

Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara



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Court Lauds Outgoing Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner for His Steady Leadership

On New Year's Day, Hon. Beth McGowen assumed helm as Presiding Judge and Hon. Julie Emede assumed role as Assistant Presiding Judge.

SAN JOSÉ, Calif. (January 10, 2023): On January 1, 2023, Hon. Beth McGowen began her two-year term as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. Judge McGowen shoulders the responsibilities passed to her by outgoing Presiding Judge, Hon. Theodore C. Zayner, who served as the Court's judicial leader from January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022.

Also effective on this day, Hon. Julie Emede took on her role as the Court's new Assistant Presiding Judge, in addition to her duties as a judge who oversees Family Violence cases in the Criminal Division. The Court's judicial leadership rotates on a two-year cycle: Presiding Judge McGowen will serve in this capacity until December 31, 2024, when Judge Emede is expected to step into the role of Presiding Judge.

"Judge Zayner certainly deserves our enduring gratitude for all that he achieved during his time as Presiding Judge. From condemning attacks against Asian American Pacific Islander communities to overseeing initiatives to increase public access to the court throughout the pandemic, Judge Zayner has helped steer our Court through challenging times with his trademark of conviction and dignity," said Presiding Judge McGowen.

Judge McGowen continued, "Certainly, we have tremendous challenges ahead, but our commitment to the residents of Santa Clara County and those we serve has never been stronger. I am confident that we will continue to build on the advances made during Judge Zayner's tenure and will use innovative tools to deliver services to the community at large."

Judge Zayner will remain on the Bench and preside over cases within the Complex Civil Division. He will also continue to serve on the Court's Executive Committee, in his capacity as Immediate Past Presiding Judge.

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Outgoing Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner pictured with Presiding Judge Beth McGowen and Assistant Presiding Judge Julie Emede.



Presiding Judge Beth McGowen and Assistant Presiding Judge Julie Emede.