

**Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara**



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**Court Thanks Judge Loftus for His Laudable
Leadership and Service during His Tenure at Helm**

*On New Year's Day, Hon. Brian C. Walsh became Presiding Judge and Hon.
Risë Pichon became Assistant Presiding Judge.*

SAN JOSE, Calif. (January 4, 2013): on January 1, 2013, the Hon. Brian C. Walsh began his term as Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara (Court). Presiding Judge Walsh replaces the Hon. Richard J. Loftus, Jr., who served as Presiding Judge from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012.

Also effective the first of this year, the Hon. Risë Pichon began her role as the Court's new Assistant Presiding Judge. The Court's judicial leadership rotates on a two-year cycle; Presiding Judge Walsh will serve in his current capacity until December 31, 2014.

"Unquestionably, if it had not been for Judge Loftus' steady hand and his tenacious advocacy for Santa Clara County residents' access to justice, our Court would be in a much more precarious fiscal position," said Presiding Judge Walsh. "Judge Loftus challenged all of us to do more with less, and because of his remarkable leadership, we are a leaner, more efficient Court today, with better processes and greater access for Santa Clara County residents."

Despite nearly a 25 percent reduction in funding (or a \$37 million decrease) for Santa Clara County's Court and difficult economic times for California's entire judicial branch, Judge Loftus's laudable leadership resulted in Santa Clara County not closing a single courtroom nor imposing any layoffs. Of his many achievements, Judge Loftus has been praised in particular for shepherding the Court's new Family Justice Center courthouse through the many hurdles to becoming a reality. The new courthouse's construction is expected to break ground in July of 2013, with completion expected by 2015. Additionally, Judge Loftus's tenure oversaw the Court's initial transition to an electronic document management system as well as significant security improvements for Juvenile Justice Court.

"Our Court will forever be grateful to Judge Loftus for his work as Presiding Judge and we are incredibly fortunate to be retaining this exceptional jurist on our Bench," concluded Presiding Judge Walsh.

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