

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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BRANDON E. RILEY
Court Executive Officer

San Francisco Superior Court Judges Elect the Hon. Monica F. Wiley as Next Assistant Presiding Judge



SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The judges of the San Francisco Superior Court have elected Judge Monica F. Wiley as the Court's next Assistant Presiding Judge. She will begin a two-year term on January 1, 2027, succeeding Judge Christopher C. Hite, who becomes Presiding Judge that same day. As Assistant Presiding Judge, she will work with Presiding Judge-elect Hite and Court Executive Officer Brandon E. Riley on court-wide matters while continuing to hear trials in the Unified Family Court.

"It is an honor to be elected by my colleagues to serve on the leadership team as the Assistant Presiding Judge," said Assistant Presiding Judge-elect Wiley. "I look forward to working with Presiding Judge-elect Christopher Hite and all of the judicial officers, as well as administrative and court staff, to ensure we continue this Court's longstanding tradition of excellence, fairness, and efficiency. I also want to thank Presiding Judge East and Presiding Judge-elect Hite for their leadership over the past two years."

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Judge Wiley to the San Francisco Superior Court on September 1, 2009. She has handled civil jury trials, family law motions and trials, felony arraignments and preliminary hearings, and dependency and juvenile justice cases. She served as Assistant Supervising Judge of the Unified Family Court from 2017 to 2018 and as its Supervising Judge from January 2018 to February 2024.

"Judge Wiley is a respected leader on this Court and across California's judiciary," Presiding Judge-elect Hite said. "She has served in our civil, criminal, family, and juvenile courts, led our Unified Family Court for six years, and helped train new judges throughout the state for more than a decade. Her experience and judgment will serve the Court well, and I look forward to working with her closely over the next two years."

Within the San Francisco Superior Court, Judge Wiley has served on the Executive Committee, the Governance Committee, the Strategic Planning Committee, and the selection committees for the Court Executive Officer and Court Commissioner. She also serves on the Court's Judicial Mentor Program Committee and previously served on its New Judges Orientation Committee.

Judge Wiley has taught judges statewide since 2014. She serves on the faculty of the Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), including its New Judge Orientation program. She is a member of the B.E. Witkin Judicial College Steering Committee and serves on the faculty of the College. She is also a member of the Judicial Council's Family and Juvenile Law Advisory Committee, its Juvenile Law Curriculum Committee, and a Commissioner on the California Commission on Access to Justice. In June 2024, the California Supreme Court appointed Judge Wiley Vice Chair of its Applicant Evaluation and Nomination Committee.

Judge Wiley served as President of the Association of African American California Judicial Officers from 2023 to 2025. She is an associate member of the San Francisco Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates and President-Elect of the California Chapter of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts. She is also an adjunct professor at UC Law San Francisco, where she teaches a trial advocacy class.

Judge Wiley's recent honors include the California Judges Association's 2025 President's Award for Outstanding Service to the California Judiciary, the California Association of Black Lawyers' 2025 Guardian of Justice Award, and San Francisco CASA's 2025 Champion for Children Award. In 2023, the National Judicial College named her a Courageous Judge as part of its 60th anniversary. She was also named Family Law Judicial Officer of the Year by the California Lawyers Association in 2022 and the Bernard S. Jefferson Judge of the Year by the California Association of Black Lawyers in 2021.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Wiley worked as a senior associate at the law firm of Carlson, Calladine & Peterson LLP in San Francisco handling catastrophic personal injury and bad faith insurance claims for individual and corporate defendants. Prior to joining the private sector, Judge Wiley served as a Deputy City Attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office for over ten years litigating complex personal injury matters and civil rights actions and tried 27 trials to verdict in state and federal court. Judge Wiley also served as a legal research attorney for Judge David A. Garcia (ret.) in the Court's law and motion department.

Judge Wiley earned her bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley in 1992 and her law degree, cum laude, from Howard University School of Law in 1995.

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