



# 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**

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## **VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT ELECTS PRESIDING AND ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGES FOR 2017 and 2018**

The Judges of the Ventura Superior Court have elected Judge Patricia M. Murphy as Presiding Judge and Judge Kent M. Kellegrew as Assistant Presiding Judge for 2017 and 2018. The new term for both begins January 1, 2017.

Judge Murphy was appointed to the Ventura Superior Court in March 2006 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. She has been a judge for 10 years, hearing a variety of criminal matters. She is currently the Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Murphy was a prosecutor with the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. She began as a Deputy District Attorney in 1987, advancing to the positions of Senior Attorney in the Major Crimes Unit, and Supervising Attorney of the Family Protection Unit. In 2002 she was appointed as Chief Assistant District Attorney, that agency's second highest position, which she held until her appointment to the bench in 2006.

Judge Murphy earned her bachelor's degree at California State University Northridge and her law degree from Southwestern Law School.

Judge Kellegrew has served as a Ventura Superior Court judge for 16 years. He is currently the Supervising Judge of the Civil Division. Past assignments have included family law, civil, mental health, probate, conservatorship, guardianship and criminal.

He is a past Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association Judge of the Year, and is currently a member of the California Judicial Council Appellate Advisory Committee. He was also the Ventura County Office of Education Mock Trial Coordinator for ten years.

Judge Kellegrew was appointed to the Ventura Superior Court in October 1999 by Governor Gray Davis. Prior to that he was a Ventura Municipal Court Commissioner for two years, presiding over the traffic arraignment and probate calendars.

Judge Kellegrew began his legal career in 1982 as a research attorney for the California District Court of Appeal. From 1983 to 1985 he worked as a Deputy District Attorney for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. He then joined the law firm of Nordman, Cormany, Hair and Compton from 1985 to 1997, becoming a senior partner specializing in business litigation. He left the firm in 1997 to become a court commissioner.

Judge Kellegrew earned his bachelor's degree at California State University Northridge, where he graduated magna cum laude, and his law degree from Southwestern Law School.

The Presiding Judge, with the assistance of the Court Executive Officer, is responsible for leading the court, establishing policies, and allocating resources in a manner that promotes equal access to justice, maximizes the use of judicial and other resources, increases efficiency in court operations, and enhances service to the public.

The Assistant Presiding Judge performs duties as assigned by the Presiding Judge, and in the absence of the Presiding Judge, exercises the powers of the Presiding Judge.

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