



SANTA BARBARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

PRESS RELEASE

TO: ALL INFORMATION MEDIA - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FROM: Arthur A. Garcia
Presiding Judge**

DATE: June 10, 2013

New Chief Executive Officer

Presiding Judge Arthur Garcia has announced the appointment of **Darrel E. Parker** as the new Executive Officer of the Court, replacing Gary Blair, who recently announced his retirement after 34 years of service to the courts, effective July 1, 2013.

Mr. Parker has a Bachelors Degree from Drew University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, with a specialization in Court Administration, from the University of Southern California. He has served the Santa Barbara County Superior Court for the past five months as its Chief Deputy Executive Officer and, previously, as the Court's Assistant Executive Officer since 1997.

Upon assuming his first duties in 1997, Mr. Parker successfully merged the operations of what were then the separate Municipal and Superior Courts of Northern Santa Barbara County. During his service to the Court, Mr. Parker was appointed as the Court's Project Manager for the construction of a new Juvenile Court, in Santa Maria; and, later, as the Court's Project Manager during the construction of a new 18,650-square-foot, consolidated clerk's office in Santa Maria.

Prior to coming to Santa Barbara County, Mr. Parker was employed by the Los Angeles County Superior Court and worked in a variety of assignments. He was involved in

several high-profile cases, which were: Rodney King, Heidi Fleiss, Charles Keating and O.J. Simpson. These experiences became very useful later when Mr. Parker was responsible for the operations surrounding the People vs. Michael Jackson molestation case, which was held in Santa Maria in 2005.

Mr. Parker has co-authored articles on Court Community Communication and in The Court Manager and Judicature. Mr. Parker is an instructor with the Center for Judicial Education and Research on the topics of Leadership and Court Community Communication. He has served as past President of the Board of Directors of the Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family Center and has been a member of the Elk's Lodge #1538 for the past 15 years. He enjoys time outside of work as a coach for youth soccer in the Orcutt United Soccer League, and as a leader with the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 93, in Orcutt.

Mr. Parker stated, "I am honored that the judges of Santa Barbara Superior Court have put their trust in me to serve this Court in a higher capacity. It is especially challenging during these economically difficult times. I look forward to working with the Bench, the legal community and the dedicated professional employees of this organization to serve the community and provide access to justice for all citizens where they can resolve their disputes and reconcile relationships."