



## Superior Court of California County of Trinity

ELIZABETH W. JOHNSON  
*Judge*

MICHAEL B. HARPER  
*Judge*

### PRESS RELEASE

Open Letter to Trinity County Citizens:

By now, many of you may have noticed that I have not announced my candidacy for a second term as your Superior Court Judge. This letter explains why not.

For the past five years, the Commission on Judicial Performance has received many complaints about my punctuality, financial affairs and ethical compliance. Though a number of these allegations are demonstrably false, the repeated process of responding to these complaints has affected both the court staff and my family, causing stress and uncertainty. Therefore, I have decided not to contest certain allegations and agree to resign. This is so that voters may make a reasoned and informed choice about who should be their next judge without distractions about me.

I regret not being able to complete my term. Being your judge has been an honor and a privilege which I have tried very hard to live up to. One thing is certain: the court is in capable hands. Judge Mike Harper is an excellent judge and a person of impeccable character, with whom I have enjoyed working very much. Staci Holliday, the Court Executive Officer, has proven her intelligence and strength as a leader in ways that far exceeded expectations. The entire staff is dedicated, well-trained and performing well, even though most courts throughout the state are suffering. Trinity County's court is a real source of pride.

After January 18, 2018, I will be retired and no longer working as a judge. This is a condition of my agreement, and as set forth above, I believe this is in the best interests of the community as well as my own family. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth W. Johnson