



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 16, 2016

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FORMAL INSTALLATION CEREMONY FOR JUDGE MICHELE M. CASTILLO

The formal installation ceremony for Judge Michele M. Castillo will take place on Friday, September 23, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom 22 of the Hall of Justice in Ventura. The ceremony will be open to the public, elected officials, local bar association, and representatives of court-related county departments. The press is invited to attend and to take any desired photographs during these special ceremonial proceedings.

Scheduled speakers include Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson; Ventura County Supervisor Kathy Long; Ventura County Bar Association President Charmaine Boehner; Chief Deputy Public Defender Rod Kodman; Oxnard Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Ramirez; and field representatives from the offices of Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin, and Assembly Member Das Williams.

Presiding Judge Donald D. Coleman and Assistant Presiding Judge Patricia M. Murphy will lead the ceremony. The oath of office will be administered by retired Judge Rebecca S. Riley. Judge Castillo's mother, Patricia Castillo, and brothers, Robert and Jeffrey Castillo, will assist with the enrobing.

Judge Castillo was appointed to the bench by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., on June 28, 2016. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Rebecca S. Riley in November 2015.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Castillo had served as a Commissioner with the Ventura Superior Court since August 2014, hearing child support and various restraining orders.

Previous to that, she was a Deputy Public Defender III with the Ventura County Public Defender's Office from 2005 to 2014, where she was responsible for defending indigent persons in felony, misdemeanor, juvenile delinquency, probate and specialty courts, including Mental Health Court, Veteran's Court, Homeless Court and the Hospital Courts.

She was a Deputy Public Defender II for the Fresno County Public Defender's Office from 2003 to 2005, defending indigent persons in misdemeanor and juvenile delinquency courts.

From May 2002 to October 2003, she was a criminal defense attorney for John A. Barker and Associates, the alternative public defender for Fresno County. Her assignments included indigent defense in felony arraignments, preliminary hearings and misdemeanors, as well as juvenile dependency proceedings.

Judge Castillo is a graduate of UCLA and earned her law degree from Thomas Jefferson School of Law. She is currently assigned to Courtroom 45 hearing criminal trials.

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