

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

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Presiding Judge Elected

The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara today elected a new Presiding Judge for 2005 and 2006, Hon. Alden E. Danner. In addition, Hon. Catherine Gallagher was elected as Assistant Presiding Judge for the same period. Judge Danner will succeed Judge Thomas P. Hansen, who has served as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court for 2003 and 2004.

A graduate of Stanford University Law School, Judge Danner was appointed to the Superior Court bench in 1989 after practicing law in the civil arena. He has served as a board member of the California Judges' Association and as Chair of the Judicial Technology Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee of the Superior Court, and has presided over numerous criminal and civil trials as well as juvenile and family law cases. One of Judge Danner's first duties will be to determine the 2005 assignments of judicial officers.

After her service as a Municipal Court judge from 1984 to 1989, Judge Gallagher was appointed to the Superior Court bench in 1989 and currently is assigned trials in the Civil Division. She has served on several judicial committees and presided over criminal, civil, probate, family and juvenile proceedings. She is also currently a board member of the California Judges' Association. Judge Gallagher will serve in the capacity of Presiding Judge during any absence of Judge Danner.

Upon learning of his election by his peers, Judge Danner expressed his gratitude and indicated that he is looking forward to the challenges he 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 Danner's term as Presiding Judge will commence January 1, 2005.