

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

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RELEASE DATE: November 9, 2022

SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT BENCH ELECTS HON. ROCHELLE C. EAST AS NEW ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE

SAN FRANCISCO - The San Francisco Superior Court bench has elected Hon. Rochelle C. East as its next Assistant Presiding Judge, completing its new leadership team for the next two years.

Judge East, a former top administrator in the California Attorney General's Office and wartime Naval officer, will join Presiding Judge-elect Anne-Christine Massullo in the new administration for the court beginning Jan. 1, 2023. East is the court's first female Assistant Presiding Judge of Hispanic/Native American descent.

"Judge East, a veteran jurist and real veteran, where she served our nation in the Navy and led the day-to-day administration of the California Attorney General's Office, will continue her history of service, assist our Presiding Judge-elect Anne-Christine Massullo with leadership, wisdom and aplomb counsel," said current Presiding Judge Samuel K. Feng.

Judge East has presided over criminal and civil trials, preliminary hearings, and dependency proceedings since she was appointed to the court by Gov. Jerry Brown in 2013. She has served as the presiding judge of the court's Appellate Panel and had a pro-tem assignment at the First District Court of Appeal. She has presided over more than 100 jury trials and more than 400 bench trials since she joined the bench.

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Prior to her appointment to the court, East worked at the California Attorney General's Office as a civil litigator, managing attorney and was appointed by then-Attorney General Kamala Harris as the chief deputy of the California Department of Justice. As the chief deputy, she was responsible for managing more than 5,000 employees, including approximately 1,000 attorneys and a \$1 billion budget.

Before she joined the Attorney General's Office, Judge East interned for California Supreme Court Justice Ming Chin and spent four years at a boutique firm in San Francisco specializing in labor and employment law.

Judge East served as an officer in the U.S. Navy for 10 years, including two tours as the war briefer for two 4-star commanders-in-chief during Operation Desert Storm in the 1990-1991 Gulf War. She also served as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. Department of State in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

A California native, East was raised in Japan and France, and received her law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law after completing her undergraduate studies at Stanford University.

"I look forward to working with Judge East as the next Assistant Presiding Judge of our court," Judge Massullo said. "Her career has been committed to service to our country and community, and she is recognized as an outstanding jurist."

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