

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara



CONTACT

JOSEPH D. MACALUSO
Public Information Officer
jmacaluso@scscourt.org
(408) 882-2715 desk
(408) 691-0046 cell

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Santa Clara County Judges Elect New Leadership

Assistant Presiding Judge Brian Walsh elevated to Presiding Judge; Judge Risë Pichon named new Assistant Presiding Judge.

SAN JOSE, Calif. (September 20, 2012): today, the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara (Court) has elected its new leadership for the 2013-15 term, with Assistant Presiding Judge Brian Walsh elevated to Presiding Judge and Judge Risë Pichon named new Assistant Presiding Judge.

"I wholeheartedly congratulate Judges Walsh and Pichon on their new roles and am confident that, under Judge Walsh's leadership, the Court will continue to serve Santa Clara County residents with the utmost integrity while tackling the tremendous fiscal challenges ahead," said Presiding Judge Richard J. Loftus, Jr. "Having worked closely with Judge Walsh over the past two years, I know that I'll be leaving the Court's helm in incredibly capable hands."

The Court's leadership transition will become effective on January 1, 2013.

ABOUT PRESIDING JUDGE-ELECT BRIAN WALSH

Judge Brian Walsh was first appointed to the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara County in 2000 and is currently the Assistant Presiding Judge. Assistant Presiding Judge Walsh was admitted to the Bar in 1972 and earned his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Notre Dame and his Juris Doctor from University of California Berkeley Law School (Boalt Hall).

Before being appointed, Assistant Presiding Judge Walsh was in private practice and served as Managing Partner with McTernan, Stender, Walsh, Weingus & Tondreau (1975-2000) and was co-director of the Legal Aid Society of Monterey County (1972-74).

Born and raised in San Jose, Assistant Presiding Judge Walsh has been involved in many community activities, including President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, President of the Board of Directors for Loaves and Fishes Family Kitchen, Campaign Ethics Foundation Board of Directors, Alexian Brothers Hospital Ethics Committee and President of the Alexian Brothers Foundation Board.

Assistant Presiding Judge Walsh's many honors include 2012 Trial Judge of the Year (Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers), 2011 Unsung Hero Award (Santa Clara County Bar Association Diversity Committee), 2002 Byrl R. Salsman Award (Santa Clara County Bar Association) and 1999 Professional Lawyer of the Year (Santa Clara County Bar Association).

ABOUT ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE-ELECT RISÉ PICHON

Judge Risë Pichon was first appointed to the Municipal Court of Santa Clara County in July 1984 and is currently the Supervising Judge for the Criminal Division. Judge Pichon was admitted to the Bar in 1976 and earned both her Bachelor of Science and Juris Doctor degrees from Santa Clara University.

Before being appointed, Judge Pichon was an attorney with the Office of the Public Defender (1976-79) and the Office of the County Counsel (1979-83). Judge Pichon also served as a Commissioner for the Municipal Court of Santa Clara County (1983-84).

A resident of Santa Clara County since 1969, Judge Pichon has been involved in many community activities, including President of the St. Thomas More Society Board of Directors, as well as Santa Clara University School of Law's 100th Anniversary Committee, Strategic Planning Committee, Markkula Center for Applied Ethics Advisory Board, Self-Study Committee and Board of Visitors.

Judge Pichon's many honors include 2012 "100 Women of Influence" (Silicon Valley Business Journal), 2011 Judge of the Year (Santa Clara County Bar Association) and 2011 Social Justice and Human Rights Award (Santa Clara University School of Law)).

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