

To: Honorable Presiding Judge Elizabeth Lee

San Mateo County Superior Court
Department 17
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063
Dept17@sanmateocourt.org

Subject: Formal Complaint Regarding Misconduct by Judge Chinhayi Cadet and FOIA request

Dear Presiding Judge Lee,

I submit this formal complaint concerning the conduct of family law Judge Chinhayi Cadet, requesting an investigation into her treatment of Russian-speaking litigants, particularly mothers who are victims of domestic violence and ex-wives of affluent men. My experience, as well as those reported by other litigants and their attorneys, suggests consistent bias, a failure to uphold judicial standards, and a breach of the judicial canons that demand impartiality, integrity, and respect.

Judicial Canon Violations and Bias Indicators

Canon 1 - Integrity and Impartiality of the Judiciary

Judge Cadet's partiality toward affluent male litigants with counsel from established firms is evident in her decisions, which frequently disadvantage Russian-speaking female litigants with limited resources. This pattern raises serious questions regarding her commitment to uphold the judiciary's integrity.

Canon 2 - Avoiding Impropriety and Appearance of Bias

I respectfully raise concern over Judge Cadet's apparent bias against Russian-speaking litigants, which has been observed across multiple cases. Judge Cadet's treatment of Russian-speaking litigants, including myself and others in similar situations, demonstrates a troubling pattern of bias. Her frequent interruptions, dismissive responses, and decisions favoring affluent litigants suggest a prejudice that compromises the appearance of fairness essential to judicial integrity. This perceived bias against Russian-speaking individuals, particularly mothers who are survivors of domestic violence, undermines confidence in her impartiality and may warrant recusal. According to San Mateo county 2020 population census, nearly 12,000 county residents speak Russian, Polish and other Slavic languages. For a judge to discriminate against such a significant segment of the community is an egregious violation of judicial ethics and a betrayal of public trust, warranting immediate recusal and investigation.

Canon 3 - Performing Judicial Duties Impartially and Diligently

Judge Cadet’s conduct in the courtroom unmistakably reveals a troubling lack of impartiality, particularly in cases involving Russian-speaking litigants. Her handling of my case, especially during June 10, 2024, hearing, reflects a pattern of disrespect, disregard for judicial diligence, and biased decision-making that directly violates Canon 3

Throughout the June 10 hearing, Judge Cadet interrupted my attorney, Anna Goncharova, at least eight times, undermining our ability to present a fair and complete defense. These interruptions were not merely procedural but included dismissive and condescending remarks. For instance, at one point, Judge Cadet directed Ms. Goncharova to take a break and “take this time to settle down”—treatment more fitting for disciplining a child than addressing a licensed legal professional. All this was witnessed by multiple neutral court watchers who are ready to testify under oath if necessary. Such treatment degraded the courtroom environment and reflected a dismissive attitude toward Russian-speaking litigants and their representatives.

In addition to these interruptions, Judge Cadet repeatedly mispronounced Ms. Goncharova’s name—using variations such as “Mrs. Gonchakarova”, “Mrs. Gonkachova”, “Mrs. Gocharova”, “Mrs. Gorachova” etc. (I didn’t even know one can invent that many different variations of a name and not hit a nail on its head a single time)—a total of eight times during the June 10 hearing and another two times during the November 12 hearing. No other party or attorney faced similar mispronunciations, underscoring the disrespect and dismissiveness directed specifically toward Russian-speaking participants. This repeated mispronunciation goes beyond simple error and highlights a disregard for the dignity of litigants and representatives of Slavic ethnic background, which compromises the fairness of the proceedings. I must add that while I am speaking Russian, I am ethnic Ukrainian and experience discrimination from Judge Cadet beyond anything that I’ve ever experienced.

The speaking time allocated to each party during court hearings further illustrates this bias. Just to demonstrate my point in numbers, during June 10 hearing opposing counsel Ms. Hoffman spoke 2,281 words, and Judge Cadet herself spoke 1,487 words. In stark contrast, my attorney, Ms. Goncharova, was restricted to only 1,324 words, due to frequent interruptions and redirections from the judge (**Exhibit 1**, transcript of the hearing). And this was my motion to begin with. This disparity reveals a significant imbalance in the opportunity for each side to present their case, with Judge Cadet curtailing our arguments while allowing opposing counsel to elaborate freely.

The bias Judge Cadet demonstrated also extended to her rulings. During my October 3 hearing, rather than focusing on my motions to modify child support and to set aside trial orders, Judge Cadet spent a disproportionate amount of time advising opposing counsel, Ms. Hoffman, on how to sanction me to the fullest extent. My motion to modify child support was based on a significant drop in my income, which had been reduced from \$12,000 to \$6,000 due to my disability. Despite this valid basis for modification, Judge Cadet chose to penalize me with a massive sanction totaling \$41,602 citing Family Code 271 which is not applicable in this case. Not only was this sanction imposed in response to my legitimate motion to modify child support, but it was also applied to my motion to continue a hearing, effectively punishing me for exercising my legal right to seek adjustments reflective of my financial situation.

Judge Cadet’s focus on issuing a \$41,602 sanction, rather than evaluating the substance of my motions, demonstrates a deeply biased approach that prioritizes punitive actions over fair

adjudication. This sanctioning of a disabled litigant for filing a motion to adjust child support down amid a substantial income reduction is not only unjust but also suggests a targeted hostility. My evidence, including an Income and Expense Declaration showing my \$0 income for September and October, was ignored. Such ruling resulted in nearly 60% of my disability income going toward child and spousal support, leaving me unable to adequately support my child or maintain stable housing. Such rulings harm families and erode trust in the judicial process.

Judge Cadet's frequent interruptions, mispronunciation of my attorney's Russian surname, and focus on sanctions over addressing the merits of my case demonstrate a clear failure to provide fair and impartial justice. She disconnected Zoom calls without allowing clarification and prioritized assisting opposing counsel while neglecting my arguments. Her conduct in other cases as well as mine has led multiple attorneys to refuse representation in her courtroom. These actions compromise the fairness of my case and erode public trust in the judiciary's impartiality. I respectfully request an investigation into her conduct and her immediate recusal to ensure a fair and just process.

Canon 3B(5) - Avoiding Bias and Discrimination

Numerous accounts, including the formal complaint filed by attorney [REDACTED] On November 3, 2023, highlight her pervasive bias against minority litigants (**Exhibit 2**). In my case, her rulings appear systematically prejudiced against me as a mother of Slavic descent, consistently favoring my ex-husband—a significantly wealthier man who has misrepresented his income and assets to the court.

This is not an isolated incident. I have identified multiple cases where Judge Cadet demonstrated severe bias and discrimination against Russian-speaking litigants and attorneys. These litigants are often professionals, members of the middle class, and, above all, mothers who were previously married to affluent men. In nearly every instance, these men have portrayed themselves as financially destitute, claiming that all their income is tied up in debts or simply requesting not to consider their income as income. Judge Cadet, without fail, has sided with these men, disregarding evidence of their substantial financial resources.

Attorney [REDACTED]'s complaint filed in case #16FAM01328, detailed a similar pattern of bias. His Russian-speaking female client, a mother, was subjected to unjust rulings that overwhelmingly favored her wealthy ex-husband. Despite this complaint being brought to the Presiding Judge's attention more than a year ago, there appears to have been no change in Judge Cadet's conduct. Her repeated failures to act impartially demand immediate investigation.

This behavior blatantly violates the principles outlined in Canon 2, which states that a judge "shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary." Judge Cadet's actions not only erode public confidence but also demonstrate a flagrant disregard for the impartiality required of a judicial officer. Her consistent bias against Russian-speaking mothers, combined with her preferential treatment of affluent litigants, leaves no doubt about her inability to serve as a fair arbiter in family law cases.

I urge the Presiding Judge to take immediate action to investigate this unacceptable behavior. This systematic discrimination against minority litigants and their attorneys, particularly those advocating for vulnerable mothers, cannot continue unchecked. Judge Cadet's actions in my case and others like it demonstrate an utter lack of impartiality and integrity, necessitating her recusal and further disciplinary measures to restore public confidence in the judiciary.

Specific Incidents of Concern

- a. The most recent developments in my case occurred during November 12, 2024, hearing for my motion to set aside trial orders and to modify child support—motions filed by my attorney on valid legal grounds. Any licensed attorney would advise against filing frivolous motions, especially given the strict penalties under Family Code Section 271. My motions were far from meritless. After Judge Cadet awarded 100% of our community property to my ex-husband during our five-day trial last September, the injustice of it all left me ill and on disability. I have since lost my job, and my income is now half of what was used to calculate child support. This is a legitimate and urgent basis for modification—not a frivolous one.

Yet Judge Cadet dismissed my motion outright, denying any modifications. She then compounded this injustice by sanctioning me \$41,602—a staggering amount that I cannot pay, as I am over \$100,000 in debt and without stable income. My attorney presented evidence and documents to support my case, including my Income and Expense Declaration showing that my income for September and October was \$0 due to technical issues with the California Employment Development Department. Judge Cadet, however, ignored this critical evidence and falsely claimed to have reviewed all documents. Instead, she fixated on sanctioning me and paid disproportionate attention to opposing counsel, Mrs. Hoffman, while disregarding my arguments entirely. Judge Cadet’s actions suggest she would rather see me homeless and starving than follow the rule of law, which she is ethically and legally obligated to uphold under all five Judicial Canons.

- b. During June 10, 2024 court hearing when my attorney presented enough evidence to warrant an evidentiary hearing and made a request for it, Judge Cadet denied her request and muted her for it later sanctioning me. During November 5, 2024 hearing requested by me DVRO against my abusive ex-husband, Judge Cadet saw that I had 4 court watchers observing AND attorney Andrew Watters who wrote a scathing article about her. Without me asking for an evidentiary hearing, she sua ponte scheduled an evidentiary hearing saying “[Elena] has the right for an evidentiary hearing”. It is still unclear why such inconsistency happened when the law has not changed and whether presence of the attorney who exposes Judge Cadet’s misconduct and multiple neutral court watchers had influenced her ruling to be in accordance with the law.

DVRO evidentiary hearing is calendared in more than 9 months without any TRO in place potentially putting my life in danger after my ex-husband threatened me about an upcoming “end-game” for me. If Judge Cadet hopes to stop working in the Family Law Division by then so that she doesn’t have to deal with this case, that would explain such a distant date.

- c. This wasn’t an isolated incident. I’ve observed Judge Cadet’s courtroom behavior during other cases. In June, I sat in on her afternoon session and watched her handle several matters. Her demeanor changed noticeably when Eastern European litigants came before her. She appeared rushed, irritated, and eager to dispose of their cases with minimal effort or attention. During one case, I noticed her repeatedly looking at me as I quietly took

notes in the back of the courtroom. Her long, cold stare made my skin crawl—it was clear she recognized me. After an afternoon break, a young woman in business attire entered the empty courtroom and sat two seats away from me. She stared intently at what I was doing, clearly observing me. It felt as though I was being monitored, though I had done nothing to warrant this. When I left the courtroom, the woman followed me. It was obvious what her role was during the hearing, to intimidate me by watching me closely. On the first floor, she entered the clerk’s office through an employee-only door, confirming my suspicion: I was being watched. This level of intimidation towards a member of the public is unacceptable and demonstrates a clear abuse of authority. It is no wonder that public observation of hearings via Zoom has been restricted—it seems designed to discourage transparency and accountability.

What I saw during that session only reinforced my concerns. At the end of the afternoon, Judge Cadet handled the case of a county employee, Barbara Aguilar (case #20-FAM-02125), who appeared pro se via Zoom. Judge Cadet’s behavior in this case was strikingly different. She was overly accommodating and empathetic, going to extraordinary lengths to assist Ms. Aguilar. Judge Cadet dictated a web address for pension division, letter by letter, ensuring Ms. Aguilar could access it on her computer. She asked multiple times if the litigant had reached the website and even said, “Do you have a computer in front of you? Did you get the web address? I will wait until you enter it. Do you see the website now?” When Ms. Aguilar complained about how busy she was and mentioned needing a vacation, Judge Cadet empathized, saying, “Oh, it’s complex. I know these things are difficult as a pro se litigant. You need that fabulous vacation,” and giggled. It was almost nauseating to see how polite, patient, and sympathetic Judge Cadet could be—yet she reserves this treatment for certain litigants while being exceptionally rude, dismissive, and demeaning toward others, particularly those of Eastern European descent.

This stark contrast in Judge Cadet’s behavior is deeply concerning. It proves that she is capable of fairness and civility but chooses not to extend these qualities to individuals like myself. Her blatant discrimination against litigants of a particular ethnic background undermines public confidence in the judiciary and violates her ethical obligations.

- d. In an article written by Andrew Watters, he provides a scathing critique of her judicial competence and lack of empathy (**Exhibit 3**). Mr. Watters does not mince words in describing her rulings as woefully devoid of legal justification, echoing the frustrations of countless attorneys and litigants who have encountered similar experiences in her courtroom.

Mr. Watters is far from alone in his criticism. A growing number of attorneys and litigants have expressed deep concern over Judge Cadet’s rulings, which often appear inconsistent with the law and indicative of bias. I urge you to review Mr. Watters’ article and the updates on his website, as they reflect a broader pattern of dissatisfaction with Judge Cadet’s conduct. This is not an isolated issue but a systemic problem that demands immediate attention and corrective action.

- e. My investigation, including multiple Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, has uncovered a glaring issue regarding Judge Cadet’s compliance with California

Government Code Section 1457, which mandates that all judges secure official bonds. Specifically, the law states that “the official bonds of officers of a county and judicial district shall be approved by the presiding judge of the superior court, recorded in the office of the county recorder, and then filed in the county clerk’s office.” Despite this requirement, I found no evidence that Judge Cadet possesses such bonds.

FOIA requests submitted to the San Mateo County Superior Court, County Recorder, and County Clerk’s office, as well as the Secretary of State, all returned the same response: no records exist of Judge Cadet’s official bonds (**Exhibit 4**). The absence of these bonds raises serious concerns about whether Judge Cadet completed the legally required onboarding procedures to serve as a judicial officer. If true, this casts doubt on the validity of her orders, as any authority to act as a judge would be fundamentally compromised.

This formal complaint also serves as a FOIA request for any records related to Judge Cadet’s official bonds. As the approving authority, the Presiding Judge should have direct knowledge of these records. If no such records are provided within a reasonable timeframe, I will be left with no choice but to consider all of Judge Cadet’s orders legally invalid. If you disagree with this interpretation, I request a detailed explanation to clarify otherwise.

Requested Actions

In light of the documented incidents and concerns regarding Judge Cadet’s conduct, I respectfully request the following actions to address the issues outlined in this complaint:

1. Initiate a Formal Investigation: Conduct a thorough investigation into the alleged bias, misconduct, and patterns of partiality in Judge Cadet’s rulings, particularly regarding her treatment of Russian-speaking litigants and the potential conflicts of interest related to her affiliations with the San Mateo County Bar Association.
2. Immediate Recusal: Given the appearance of bias and lack of impartiality, I request that Judge Cadet immediately recuse herself from my case to ensure a fair and unbiased judicial process moving forward.
3. Review of Sanctions: Reassess the substantial sanctions imposed upon me, specifically the \$41,602 sanction, to determine whether these penalties are consistent with legal standards and justifiable under the circumstances presented as well as reassess my child support amount.
4. Disclosure of Official Bond Status: In compliance with California Government Code Section 1457 and my prior FOIA requests, I ask for confirmation and access to any records regarding Judge Cadet’s official bond status, including proof of compliance with this mandatory requirement for judicial officers.

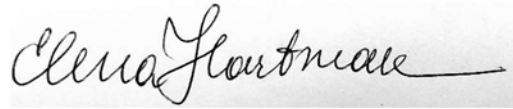
These actions are essential to restore confidence in the integrity and fairness of the judicial process. I look forward to a prompt response and appropriate measures to address these serious concerns. Additionally, please be informed that I will seek investigation of this matter with the

San Mateo County Board of Supervisors to hopefully prevent even more discrimination and retaliation against me and other Slavic litigants and attorneys and I am also planning to file a Government Claim per California Government Claim Act.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.

Dated: November 15, 2024

Respectfully submitted by

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elena Hartman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. The signature is written on a light-colored, slightly textured background.

Elena Hartman, Pro Se and Represented Litigant

Exhibit 1

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

ELENA HARTMAN,)
)
) Petitioner,)
) No. 19-FAM-02147
vs.)
)
)
)
MICHAEL HARTMAN,)
)
) Respondent.)
_____)

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE THE HONORABLE CHINHAYI C. CADET, JUDGE
DEPARTMENT 5
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2024

A P P E A R A N C E S:

For Petitioner via Zoom: ANNA GONCHAROVA
ATTORNEY AT LAW

For Respondent via Zoom: CHARLI M. HOFFMAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW

1 Monday, June 10, 2024

Redwood City, CA

2 AFTERNOON SESSION

3 P R O C E E D I N G S

4 THE COURT: Calling the Hartman matter. Case
5 No. 19-FAM-02147. If the parties can step forward and
6 state their appearances for the record beginning with
7 Petitioner.

8 All right. I just realized my audio and video
9 was not on. Again, for the benefit of those on Zoom,
10 calling the Hartman case. Case No. 19-FAM-02147. If
11 the parties can state their appearances for the record
12 beginning with Petitioner.

13 MS. GONCHAROVA: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
14 Anna Goncharova for Elena Hartman, Petitioner, present
15 in person.

16 MS. HOFFMAN: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
17 Charli Hoffman for the respondent, Michael Hartman, who
18 is present via Zoom.

19 THE COURT: All right. Welcome to you all.
20 So let's see, so we are on today where there was an RFO
21 for an order for stay of execution of orders regarding
22 child support, spousal support, and income withholding.
23 The court's tentative would be to deny that RFO for lack
24 of good cause found. But, counsel, I'm happy to hear
25 from you. Ms. Goncharova.

26 MS. GONCHAROVA: Your Honor, we ask for a stay

1 of execution because my client is now, and starting in
2 January at least until the end of August, is on
3 disability. So now the support orders being withdrawn
4 from her disability payments would be at least 50% of
5 her disability payments that would definitely lead to
6 her bankruptcy. We filed for modification of support
7 because of special change of circumstances. The motion
8 from the modification was filed March 2023 -- '24. I'm
9 sorry. And the hearing is scheduled for August 1, and
10 attorney for Respondent asked for continuance. I
11 consented to it, and that is why if we -- if we will
12 wait and continue withholding from Ms. Hartman's
13 disability payment, the amount of support that was
14 calculated based on her regular salary then it would --
15 would file an Income and Expense Declaration that shows
16 that she won't be able to even to be able to pay her
17 rent. And if she won't be able to pay her rent, and she
18 is facing bankruptcy because she does not have any
19 savings, that means she will lose her residency in San
20 Mateo County, and that will affect also detrimental not
21 only her but the child because she won't be able to
22 maintain joint custody because the child needs to stay
23 in San Mateo County.

24 So for us it is substantial. And it would be
25 irreparable harm because if she is late on her rental
26 payment and her credit card payments, then her credit

1 score will drop and she won't be able to find a living.

2 Speaking about the balance of hardship, for
3 the past several months she was not paying support
4 payments and somehow the respondent was like renting an
5 apartment, buying new cars, so he was able to survive
6 without her support payments and she won't be able.

7 So speaking about balance of hardships, it is
8 much more difficult for her if the withdrawal will
9 continue until September 19 when Respondent's counsel
10 would be available. And speaking about likelihood to
11 win on the modification as her salary dropped twice
12 because of the disability, then we're saying the
13 modification would be granted.

14 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Hoffman, your
15 response?

16 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

17 So, first of all, there is no authority for
18 the request made by the petitioner in her pleadings in
19 the arguments that she's made through multiple pleadings
20 in this case. The support order is not being paid.
21 Petitioner isn't paying it. She's not paying the child
22 support. She's not paying the spousal support. We have
23 two wage assignments, either one is being collected.
24 One went to the hospital where she was working at the
25 time of the trial and the judgment. And then allegedly
26 she went on disability, so there is a wage assignment

1 out to EDD. Neither one of those is collecting any
2 money right now.

3 So these arguments about, you know, she has to
4 file for bankruptcy or she's going to have to move out,
5 those are absolutely theoretical because she is just not
6 paying anything right now.

7 In terms of her Income and Expense
8 Declaration, I know we addressed this at the time of
9 trial with the last Income and Expense Declaration.
10 This one is inaccurate as well. So we do know she was
11 working at El Camino Hospital for part of the 2024 year.
12 That income is not listed on her current Income and
13 Expense Declaration. It appears that she's sort of
14 going on and off of disability. We have received no
15 evidence about what that status is; what her alleged
16 disability is. But, regardless, she is not paying the
17 support. So she doesn't -- there is no money flowing
18 Mr. Hartman's way that would cause these alleged
19 detriments coming to Ms. Hartman.

20 Again, though, there is simply no authority.
21 She filed an appeal. We have five post-judgment motions
22 pending now on top of the appeal. The trial was just in
23 August and September of 2023. I know we will get to the
24 motion for reconsideration today as well. There simply
25 is no cause for this relief. We will get to the motion
26 for modification in September.

1 But, again, it is pretty clear also from
2 Petitioner's Income and Expense Declaration she has some
3 money because she has managed to pay \$12,000 to her
4 appellate attorney, and at least \$2,600 to
5 Ms. Goncharova. And I am guessing based on the 20-plus
6 documents that have been filed in this case on behalf of
7 Petitioner since January 1, 2024, she probably owes or
8 has paid a lot more since that Income and Expense
9 Declaration filed. So she's simply prioritizing what
10 she wants to pay.

11 THE COURT: All right. And Ms. --

12 MS. GONCHAROVA: Your Honor, may I reply?

13 THE COURT: Yes. Go ahead.

14 MS. GONCHAROVA: The statement that our Income
15 and Expense Declaration is inaccurate is based on
16 nothing. The Income and Expense Declaration is signed
17 under penalty of perjury, and Petitioner was never --
18 there were never any evidence or any confirmation that
19 she was inaccurate with her payments. And this theory
20 about owing her attorney some money based on calculation
21 maybe on Mr. Hartman's own rates is also -- does not
22 also have any grounds. And what was shown is that if
23 income withholding based from her disability payments
24 will happen, then she will face bankruptcy.

25 We filed with Income and Expense Declaration
26 all of the documents supporting the amount of disability

1 payment, reporting she's on disability. So considering
2 that the respondent filed nothing into evidence, and we
3 provided all of the necessary document showing it, we
4 think that the motion to stay execution must be granted.

5 THE COURT: All right. So moving on to the
6 request for order for reconsideration -- for
7 reconsideration. The court is inclined to deny that as
8 failing to show new facts, circumstances or law as
9 required under California Code of Civil Procedure
10 Section 1008. Any comment, Ms. Goncharova?

11 MS. GONCHAROVA: Yes. Yes, Your Honor.

12 First, we, today, filed a request for
13 statement of decision on all of the rulings made today.
14 And speaking about our motion to reconsideration, we
15 request Your Honor to merge this hearing on this motion
16 together with the motion to set aside the judgment, and
17 the motion for modification because Respondent -- first
18 of all, Respondent argues that there was like five
19 motions that are repetitive. They're not. But, in
20 fact, some of the evidence and some of the facts around
21 all of those motions, and for the purposes of judicial
22 economy and to save resources, it is important they be
23 heard together for us not to argue the same facts and
24 rule on modification on reconsideration and allowing
25 Petitioner to file for or to set aside the judgment.

26 Moreover, my client has constitutional right

1 to due process. We request for long cause hearing. We
2 have a witness considering the new facts that will
3 testify -- that is ready to testify on Mr. Hartman's
4 fitness activities that definitely contradicts his
5 testimony. And this witness, unfortunately, is
6 unavailable today. That is why we ask that all three
7 motions, not five, will be merged together. Whether it
8 will be on September 19 it is okay. Or October when the
9 motion to set aside is also scheduled because otherwise
10 my client, who did an enormous job finding evidence and
11 some of them were subpoenaed records from -- about the
12 car loan and about the rent for the new apartment. We
13 received them just on Friday.

14 So she did a great job finding new evidence
15 proving that Mr. Hartman committed perjury throughout
16 the trial. And I ask you, Your Honor, not to violate
17 her constitutional right to due process.

18 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Hoffman, your
19 response for the request for evidentiary hearing? What
20 is the -- is there a California Rule of Court that
21 covers when evidentiary hearings are required and when
22 they're not required?

23 MS. HOFFMAN: There is no evidentiary hearing
24 required on any of this, Your Honor. It is up to you.
25 Certainly not a motion for reconsideration where as Your
26 Honor cited right. Our legal standard was CCP 1008.

1 There was a heavy argument made at the end of
2 the argument there that the court would be violating
3 somebody's due process rights. I mean, we're at the
4 hearing to substantiate the petitioner's due process.
5 Right? She filed five motions post judgment. She's
6 getting a hearing on two of those motions today and
7 others are on calendar. Well, I guess except the one
8 that was outright denied to try to continue this today.
9 So, I don't think anybody's due process rights have been
10 violated by this process.

11 The court gave Petitioner five days of trial.
12 Some of those were partial days to be clear. The
13 standard for a motion for reconsideration with new
14 facts, new law -- new facts, new circumstances, or new
15 law that were not available at the time of trial. There
16 is absolutely nothing that had been pled in all of the
17 pleadings for any of these motions but certainly not for
18 the one we're here for today; the motion for
19 reconsideration. That is, any basis of new facts, new
20 circumstances, or new law. I can go through those if
21 Your Honor would like, but I think for right now what is
22 key is the request now, suddenly never before, is for an
23 evidentiary hearing or to push this out.

24 A motion for reconsideration is a very
25 specific legal tool. It is unlike a motion to set
26 aside; unlike a motion for reconsideration. It was a

1 very precise legal standard and has a very precise
2 timing, jurisdictional timing, for the filing of that
3 motion. Neither of which were met here.

4 So the alleged facts, circumstances -- and
5 well, there is nothing said about the law. There is
6 nothing new here. These are either the same arguments
7 that were made by Petitioner at the time of trial that
8 the court heard and gave, frankly, quite an amount of
9 leeway to Petitioner on at the time of trial to make
10 whatever kind of argument she wanted. And there
11 certainly is not -- there is nothing new here that is
12 even pled.

13 So I think it is a waste of time to just, you
14 know, we keep coming back before the court. I think the
15 court has some more pressing matters to deal with on
16 issues that have already been addressed at the time of
17 trial.

18 I wrote to Ms. Goncharova when she became
19 involved in this case. I addressed the failure to meet
20 the legal standard in Petitioner's motion. I asked the
21 petitioner, you know, properly withdraw the motion since
22 it did not meet the legal standard so that neither party
23 would have to incur all of these fees and costs of
24 coming here responding, replying. And as Your Honor saw
25 from the correspondence, that was rejected.

26 There is simply nothing here to meet this

1 legal standard. So why we would have an evidentiary
2 hearing, and why that would be requested by Petitioner,
3 is frankly beyond me.

4 MS. GONCHAROVA: Your Honor, may I respond?

5 THE COURT: Sure.

6 MS. GONCHAROVA: Respondent contradict herself
7 because speaking about five days of trial that is what
8 we're offering to make it one day of trial. Like half
9 day of it. Instead of hearing on three motions, we
10 offer that it would be one motion and I do not see.

11 THE COURT: Ms. Goncharova, you are repeating
12 yourself.

13 MS. GONCHAROVA: No, no, no. I'm just --

14 THE COURT: There is no, no, no. I'm going to
15 mute you right now. I have muted you because you're
16 speaking over the court, and that is not permitted.
17 That is not proper courtroom decorum. So we're going to
18 take a brief recess, and Ms. Goncharova, please take
19 this time to settle down and conform yourself to the
20 proper courtroom decorum.

21 (Whereupon, a short break was taken.)

22 THE COURT: Welcome back. Let's recall the
23 Hartman matter. All right. I see Ms. Hoffman,
24 Mr. Hartman. There you are, Ms. Goncharova. All right.

25 So now you may unmute yourself, if you would
26 like, if there is something else that you would like to

1 say after you've taken a moment to relax.

2 MS. GONCHAROVA: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.
3 Sorry for interrupting. I just tried to be heard.

4 THE COURT: Oh, you have been heard. You have
5 spoken quite enough.

6 MS. GONCHAROVA: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: And, actually, I heard enough on
8 the issue of the reconsideration, and the RFO on the
9 order for stay. I would like to move onto the issue of
10 sanctions.

11 Ms. Hoffman, if you can please summarize your
12 argument with respect to sanctions.

13 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 So we did file a request for sanctions, as I
15 mentioned before, when Ms. Goncharova became involved in
16 this case. I did reach out to her, and we did meet and
17 confer. I asked that Petitioner withdraw the motion for
18 reconsideration given that it did not meet the CCP 1008
19 standard. No new facts, circumstances, or law was
20 stated. We did -- again, we went back and forth over
21 e-mail. We also spoke on the phone. She indicated
22 that, you know, Ms. Hartman had additional claims she
23 wanted to make. That she was not agreeing, reiterating
24 multiple times that Petitioner would not withdraw the
25 motion regardless of the fact that there was simply
26 nothing to meet the legal standards submitted in that

1 motion.

2 I did set forth that history in my declaration
3 submitted with the court, subsequent to that filing
4 even, and the response where Mr. Hartman requested
5 sanctions in the amount of approximately \$7,483.
6 Ms. Hartman then proceeded to file yet more pleadings.
7 That is the subject of the objections that we filed.
8 Submitting a further pleading called an affidavit
9 alleging to set forth, you know, additional information,
10 which obviously is well past the jurisdictional ten-day
11 limit set forth in 1008, and additional further
12 declaration. And then a tardy reply. Again, all trying
13 to insert new and additional information still none of
14 which, even though extremely tardy, meets the standard
15 for new facts, new circumstances, or new law.

16 So, Mr. Hartman is requesting a significant
17 sanction in this matter for the time and cost that have
18 been incurred in dealing with, you know, this motion for
19 reconsideration.

20 It is -- at the time of the trial, I am sure
21 Your Honor will remember, both parties requested fees
22 and sanctions. And at the time of the trial, the court
23 denied both parties' requests and directed both parties
24 to move on. Right? That this had been a litigated case
25 and that both parties needed to sort of move past it,
26 right, now that the case was done.

1 Mr. Hartman has done that. He's not filed a
2 single motion post judgment. He submitted his
3 objections. You know, you get the ruling you get. He
4 moved on. He would like to be able to move on. He does
5 not have the money to afford this incessant legal
6 process that Petitioner seems to be engaged in.

7 They had a trial, it was expensive, and yet
8 here we are again with unnecessary litigation and
9 multiple motions that simply aren't either factual or
10 warranted based on the legal standards.

11 So Respondent believes it is necessary for a
12 significant sanction in this case to at least put
13 Petitioner on notice if she chooses to go down this path
14 filing motion after motion after motion with no
15 consideration for the legal standard, for proper process
16 requirements and filings, that that is noticed by the
17 court and it is not warranted. Thank you.

18 THE COURT: All right. So your request was
19 for \$7,483, correct?

20 MS. HOFFMAN: That was the request at the time
21 of the response, Your Honor. There were additional
22 pleadings. So at this time Respondent would ask for
23 15,000.

24 THE COURT: All right. So let's have you
25 sworn in regarding the 15,000 request.

26 ///

///

1 CHARLI M. HOFFMAN,
2 being first duly sworn testified as follows:

3 MS. HOFFMAN: I do.

4 THE COURT: All right. So, Ms. Hoffman, if
5 you can just briefly describe your hourly rate, your
6 qualifications, and how you came up with the 15,000
7 amount that you are requesting?

8 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes, Your Honor. I will try to
9 take those in order if I remember them correctly. So I
10 have been a family law practitioner for 19 years. I am
11 a certified Family Law Specialist. I have been
12 Mr. Hartman's attorney of record for several years now.
13 My hourly rate in this case is \$650.

14 The way we calculated the request for
15 sanctions at the time that the reply had been completed
16 it was based on the hours spent meeting and conferring
17 with Petitioner's counsel, reviewing the motion,
18 responding to e-mails to try to work with her, filing
19 the reply. Subsequently, we had to file an additional
20 objection. I updated and filed an attorney declaration
21 based on that, and then we had to -- even though we
22 objected to them, we still had to review the further
23 declaration affidavit and tardy reply that were
24 submitted. And, again, that happened after the
25 response, which is why the amount was increased based on
26 that time. And then -- yes, that's the explanation.

1 THE COURT: All right. So approximately how
2 many hours have you spent that you would attribute to
3 having been incurred as a result of Ms. Hartman's
4 violation of Family Code Section 271?

5 MS. HOFFMAN: I will try to break this down,
6 Your Honor, based on -- I think probably of my time, it
7 has been approximately probably 12 to 14 hours of my
8 time. And then I have, obviously, a paralegal in my
9 office who assists with document formatting. And there
10 is Devon Rose, an associate whose hourly rate is lower
11 than mine. And it is an average of \$400 per hour that
12 had to assist when there was some filings that happened
13 when I was not in the office.

14 THE COURT: Okay. So, generally, what we look
15 for in these situations is, 271 is not for attorney's
16 fees, but it has to be tied to attorney's fees. So
17 usually there is an analysis of this many attorney's
18 fees for that much money. This many paralegal fees for
19 that much money. You just asked me for a round number.
20 Do you want me to take a break for you to itemize that?

21 MS. HOFFMAN: So for the original request I
22 did, but then for the subsequent pleadings that came in
23 I didn't want to submit yet another pleading. I could
24 try to break that down further, Your Honor, if you want
25 me to. We can do that if you would like.

26 THE COURT: We can do that, or the court's

1 inclination would be to lean toward the \$7,483, and we
2 reserve jurisdiction for the additional.

3 MS. HOFFMAN: That is acceptable, Your Honor.
4 We will be back here again in September.

5 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Goncharova,
6 anything you would like to add on any of the subjects
7 before the matter is taken under submission?

8 MS. GONCHAROVA: Yes, Your Honor. While I was
9 giving -- we were discussing our request for -- to merge
10 the hearings, and our request for long cause hearing;
11 however, I have not been heard on new law and new facts.
12 And I want to address those issues because it is proven
13 that we have not shown any new facts or any new law
14 while we did. And I still repeat, if maybe I didn't say
15 it very properly, we have a witness who is not available
16 today that is why we're asking for the continuance. We
17 moved from motion of reconsideration to sanctions
18 without listening. Listening as a motion for
19 reconsideration.

20 THE COURT: Is there anything else you would
21 like to say regarding motion for reconsideration before
22 I decide?

23 MS. GONCHAROVA: Yes, Your Honor. We ask Your
24 Honor to consider our reply with the supporting
25 documents and memorandum of authorities and affidavit
26 of -- for the petitioner. They were filed one day after

1 the deadline because I explained it in my pleadings. I
2 had an e-mail from Ms. Hoffman that Michael, Respondent,
3 consents to continuance. And then I filed two e-mails
4 to follow up to get a confirmation, and that is why our
5 reply and declaration was filed one day late.

6 And there is a case law, in the case of
7 Iverson, that the court usually exercise authority to
8 relieve party from late filing.

9 THE COURT: All right. So I can address that.
10 I know that the parties had late filings. I have read
11 all of them and considered all of them. And I am not
12 striking anything.

13 MS. GONCHAROVA: Yes. And I will also mention
14 that my client, according to Income and Expense
15 Declaration, does not have any money to pay any
16 sanctions. She's really bankrupt and that is, too. And
17 speaking about what Ms. Hoffman said that Mr. Hartman
18 was happy with the decision and move forward. She does
19 not because she knows that it was perjury trial. She
20 will show it and during the hearing motion to set aside.

21 So our pleadings are not meritless. They do
22 not -- they do not warrant sanctions, and it was asked
23 to meet and confer, to offer settlement, to offer
24 according to both party knows that Mr. Hartman owes
25 Ms. Hartman more than she owes in support payments, but
26 they said that that is (inaudible) TRO. That is why we

1 can not set off, and that is the settlement we're
2 seeking. So that is actually what correlates with state
3 policy for settlement. That is why I ask you not to
4 sanction my client for trying to protect herself.

5 THE COURT: All right. And, Ms. Hoffman, upon
6 what do you base your belief that Ms. Hartman would be
7 able to pay the sanctions?

8 MS. HOFFMAN: Well, if I look at her Income
9 and Expense Declaration, again, it states that she has
10 been able to pay her appellate attorney \$12,000. And as
11 of the filing of her initial -- well, as of the date of
12 the filing of her Income and Expense Declaration, which
13 by memory was May 14, she indicated she had paid \$2600
14 and some change to Ms. Goncharova.

15 Again, there has been a literal flurry of
16 pleadings, e-mails, threats to me about reporting me or
17 my office to the state bar.

18 MS. GONCHAROVA: (Inaudible).

19 THE COURT: So, Ms. Goncharova, you
20 interrupted Ms. Hoffman while she was speaking, so the
21 court reporter didn't get down what you said.
22 Basically, you were objecting to Ms. Hoffman's
23 characterization of a threat. There was an e-mail
24 attached to one of the filings where there was an
25 indication that you might be reported to the state bar,
26 correct?

1 MS. GONCHAROVA: Yes.

2 MS. HOFFMAN: Yes.

3 THE COURT: Yes. All right. So, Ms. Hoffman,
4 that is correct, right? You were threatened?

5 MS. HOFFMAN: Yeah. She did -- well,
6 technically she wrote the e-mail to me and Devon Rose,
7 the associate. But, yes, when I asked her not to engage
8 in ex parte communication with the court clerk regarding
9 one of the motions filed by the petitioner, she said it
10 could be reported to the state bar, which, obviously, I
11 disagree with, and that is not my point.

12 The point is, Ms. Hartman has made a decision
13 to prioritize the use of her funds. She's able to pay
14 her appellate counsel. She's able to pay Ms. Goncharova
15 to file all these pleadings. She's not paying any of
16 the support order or let alone any of the property
17 division that was ordered.

18 So, you know, she seems to be coming up with
19 money somewhere. Again, her Income and Expense
20 Declaration does not accurately state her income because
21 if you look at her -- there is a single pay stub
22 attached. You can see that it shows additional
23 year-to-date income that is not listed anywhere on
24 page 2 of the Income and Expense Declaration, as least
25 as far as I can see it anywhere.

26 She's able to pay her expenses somehow. She's

1 coming up with resources.

2 THE COURT: All right.

3 MS. HOFFMAN: I will leave it at that. Thank
4 you.

5 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Goncharova,
6 anything else you would like to say before I decide?

7 MS. GONCHAROVA: Yes. My client is stating
8 that she was making payments in child and spousal
9 support, so I was not accurate. So can we please ask
10 her to testify on the payments she was making? Because
11 Respondent's attorney claims that she was not.

12 THE COURT: Well, it is not germane to the
13 court's decision, so I don't need to do that. All
14 right. So I am ready to rule.

15 Now, first, there was a request for statement
16 of decision pursuant to California Rule of Court,
17 Rule 3.1590(n). "The statement of decision shall be
18 made orally on the record in the presence of the
19 parties." And so I elect to go forward with the
20 statement of decision in that way.

21 And with respect to Petitioner's request for
22 orders staying execution of orders re: child support,
23 spousal support, and income withholding, I deny that
24 request for order. And the reason I'm denying it is
25 because I have read, reviewed, and considered all of the
26 documents submitted in support of and in opposition to

1 this request for order. And I considered the arguments
2 of counsel as presented today, and I find that there is
3 no good cause to stay those orders.

4 The court denies Petitioner's RFO for
5 reconsideration. Again, the court has read, reviewed,
6 and considered all of the documents in support of that
7 RFO, and in opposition to that RFO. And the court has
8 considered the arguments of the parties as set forth
9 here during this hearing. And the court denies the RFO
10 for reconsideration for failure to show any new facts,
11 circumstances, or law as required under California Code
12 of Civil Procedure Section 1008.

13 The court grants the sanctions request by
14 Mr. Hartman pursuant to Family Code Section 271 in the
15 amount of \$7,483 payable to Respondent within 60 days.
16 The court notes that the ex parte was -- it was filed
17 not in line with ex parte rules and procedures. It
18 simply was not an emergent situation where an ex parte
19 needed to be filed.

20 The court also notes that Ms. Hartman's
21 litigation actions here have caused Mr. Hartman to incur
22 legal fees and costs that should be unnecessary. And
23 the court does find that Ms. Hartman has violated Family
24 Code Section 271 when engaging in conduct that further
25 -- that -- I'm sorry -- that frustrates the policy of
26 law to promote settlement and litigation, and when

1 possible to reduce the cost of litigation by encouraging
2 cooperation between the parties and attorneys.

3 The court denies the request for live
4 testimony, California Rule of Court, Rule 5.113 provides
5 that when there is a request for an evidentiary hearing,
6 the court must consider whether live testimony is
7 necessary for the court to assess the credibility of the
8 parties or the witnesses. I don't believe that in
9 today's hearing there is live testimony that is
10 necessary to assess credibility. I believe the
11 witnesses here, especially when there have been no new
12 facts in support of reconsideration, and there simply is
13 no good cause to deny -- there is no good cause to grant
14 the orders for stay that are requested. It is not a
15 credibility issue. It is just there is no cause for
16 doing it.

17 All right. And now that Ms. Hartman has
18 requested a continuance, that request for continuance
19 was opposed and was denied. The court does not find
20 good cause for a continuance. I believe that covered
21 everything. Did I miss anything?

22 MS. HOFFMAN: Two things. I believe
23 Petitioner had also requested sanctions for Respondent's
24 opposition to her motion. Was the court -- I didn't
25 hear a ruling on that. I apologize if I missed it.

26 THE COURT: All right. My inclination was to

1 deny that request. I don't see any way in which
2 Mr. Hartman has violated Family Code Section 271, but
3 Ms. Goncharova, do you have any other argument regarding
4 that that isn't in your papers?

5 MS. GONCHAROVA: Everything is in my papers,
6 and I think we explained everything. And my last name
7 is Goncharova.

8 THE COURT: All right. I apologize,
9 Ms. Goncharova. All right. So Ms. Hoffman, yes, that's
10 denied.

11 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you. And then the one
12 other thing, Your Honor, was the court reserving on
13 Respondent's ability to supplement his sanctions post
14 reply?

15 THE COURT: Yes.

16 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Thank you for that
17 clarification.

18 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Hartman is raising
19 his hand.

20 MR. HARTMAN: Yes, Your Honor. You were
21 supposed to rule on sanctions for denying ex parte
22 motions, as well. Is that included or separate?

23 THE COURT: That was included.

24 All right. So with that, Ms. Hoffman, can you
25 please prepare the findings and order after hearing?

26 MS. HOFFMAN: I will, Your Honor. Just a

1 question for the court now that we're done with the
2 hearing. We had submitted a written stipulation to move
3 the August hearing because I have noticed unavailability
4 on that day. Ms. Goncharova spoke to this. We agreed
5 to move it to September, something, 19th, or something
6 like that. But I haven't seen that stip come back yet,
7 and the register of actions still reflects that hearing
8 date of August 1.

9 So I just wanted to check with you to make
10 sure there wasn't a concern about that stipulation.

11 THE CLERK: Actually, Your Honor, I am looking
12 at Odyssey right now. It looks like you signed it. I
13 see the August 1 hearing was filed on June 10.

14 THE COURT: So it sounds like I signed it, and
15 it hasn't shown up on Odyssey yet.

16 MS. HOFFMAN: Okay. Perfect. I just wasn't
17 sure. Thank you very much.

18 THE COURT: All right. I believe that
19 concludes our proceedings for today. And your next
20 appearance is on August -- well, I guess September 15 --

21 THE CLERK: On September 19.

22 THE COURT: September 19, 2024. And to the
23 extent, Ms. Hoffman, you wanted to supplement the 271
24 request, you may feel free to do that on that day since
25 you will be here September 19.

26 MS. HOFFMAN: Thank you. I will do that.

1 THE COURT: All right. So the clerk has
2 informed me that he just refreshed Odyssey, and let me
3 refresh it as well. All right. It now does show
4 September 19, 2024. So it has been updated as we were
5 here arguing.

6 MS. HOFFMAN: Perfect. Excellent. Thank you
7 very much.

8 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, everyone.

9 (End of proceedings.)

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IN THE MUNICIPAL/SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

ELENA HARTMAN,)	
)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
vs.)	No. 19-FAM-02147
)	
)	
MICHAEL HARTMAN,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

I, DIANA M. MASETTI, Official Court Reporter of the Municipal/Superior Court, in and for the County of San Mateo, State of California, do hereby certify that the foregoing pages 2 through 26 comprise a true, accurate and correct computer-aided transcription of the proceedings that I reported on June 10, 2024, in the matter of the above-entitled cause.

DATED: June 12, 2024

DIANA M. MASETTI, CSR 11656

Exhibit 2

11/03/2023

Hon. Elizabeth K. Lee, Presiding Judge

Department 17, Courtroom 2K
400 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063
(650) 261-5117
Dept17@sanmateocourt.org

Re: Formal Complaint re Judge Chinhayi C. Cadet/Substandard Performance
Striking Incompetence/Lack of Basic Knowledge of Civil Procedure and
Family Law/Abominable unjust decisions/Bias, rudeness and disrespect

Dear Presiding Judge,

On behalf of the numerous litigants and their legal counsel, I would like to lodge the formal complaint regarding substandard performance of *Judge Chinhayi C. Cadet*, who was assigned to the family law bench in Dept. 5 of San Mateo Superior Court.

Canon3(B)(*) of the California Code of Judicial Ethics provides:

*"A judge shall dispose of all judicial matter fairly, promptly, and efficiently.
A judge shall manage the courtroom in a manner that provides all litigants
the opportunity to have their matters fairly adjudicated in accordance with
the law"*

There numerous violations of Judicial Ethics take place at the court room. The Judge constantly confusing the cases and often reads the FCS Mediation Reports related to other cases. Judge comes absolutely unprepared and lacks basic knowledge in Civil Law and Family Law and her decisions are driven by racial hatred and gender bias instead of rule of law.

The Judge Cadet is biased against white male attorneys and makes unjust horrible decisions based solely on her antipathy and hatred toward white male counsels.

At the 10/02/2023 in *Vasilyev v. Sarokina, Case No. 16FAM01328* Judge Cadet made the following racially hatred motivated and gender biased decisions:

(1) Judge denied Mother's request for Family Code Sec. 2030/2032 "need based" attorney of \$10,000.00, despite clear evidence that Father's annual compensation was \$580,000 vs. Mother's annual compensation of \$140,000;

(2) Judge denied Mother's Motion to Compel despite obvious facts that Father refused to comply with discovery and failed to produce documents;

(3) Judge *Sua Sponte* (!) closed the discovery without request from either side;

(4) Judge sanctioned Mother for \$5,400.00 for "requesting unusually extensive set of financial documentation from Father in a way of that seem out of proportion of the issue present pending between the parties".

Please, allow me to ask several questions related to this abominable miscarriage of justice conducted in Dept.5 by Judge Cadet on daily basis:

(1) Why litigants and legal counsels should suffer from the racial hatred and gender bias of the judicial officer who

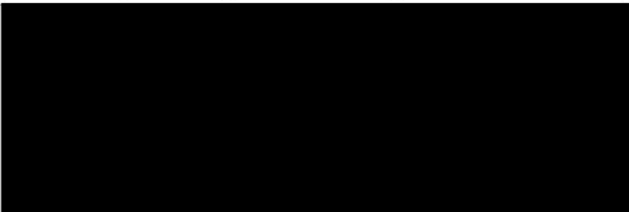
*"...shall dispose of all judicial matter fairly, promptly, and efficiently.
A judge shall manage the courtroom in a manner that provides all litigants the opportunity to have their matters fairly adjudicated in accordance with the law"*

(2) Why litigants, members of public and their legal counsel should suffer from sheer judicial incompetence, ignorance of laws and failure to make judicially sound and fair decision by the judicial officer who

*"..shall dispose of all judicial matter fairly, promptly, and efficiently.
A judge shall manage the courtroom in a manner that provides all litigants the opportunity to have their matters fairly adjudicated in accordance with the law"*

(3) Please, advise on the San Mateo Superior Court procedure of filing of formal complaint against Judge Chinayi C. Cadet.

Thank you very much for your time and attention to this matter.



Attachments:

Attachment A. The 10/02/2023 Order After Hearing;

Attachment B. Notice of Appeal filed 10/17/2023;

Attachment C. The filed on 11/02/2023 "Objections to the 10/02/2023 Ruling"

Exhibit 3

<https://www.andrewwatters.com/hall-of-shame/chinhayi-cadet/>

THE HONORABLE CHINHAYI CADET

A RECKLESS, UNQUALIFIED, AND INCOMPETENT FAMILY LAW JUDGE WHO HARBORS SUBSTANTIAL PREJUDICE.



March 28, 2024

by Andrew G. Watters, Esq.

Quotes from other attorneys:

1. "Judge Cadet makes unjust, horrible decisions based solely on her antipathy and hatred[.]"
2. "The number of people's lives she is ruining is not acceptable."
3. "My client is a professional Black man and had the same exact experience with Judge Cadet."
4. "The family law section needs to do something about this trainwreck."
5. "Heard through the grapevine you shared a similar experience with Dept. 5. My client filed a judicial complaint. If there is anything you need from me to help make a change, please let me know."
6. "I can only think of 1 or 2 judges over the past 35 years that have been as horrendous."
7. "I was there all morning listening to the cases before my client's, which was last. She was totally unnecessarily combative with each and every attorney, made legally wrong decisions, and was also completely lacking in normal judicial temperament, and judgment."

Quotes from litigants:

1. "Her pattern and practice is to drain people's resolve by steamrolling them with multiple hearings and trials on the same day just because they are in pro per. She makes up her own rules, ignores the law, and fits the evidence into her own narrative to help the party that she likes. Why does she protect domestic abusers?"
2. "She hates all women that are educated, successful professionals who stand up for their legal rights, and the rights of their children."

Note: rather than embarrassing Judge Cadet, the purpose of this page is to protect the public, as there is no other writeup on the internet about this vindictive, malicious, and extremely dangerous judge who does not belong on the bench. I will prove each and every one of my opinions here while being as even-handed as possible.

Here is her LinkedIn. Hard to believe a Stanford and Georgetown grad who spent 20 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney is this lost as a person. I honestly tried to keep an open mind over the last three months, however, the transcripts of my appearances speak for themselves, which show a course of conduct in violation of 18 U.S.C. sec. 1983 prohibiting violations of civil rights under color of law. Just wait for the March 26, 2024 transcript, and you'll see that I've now had three separate hearings with Judge Cadet over three months where she destroyed my client for no apparent reason other than prejudice, made numerous legally wrong decisions, and abused her power. I've had enough of this. My client has no remedies except in the court of public opinion, so here you go as a start:

January 2, 2024 - Cole/Little

January 22, 2024 - Cole/Little

March 26, 2024 - Cole/Little - insane!

Transcripts are not normally publishable, however, the entirety of these transcripts are essential to understand my commentary and are relevant to showing that Judge Cadet is a horrible person whom everyone should peremptorily challenge under CCP sec. 170.6. I'm claiming fair use and freedom of speech, consistent with Rule 8.2(a) of the Rules of Professional Conduct and Civil Code sec. 47 concerning true reporting of proceedings.

Background

I have four cases with Judge Cadet at the moment. The worst and longest-running of these is the above-indicated Cole/Little matter. One other one I settled due to the risk of going to trial with an erratic, malicious judge; another one resulted in a temporary order in my client's favor, principally because Judge Cadet believed the *other* party was crazy, and the remaining one is just starting and I didn't manage to get my peremptory challenge in on time.

Brittany Little

I am posting this writeup with my client's permission, though we may have slightly different opinions. In summary, my client is a successful professional woman, who until recently was a Nursing Supervisor at a major, prestigious hospital chain (she resigned due to the unbearable stress of this litigation). My client, who is Black, did nothing to prompt Judge Cadet's malicious treatment of her. I think the result is partly because Judge Cadet (who is also Black) wants to appear *extra fair* when dealing with Black litigants. It saddens me to even bring race into this, but based on all that I have seen-- and also heard from other attorneys-- that appears to be the truth. Another sad truth is that Judge Cadet has an extremely high opinion of herself and, as an *elite* Black person, looks down on my client, who is merely a *professional* Black woman. Regardless of the reasons for her bizarre decisions, Judge Cadet has driven my client to a state of near-suicide over the last several months. Part of this is the denial of visitation with her now one year-old son, whom my client has not seen since December 2023 despite *the parties agreeing (denied by Judge Cadet!) that my client could have up to three days per week of visitation*. Additionally, Judge Cadet *ordered the civil forfeiture of my client's property*, specifically the baby-related furniture that *my client purchased without the other party's involvement or contribution*, and that my client wants to keep because these are the last things she has that remind her of her son. To order that the other party takes furniture he does not own that reminds my client of her son is a civil forfeiture or penalty that is against the law.

This matter began in August 2023 when I was hired to file a Domestic Violence petition against my client's ex, who is unemployed and lives with his parents following the end of the parties' relationship. And when the other party managed to beat us to court and filed his own DV petition, I was hired to defend that one. The issue is that Mr. Cole managed to file his DV petition first, thereby gaining the advantage of a T.R.O., although it was never served on my client. My client splits her time between her home state of Washington and California, and she was in Washington at the time of the DV petition filed by Mr. Cole, and therefore beyond the California court's jurisdiction. She had planned to stay in Washington, but ultimately the California court issued orders under UCCJEA for the minor child's return to California, which occurred in December 2023. This side issue is the subject of a ridiculous claim by the District Attorney that my client is guilty of felony child custody deprivation, which was ultimately granted misdemeanor diversion by agreement, and will be dismissed upon the conditions agreed on by my client. That is a separate issue; the main problems with Judge Cadet are that she (1) makes illegal orders that exceed her jurisdiction, (2) demonstrates severe prejudice against my client, (3) acts either intentionally or extremely recklessly in exhibiting malice against litigants. Please read the transcripts and court papers, and judge this judge for yourself. I am calling upon the attorney community to peremptorily challenge Judge Cadet under 170.6 in all cases until the local court gets the message and she is removed from family law.

Latest updates

The "under construction" page that preceded this writeup received more views than the rest of the Hall of Shame combined. I get occasional calls and emails from other attorneys about Judge Cadet, most of whom are shocked that this person is a judge. I have more to say, but this is a start.

Update June 14, 2024: A lot has occurred in the last ten days since I published this. A number of attorneys and litigants have contacted me with their own horror stories, and I'm putting together a comprehensive update here that will incorporate their comments and stories.

Update August 7, 2024: I've got a big update coming with an additional group of attorneys that reached out to me and that plans to make a coordinated effort directed at removing Judge Cadet from the bench.

Update September 30, 2024: By now, I've gotten at least twenty calls and emails from area attorneys, as well as some litigants. The above quotes are directly from other attorneys, some of whom have called me a hero for doing this. The web page is going to be a centralized repository of information reflecting many people's opinions that Judge Cadet should be doing something else. I've been working on a large update, but I've been distracted by my day job and professional commitments. This is the best I can do here.

Update October 11, 2024: I decided to start putting quotes from litigants on here due to the large number of people who are calling. Wow, they have a lot to say.

Hall of Shame

Exhibit 4

Public record request re: judges' bonds

Daniel Radovich <dradovich@sanmateocourt.org>
To: Elena Hartman <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>

Fri, Jun 28, 2024 at 5:30 PM

Dear Elena Hartman,

The court received your request for records on Thursday, June 20, 2024.

Your request seeks records related to bonds for judges.

The court has no responsive records.

Regards,

Dan Radovich

Communications Officer/ADA Coordinator

San Mateo County Superior Court

dradovich@sanmateocourt.org



[Quoted text hidden]



Elena Hartman <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>

PRA - Public record request re: judges' bonds

Julieta Fernandez <JFernandez@smcacre.gov>
To: "elena.m.hartman@gmail.com" <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>

Thu, Jun 20, 2024 at 3:16 PM

Good afternoon Ms. Hartman.

This email is to inform you that the Judges are under the jurisdiction of the State of California. Please contact the San Mateo Superior Court directly to address your inquiry or concerns.

Below is the link to their "Contact" page online.

<https://sanmateo.courts.ca.gov/public-resources/contact-us>

Sincerely,

Julieta Fernandez

Executive Assistant - Confidential

Office of MARK CHURCH

Assessor-County Clerk-Recorder &

Chief Elections Officer

[555 County Center](#)

[Redwood City, CA 94063](#)

650.363.4779 direct

650.780.9952 fax

jfernandez@smcacre.gov

www.smcacre.gov



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

From: Elena Hartman <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 20, 2024 10:47 AM
To: ACRE_CLK_CountyClerkWebMail <CountyClerk@smcacre.gov>
Cc: ACRE_REC_RecorderWebMail <recorder@smcacre.gov>
Subject: Public record request re: judges' bonds

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Good morning, Mrs./Mr. County Clerk and County Recorder

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I am writing to request access to and copies of any and all records pertaining to the official bonds for judges within San Mateo County, as required by California Government Code Section 1450. Specifically, I am seeking records that indicate whether these bonds have been paid and fulfilled. I am particularly interested in obtaining the following information:

1. The official bond records for ALL judges of the Superior Court of San Mateo County, particularly Judge Chinhayi Cadet and Judge Renee Reyna.
2. Records showing the amounts of the bonds.
3. Documentation or proof of payment or fulfillment of these bonds by the judges.

I request that these records be provided in electronic format, if available. If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost exceeds \$50.00.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Elena Hartman



Elena Hartman <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>

Public Records Request

FISCAL_TreasMaster <TreasMaster@smcgov.org>
To: Elena Hartman <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 4:09 PM

Hi Elena,

I checked with our team regarding your inquiry below, but our office does not hold records for the San Mateo County Superior Court. I have forwarded your request to the Superior Court for them to review again, and I included your phone number as well. Hopefully, someone from their team can get back to you shortly.

Thank you,

Jen Tran

From: Elena Hartman <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 1, 2024 2:54 PM
To: FISCAL_TreasMaster <TreasMaster@smcgov.org>
Subject: Public Records Request

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of San Mateo County. Unless you recognize the sender's email address and know the content is safe, do not click links, open attachments or reply.

Good afternoon,

Pursuant to the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.), I am writing to request access to and copies of any and all records pertaining to the official bonds for judges within San Mateo County, as required by California Government Code Section 1450. Specifically, I am seeking records that indicate whether these bonds have been paid and fulfilled. I am particularly interested in obtaining the following information:

1. The official bond records for ALL judges of the Superior Court of San Mateo County, particularly Judge Chinhayi Cadet and Judge Renee Reyna.
2. Records showing the amounts of the bonds.
3. Documentation or proof of payment or fulfillment of these bonds by the judges.

[Records Center] Public Records Request :: R000002-070124

CA DGS Public Records <dgsca@govqa.us>
To: "elena.m.hartman@gmail.com" <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>

Mon, Jul 1, 2024 at 2:25 PM



Dear Elena Hartman,
RE: PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST of July 01, 2024, Reference # R000002-070124

Dear Elena Hartman,

The CA Department of General Services (DGS) received a public information request from you on July 01, 2024. Your request mentioned:

"Time range for these records is for the last 10 years from the time of production. This requests only pertains to San Mateo County judges including but not limited to criminal, juvenile, civil, and family law judges, current and/or retired.

1. The official bond records for ALL judges of the Superior Court of San Mateo County, particularly current Family Law Judge Chinhayi Cadet and Judge Renee Reyna.
2. Records showing the amounts of the bonds, the rules/statutes/laws describing the processing of judicial official bonds, storage and distribution of these official bonds.
3. Documentation or proof of payment or fulfillment of these bonds by the said judges as well as distribution of these bonds."

This email is to notify you that no records exist. Your request has been closed.

If you have any questions, please contact my office at . Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

OAH PRA Team
OAH

To view the full details of this request please log into the [Public Records Center](#).





Elena Hartman <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>

Public records request

PAJAR <PAJAR@jud.ca.gov>
To: "elena.m.hartman@gmail.com" <elena.m.hartman@gmail.com>
Cc: PAJAR <PAJAR@jud.ca.gov>

Thu, Jul 18, 2024 at 1:07 PM

Good afternoon,

Your request seeks various categories of records (for example, bonds, complaints, disciplinary actions, performance reviews and continuing education) related to Judge Renee Reyna and Judge Chinhayi Cadet of the Superior Court of San Mateo County, attached.

The Judicial Council has no records responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

Public Access to Judicial Administrative Records

Legal Services | Leadership Services Division

Judicial Council of California

455 Golden Gate Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94102-3688

415-865-7796 | PAJAR@jud.ca.gov

[Quoted text hidden]

 **Request for public records with attachment 7-1-2024 (003).pdf**
313K

I request that these records be provided in electronic format, if available. If there are any fees for searching or copying these records, please inform me if the cost exceeds \$50.00.

If no such records exist in your department and within your reach, then please advise where I can find these records. I have already contacted the San Mateo Superior Court Communications Officer, the County Clerk and the County Recorder as well California Department of General Services to inquire about these bonds. I have only received a "no responsive records exist" response. Records of official bonds of San Mateo court have to be stored somewhere, right?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Elena Hartman

<https://law.justia.com/codes/california/code-gov/title-1/division-4/chapter-3/article-1/section-1450/>