

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

191 North First Street
San Jose, California 95113
(408) 882-2700

DAVID H. YAMASAKI
Chief Executive Officer



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Contact Person: Carl Schulhof, Public Information Officer
408-882-2856

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Superior Court Elects Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge

The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara is pleased to announce the election of a new Presiding Judge for 2009 and 2010, Hon. Jamie A. Jacobs-May. In addition, Hon. Richard J. Loftus, Jr. was elected as Assistant Presiding Judge for the same period. Judge Jacobs-May will succeed Judge Catherine A. Gallagher, who has served as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court for 2007 and 2008.

A graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, Judge Jacobs-May was appointed to the Santa Clara County Municipal Court bench in 1989 and was elevated to the Superior Court bench in 1998. She has served as the Superior Court's Assistant Presiding Judge for 2007 and 2008, and is currently a member of the Judicial Council of California, the policy-making body of the California courts. Judge Jacobs-May has served on numerous committees of the Santa Clara County Bar Association, the Superior Court and Judicial Council advisory committees. She teaches frequently and has been a faculty member/guest lecturer for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research, the Santa Clara County Bar Association, and the judicial ethics program. Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Jacobs-May was employed as a Deputy Attorney General for the California Attorney General's Office (1974 – 1981), an associate with Berliner, Cohen (1981 – 1983) and a Deputy County Counsel with the Santa Clara County Counsel's Office (1983 – 1989). One of Judge Jacobs-May's first duties will be to determine the 2009 assignments of judicial officers.

Assistant Presiding Judge-Elect Richard J. Loftus, Jr. was appointed to the Superior Court bench in 1998. He received his J.D. from the University of Michigan in 1972 and has previous legal experience with General Motors Corp. (1972 – 1975), Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel (1975 – 1977), Patterson & Taggart (1977 – 1979), and Littler, Mendelson (1979 – 1998, Managing Shareholder). Judge Loftus is an Adjunct Professor for Labor and Employment Law at Lincoln Law School in San Jose and is a past President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association (1997). He is currently assigned to hear civil trials at the Downtown Superior Courthouse.

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Upon learning of her election by her peers, Judge Jacobs-May expressed her gratitude and indicated that she is looking forward to the challenges she will face upon assuming office.

The Presiding Judge has ultimate responsibility for the Court's budget and performs a variety of duties related to overall Court administration. Judge Jacobs-May's term as Presiding Judge will commence January 1, 2009.