



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

PRESS RELEASE

TO: ALL INFORMATION MEDIA - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FROM: Gary M. Blair
Superior Court Executive Officer 882-4550

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***New Presiding and Assistant Presiding Superior Court Judges;
CEO Appoints Chief Deputy Executive Officer for Countywide Operations***

Judge Arthur A. Garcia is the new Presiding Judge of the Santa Barbara County Superior Court for a two-year term commencing January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2014. He was previously the Assistant Presiding Judge in 2011- 2012 and replaces outgoing Presiding Judge Brian Hill who just completed his two-year term. Judge Garcia currently presides over Juvenile Court in Santa Maria.

The Santa Barbara Superior Court elects a new Assistant Presiding Judge every two years who elevates to the position of Presiding Judge after two years of service in the former position. The court has adopted a policy that the Presiding and Assistant Presiding Judges serve in separate divisions in Santa Maria and Santa Barbara in order to provide good regional representation to the court's leadership. The Presiding Judge position rotates between sitting in each of the two regions every two years.

Judge Garcia earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Loyola Marymount University in 1975 and his Juris Doctor Degree from the same school in 1978. Judge Garcia was engaged in a successful private law practice in the firm of Chern and Brenneman which soon became Chern, Brenneman, and Garcia (1981) from 1978-1996. Judge Garcia was appointed to the position of Court Commissioner in 1996 and served in Santa Maria Juvenile Court. In 2003, he was appointed to the position of Judge of the Superior Court

by then Governor Gray Davis, filling a vacancy created when former Judge Rick Brown retired from the bench.

Judge Garcia's previous assignments include Assistant Presiding Judge for 2007 and 2008, Presiding Judge for 2009 and 2010 and Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court. He has handled all types of matters from felony and misdemeanor criminal cases to Family and Juvenile Law. He has also been a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, California Juvenile Judges Association, California Judges Association, and California Association of Drug Court Professionals.

Judge James Herman is the Superior Court's Assistant Presiding Judge for 2013 and 2014. He current presides over the criminal arraignment calendar in Santa Barbara.

A graduate of UC Santa Barbara and California Western and New York University Law Schools, Judge Herman began his career as a deputy public defender. For the 20 years before his appointment to the bench in 2005, Judge Herman was in private practice specializing in complex civil litigation with offices in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. Since his appointment, he has presided over courts in both Santa Maria and Santa Barbara, hearing criminal, civil, family law and appellate panel cases. He has also served as Presiding Juvenile Judge.

Currently, Judge Herman serves as a member of the Judicial Council of California, the governing body for the state's judicial system, chairing its technology committee. He is a former president of the State Bar of California and the Santa Barbara County Bar Association. He has served on numerous other bench, bar and community boards.

Superior Court Chief Executive Officer **Gary M. Blair** has announced the appointment of **Darrel Parker**, assistant Chief Executive Officer, to the new position of **Chief Deputy Executive Officer** for countywide operations. **Mr. Parker** previously served as the Superior Court's Assistant Executive Officer for North County operations from 1997 to the present.

The Court is seizing the opportunity to evaluate its organizational structure to determine if there is a better way to provide Court services which will result in savings. One Chief Deputy Executive Officer (CDEO) with responsibility for countywide operations will have the responsibility and authority to review and evaluate the current workload, reporting structure, job responsibilities and use of resources to meet core court service objectives. The goal is to identify possible efficiencies in the organization which will save the Court money in light of multiple and continuing years of state funding cutbacks to all trial courts.

The Court must determine which core services are most important and better ways to perform the work of the court. In some instances, this may require the Court to reduce or find alternative methods for performing certain functions. The Court will also review and standardize practices, policies and procedures to make the most efficient use of limited and reduced resources. This will allow the court to effectively train and redeploy available personnel.

As CDEO, Mr. Parker will be responsible for all operations of the Court, except for Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology. The managers in charge of the above administrative functions as well as the CDEO will continue to report directly to the Court Executive Officer. The Administrative Managers will meet and confer with the CDEO to discuss the impact, cost and implications of operational changes upon the court organization and will fully support the review and evaluation process.