



Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
Rene C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2005

Judge Michael J. Gaffey and Judge Ronni B. MacLaren Take Oaths of Office

Oakland - The Superior Court of California, County of Alameda announces that former Santa Clara County Deputy District Attorney Michael J. Gaffey and former Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Ronni B. MacLaren have taken their Oaths of Office as judges of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda following their appointments by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Wednesday, February 23, 2005.

Barbara J. Miller, Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda has assigned both Judge Michael Gaffey and Judge Ronni MacLaren to the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse in Oakland. Judge MacLaren took her Oath of Office on Saturday, March 12, 2005 and is presiding over General Criminal matters in Department 103. Judge Gaffey took his Oath of Office on Monday, February 28, 2005 and is presiding over Misdemeanors, Pleas and Pre-Trials in Department 102.

Michael Gaffey has more than 21 years of criminal law experience. He served as a Deputy District Attorney for Alameda County from 1984 to 1994. In 1994 he became a Deputy District Attorney for Santa Clara County and served in that capacity until his judicial appointment. As Deputy District Attorney, Gaffey's experience included extensive work with gang suppression units and prosecuting gang-related crimes in both Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. For the last four years he was the Supervising Deputy for DA Administration in Santa Clara County.

Judge Gaffey earned his Juris Doctorate from the Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, California and earned his Bachelor of Arts from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, California. He is a member of the California District Attorneys Association, where at various times he has served on the gang prosecution, forensic and administrators' committees. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Jack Gifford.

Ronni MacLaren has been a judge in California for the past 8 years, handling criminal and civil trials. She is Vice Chair of the Ethics Committee of the California Judges Association. She is a former Adjunct Professor at Loyola Law School and remains actively involved in judicial education. Judge MacLaren has served as a member of the faculty of the Bernard E. Witkin Judicial College of California for the past 5 years and has taught numerous continuing education courses to judges in criminal law and judicial ethics. Prior to joining the bench in 1997, Judge MacLaren served for 11 years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Central District of California, specializing in complex business crime prosecutions and appeals. Before serving as a prosecutor, she practiced civil litigation for 5 years with the Los Angeles law firm of Adams, Duque & Hazeltine.

Judge MacLaren earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia and her Bachelor of Arts from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Phillip Sarkisian. "I am honored by the Governor's appointment, and look forward to continuing my service as a Superior Court judge in Alameda," said Judge MacLaren.

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