the courtroom, you get to turn around. Everyone gets some exercise.

Snacks. I know I've brought this up before, but in-court snacks will keep everyone's interest and energy level up. This is useful for both judges and counsel. Just be sure that if you bring a treat to court you bring enough to share with the entire class — er, court.

Video. I know there's a judicial bias against cameras in court and there are reasonable (and unreasonable) arguments on both sides of the issue. But consider this: No one, aside from the judge, has to see what's being filmed.

...

Full Article Here: <https://www.courthousenews.com/%EF%BB%BFjudicial-entertainment/>