

# Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara



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## **Santa Clara County Judges Elect New Leadership** *Assistant Presiding Judge Risë Pichon elevated to Presiding Judge; Judge Patricia Lucas named new Assistant Presiding Judge.*

SAN JOSE, Calif. (September 22, 2014): the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara (Court) has elected its new leadership for the 2015-17 term, with Assistant Presiding Judge Risë Pichon elevated to Presiding Judge and Judge Patricia Lucas named new Assistant Presiding Judge.

“Judges Pichon and Lucas are two incredibly capable leaders. I am confident that, under Judge Pichon’s leadership, the Court will continue to tackle the tremendous fiscal challenges ahead while serving Santa Clara County residents with the utmost integrity,” said Presiding Judge Brian C. Walsh. “Having worked with Judge Pichon as closely as I have over the past two years, I know that I’ll be leaving the Court’s leadership in incredibly skilled and gifted hands.”

The Court’s leadership transition will become effective on January 1, 2015.

### **ABOUT PRESIDING JUDGE-ELECT RISË PICHON**

Judge Risë Pichon was first appointed to the Municipal Court of Santa Clara County in July 1984 and is currently the Assistant Presiding Judge. Before becoming the Assistant Presiding, Judge Pichon was the Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division, the Court’s largest area. Judge Pichon was admitted to the Bar in 1976 and earned both her Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctor degrees from Santa Clara University.

Before being appointed, Judge Pichon was an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender (1976-79) and the Office of the County Counsel (1979-83). Judge Pichon also served as a Commissioner for the Municipal Court of Santa Clara County (1983-84).

A resident of Santa Clara County since 1969, Judge Pichon has been involved in many community activities, including President of the St. Thomas More Society Board of Directors, as well as Santa Clara University School of Law’s 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, and Markkula Center for Applied Ethics Advisory Board, Self-Study Committee and Board of Visitors.

Judge Pichon’s many honors include 2014 Judge of the Year for the Santa Clara County Bar Association Women Lawyers Committee, 2012 “100 Women of Influence” (Silicon Valley Business Journal), 2011 Judge of the Year (Santa Clara County Bar Association) and 2011 Social Justice and Human Rights Award (Santa Clara University School of Law).

### **ABOUT ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE-ELECT PATRICIA LUCAS**

Judge Patricia Lucas was first appointed to the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara County in 2002 and is currently the Supervising Judge of the Civil Division. Judge Lucas was admitted to the Bar in 1979 and earned her Bachelor of Arts from the Rice University and her Juris Doctor from University of California Berkeley Law School (Boalt Hall).

Before being appointed to the Court, Judge Lucas was in private practice and served as Litigation Practice Group Leader with Fenwick & West (1993-2003), Partner with Brown & Bain (1986-93) and Associate with Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison (1979-86).

Originally born and raised in San Francisco, Judge Lucas has been involved in many community activities, including Board of Governors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers – Northern California, St. Thomas More Society Board Member, Center for Judicial Education and Research Board Member, Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen Board of Directors, and Santa Clara County Bar Association Judiciary Committee Member.

Judge Lucas' many honors include Judge of the Year for the Santa Clara County Bar Association Women Lawyers Committee (2007), Robert F. Peckham Award for Outstanding Public Interest (2000), and San Jose Business Journal Woman of Influence (2011).

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