



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 12, 2022

Santa Clara County Superior Welcomes Commissioner Johanna Thai Van Dat to the Bench

SAN JOSÉ, California (September 12, 2022): In a hybrid ceremony, on Friday, September 9, 2022, Commissioner Johanna Thai Van Dat was sworn in as a judicial officer to the Santa Clara County Superior Court bench. Commissioner Thai Van Dat fills the vacancy left by Judge Esquivel-Pedroza after her appointment to a judgeship by Governor Gavin Newsom.

Commissioner Thai Van Dat comes to the bench with an extensive public service background. For the past 17 years, she worked for the Superior Court's Family Law Facilitator's Office/Self Help Center as Lead Attorney and Staff Attorney. In those roles, Ms. Thai Van Dat assisted thousands of self represented litigants in family, civil, probate law, and small claims matters. She also provided judicial support on law and motion calendars and day-of-court mediation services to self-represented litigants appearing in Family Court. Ms. Thai Van Dat has also served as a member of the Court's Community Outreach and Self-Represented Litigants' Committees. She was a commissioner on the Santa Clara Child Abuse Prevention Council and chaired its Public Awareness Committee.

Prior to joining the Court, Ms. Thai Van Dat worked for Law Foundation of Silicon Valley representing and advocating for mental health consumers in accessing Social Security and public benefits. Ms. Thai Van Dat holds an undergraduate degree from the University of California, Berkeley in Political Science and a law degree with certificates in Public Interest Law and International Law from Santa Clara University. Given her multi-cultural and multilingual background, she enjoys being part of and serving this globally diverse county.

"Commissioner Thai Van Dat has dedicated both herself and her life's work to the service of the people of Santa Clara County. The breadth of her experience and knowledge will be a tremendous asset to the Court as she contributes to our core mission of providing equal access to justice for all," said Presiding Judge Theodore C. Zayner.

