

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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Superior Court Elects Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge

The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara is pleased to announce the election of a new Presiding Judge for 2011 and 2012, Hon. Richard J. Loftus, Jr. In addition, Hon. Brian C. Walsh was elected as Assistant Presiding Judge for the same period. Judge Loftus will succeed Judge Jamie A. Jacobs-May, who has served as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court for 2009 and 2010.

Judge Richard J. Loftus, Jr. was appointed to the Superior Court bench on July 27, 1998. He received his J.D. from the University of Michigan in 1972 and has previous legal experience with General Motors Corp. (1972 – 1975), Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel (1975 – 1977), Patterson & Taggart (1977 – 1979), and Littler, Mendelson (1979 – 1998, Managing Shareholder). Judge Loftus has been an Adjunct Professor for Labor and Employment Law at Lincoln Law School in San Jose and is a past President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association (1997). He is currently assigned to hear civil trials at the Old Historic Courthouse in downtown San Jose. One of Judge Loftus' first duties will be to determine the 2011 assignments of judicial officers.

Assistant Presiding Judge-Elect Brian C. Walsh was appointed to the Superior Court bench on November 21, 2000. Judge Walsh completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Notre Dame in 1969, and received his J.D. in 1972 from the Boalt Hall School of Law (U.C. Berkeley). He began his legal career with the Legal Aid Society of Monterey County (1972 – 1974), and entered private practice with the firm of McTernan, Stender, Walsh, Weingus and Tondreau (1975 – 2000). In addition, Judge Walsh served as Associate Justice Pro Tempore, Court of Appeal, Sixth Appellate District in San Jose (May, 2004 – January, 2005). Judge Walsh is a former member of the Judicial Branch Budget Advisory Committee (2002 – 2004), the Judicial Council of California (1994 – 1998), and other local and statewide committees and associations. He is a former president of the Santa Clara County Bar Association (1992) and was the recipient of the Bar Association's Professional Lawyer of the Year Award (1999), and the Byrl R. Salsman Award (2002). Judge Walsh is the 2010 Chair of the Court's Budget/Finance Committee, and currently presides in Department 74 at the Family Courthouse in San Jose.

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Upon learning of his election as Presiding Judge, Judge Loftus expressed his gratitude and indicated that he is looking forward to the challenges he will face upon assuming office.

The Presiding Judge has ultimate responsibility for the Court's budget and performs a variety of duties related to overall Court administration. Judge Loftus' term as Presiding Judge will commence January 1, 2011.