

BEFORE THE
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF:

SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT,

v.

PARENTS ON BEHALF OF STUDENT.

OAH CASE NUMBER 2024090319

ORDER GRANTING PEREMPTORY CHALLENGE

OCTOBER 23, 2024

On October 23, 2024, Santa Monica-Malibu filed a notice of peremptory challenge with the Office of Administrative Hearings, called OAH, to Administrative Law Judge Penelope Pahl. An Administrative Law Judge is called ALJ. The peremptory challenge is made pursuant to Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), of the Administrative Procedures Act, and California Code of Regulations, title 1, section 1034.

Government Code section 11425.40, subdivision (d), establishes the criteria for disqualification of the presiding officer. A party is entitled to one peremptory challenge, also called disqualification without cause, to an ALJ assigned to an OAH hearing. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subds. (a) & (b); Gov. Code, § 11425.40, subd. (d).) A peremptory challenge is not allowed if made after the hearing starts. In addition, if at

the time of a scheduled prehearing conference, an ALJ has been assigned to the hearing, any challenge to the assigned ALJ must be made no later than the start of that prehearing conference. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (c).) A peremptory challenge is not allowed on reconsideration or remand. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 1, § 1034, subd. (a).)

Santa Monica-Malibu's peremptory challenge of ALJ Pahl is timely and GRANTED. The case is now assigned to ALJ Jennifer Kelly and all scheduled dates remain on calendar.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy Redmon".

Joy Redmon

Presiding Administrative Law Judge

Office of Administrative Hearings