

Superior Court of California County of Santa Clara



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Santa Clara County Judges Elect New Leadership

*Assistant Presiding Judge Deborah Ryan to become Presiding Judge;
Judge Theodore Zayner named new Assistant Presiding Judge.*

SAN JOSE, Calif. (September 27, 2018): The Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara has elected its new leadership for the 2019-20 term, with Assistant Presiding Judge Deborah Ryan elevated to Presiding Judge and Judge Theodore Zayner named new Assistant Presiding Judge.

“I am delighted to announce the selection of two exceptional leaders to guide our Court in the coming years,” said Presiding Judge Patricia Lucas. “With nearly twenty years on our bench, Presiding Judge-Elect Deborah Ryan has served in almost every assignment. She has deep knowledge of the court’s operations and culture, and is well known in all segments of the local justice community. Assistant Presiding Judge-Elect Ted Zayner is also well known in the legal community as a fair and thoughtful jurist with proven leadership abilities.”

The Court’s leadership transition will become effective on January 1, 2019.

ABOUT PRESIDING JUDGE-ELECT DEBORAH RYAN

Judge Deborah Ryan was elected by the bench in 1999 to serve as a Santa Clara County Superior Court commissioner. She then was appointed to a judgeship by the Governor in 2010, and in 2016 was elected by the bench to her current position as the Assistant Presiding Judge.

Admitted to the Bar in 1977, Assistant Presiding Judge Ryan earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Davis and her Juris Doctorate from Santa Clara University. Before joining the Court, Assistant Presiding Judge Ryan was an attorney with the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency, Office of the Public Defender and the Office of the County Counsel.

A resident of Santa Clara County since 1974, Assistant Presiding Judge Ryan has been involved in many community activities with an emphasis on legal education, including California Center for Judicial Education and Research, California Judges Association Executive Board and Ethics Committee – as well as teaching extensively on California’s traffic laws and legal ethics.

ABOUT ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE-ELECT THEODORE ZAYNER

Judge Theodore Zayner was first appointed to the bench in 2009. Currently, Judge Zayner is the Supervising Judge for the Civil Division. 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.

Judge Zayner has been 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, and he is President-Elect 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.

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