

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

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SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT BENCH ELECTS THE HON. ROCHELLE C. EAST TO SERVE AS PRESIDING JUDGE

SAN FRANCISCO -- The San Francisco Superior Court bench has elected Assistant Presiding Judge Rochelle C. East to serve as the incoming Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court, effective January 1, 2025. Judge East is the Court's first female Presiding Judge of Hispanic/Native American descent.

Judge East, a former top administrator in the California Attorney General's Office and wartime Naval officer, has served as Assistant Presiding Judge for the past two years and will continue her history of service with the Court.

"Judge East and I have worked as a team for the Court over the last two years," said current Presiding Judge Anne-Christine Massullo. "Judge East's dedication to the community we serve and her in-depth experience at the Hall of Justice, Unified Family Court, and Civil Division will make her an exceptional Presiding Judge. She is the type of leader we need to thoughtfully and strategically manage our resources in the upcoming years, including our work to begin building a new criminal courthouse in the next five years."

Judge East is currently assigned to preside over Asbestos Case Management, CEQA land use cases, and Law and Motion. She has also 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. Since joining the bench, she has presided over more than 100 jury trials and more than 400 bench trials since she joined the bench.

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2-2-2-2

Prior to her appointment to the court, Judge East worked at the California Attorney General's Office as a civil litigator and managing attorney. She was then 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 ten 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, Judge 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.

The San Francisco Court Bench is comprised of 52 Judges and one Commissioner.

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