

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara

CONTACT
BENJAMIN T. RADA
Public Affairs
brada@scscourt.org
(408) 882-2709 desk
(408) 334-9236 cell



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 18, 2020

The Santa Clara County Superior Court Bench Elect New Leadership for 2021-2022

Hon. Theodore C. Zayner was elected Presiding Judge and Hon. Beth McGowen Assistant Presiding Judge of the Santa Clara County Superior Court. Judge Zayner and Judge McGowen will begin their two-year terms in the Court's two top leadership positions on January 1, 2021.

Theodore C. Zayner – Presiding Judge-Elect

Judge Zayner is the current Assistant Presiding Judge and was appointed to the Bench in 2009. Judge Zayner's judicial career has included assignments in the Civil, Criminal, Family, Drug, and Appellate Divisions, and he has served as Supervising Judge of the Civil Division. He has served as Chair of the Budget/ Finance and Information Technology Services (ITS) Committees. He has been an integral and active member of committees for the Superior Court and the Judicial Council of California.

Judge Zayner is actively involved in legal and judicial education as a lecturer and instructor with the Santa Clara County Bar Association, Judicial Council of California Center for Judicial Education and Research, and California Judges Association (CJA). He is a member of the CJA Executive Board and the Board of Governors of the Association of Business Trial Lawyers of Northern California. He is the President of the Hon. William A. Ingram American Inn of Court. He was named Trial Judge of the Year in 2016 by the Santa Clara County Trial Lawyers Association.

Judge Zayner was admitted to the Bar in 1983, having earned his Bachelor of Arts from Stanford University and his Juris Doctorate from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. He started law practice in downtown San Jose with Ropers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley immediately upon receiving his law degree, and continued in private civil litigation practice in the South Bay with several local firms, and as a sole practitioner and mediator, until joining the Court.

Beth McGowen – Assistant Presiding Judge-Elect

Judge McGowen was appointed to the Bench in 2009. Her judicial career has included assignments in Criminal, Juvenile Justice, Domestic Violence, Civil, and as an all-purpose Family Court Judge. She is currently the Supervisor of the Civil Division. She served on the South County Mayor's Gang Task Force and several Court Committees, including the Strategic Planning Committee, the Domestic Violence Committee, the Education Committee, and Chair of

the Court's Personnel Committee. She currently sits on the Judicial Council's Advisory Committee for Civil and Small Claims matters.

Judge Beth McGowen began her legal career at McCutchen, Doyle, Brown & Enersen. She is a past member of the Board of Directors for the Silicon Valley Law Foundation and past president of the Santa Clara County Bar Association's Women Lawyers Committee.