



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: March 9, 2018

Contact: Robert Sherman
Assistant Executive Officer
(805) 289-8514

FORMAL INSTALLATION CEREMONY FOR JUDGE BENJAMIN F. COATS

The formal installation ceremony for Judge Benjamin F. Coats will take place on Friday, March 16, 2018, 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 Field Representative Daniel Dominguez on behalf of Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Field Representative Betsi Cervantes on behalf of Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Field Representative Samantha Omana on behalf of Assemblymember Monique Limón, Field Representative Steve Offerman on behalf of Supervisor Steve Bennett, Ventura County Bar Association President Mark Kirwin, attorney and friend Dan Carobini, attorney and friend Ben Engle, and attorney and former national president of the American Board of Trial Advocates Robert Stone.

The ceremony will be led by Presiding Judge Patricia M. Murphy and Assistant Presiding Judge Kent M. Kellegrew. The oath of office will be administered by Judge Frederick H. Bysshe. Judge Coats' son, Sam Coats, and sister, Pam VanDeKamp, will assist with the enrobing.

Judge Coats was appointed to the bench by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., on December 22, 2017. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Colleen Toy White in October of 2017.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Coats had been a partner at Engle Carobini and Coats LLP since 2007. From 2005 to 2006, he was a partner at Engle and Bride, where he was an associate from 1998 to 2005. He was an associate at Belsher and Becker from

1995 to 1998, a planning consultant at Rogoway Planning Group from 1995 to 1998 and a trial attorney at Early Maslach from 1989 to 1994.

Judge Coats earned his law degree from the John F. Kennedy University College of Law, his Bachelors degree from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Masters degree from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. He is currently assigned to Courtroom 44 hearing criminal trials, motions and preliminary hearings.

#