



MEDIA ADVISORY

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SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF
SANTA CRUZ
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Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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New Judicial Leadership and Assignment Changes

Santa Cruz— The Superior Court of Santa Cruz County is pleased to announce that the Honorable Syda Cogliati has been elected by the bench to serve as the Presiding Judge (PJ) and the Honorable Jerry Vinluan has been elected to serve as Assistant Presiding Judge. Their new terms will commence on January 1, 2024.

Judge Cogliati has served on the Santa Cruz Superior Court bench since 2018, after being appointed by Governor Jerry Brown following her election. She currently presides over a felony department and serves as the Criminal Supervising Judge. She also participates on the Judicial Council’s Appellate Advisory Committee and the Local Committee on the Prevention of Bias.

Judge Vinluan has served on the Santa Cruz Superior Court bench since 2021, after being appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom. He currently presides over Juvenile Justice, a Misdemeanor department, and Civil Harassment Retraining Orders. He also participates on the Local Committee on the Prevention of Bias.

Effective January 1, 2024, Judge Nancy de la Pena will be the Criminal Supervising Judge.

The following Judicial Assignment changes will begin April 1, 2024, upon the retirement of current Presiding Judge Timothy Volkmann:

- Presiding Judge Cogliati will hear Civil, LPS, Unlawful Detainer cases, CEQA, Writ of Mandates, and Complex Litigation matters in Department 5.
- Judge de la Pena will hear the Felony calendar in Department 6.
- Judge Leila Sayar will hear Criminal Domestic Violence, Felony and

Misdemeanor calendars in Department 4

- The Department 2 Misdemeanor calendars will be heard by Visiting Judges.

