



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Hall of Justice

800 South Victoria Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

Brenda L. McCormick

Executive Officer/Clerk and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT SELECTS NEW COMMISSIONER

The judges of the Ventura Superior Court have announced the selection of R. Paul Kawai as the court's newest commissioner. Mr. Kawai is an accomplished trial attorney with over 19 years of experience. He will join the court on August 3, 2021.

Mr. Kawai is currently a Senior Deputy Public Defender with the Ventura County Public Defender's Office, where he represents criminal defendants in all types of felony matters. Prior to that, he was proprietor of his own law practice, the Kawai Law Group, from 2010 to 2014, specializing in criminal defense.

From 2007 to 2010, he served as an attorney with the Utah County Public Defender Association, where he maintained a felony caseload of approximately 200 cases per year. Before that, he was a junior partner with the law firm Esplin Weight from 2001 to 2006, litigating criminal defense, criminal and civil appeals, domestic law and tort matters.

Mr. Kawai served on the Governor's Gang Task Force in Salt Lake City, Utah, from 2008 to 2011, which was charged with the development and implementation of legislation and programs to reduce gang related activity, crime and violence.

Mr. Kawai has been a Judge Advocate with the U.S. Army Reserves since 2003. He is currently Team Chief, responsible for supervising and training a team of 16 army lawyers, providing legal assistance to service members, and instructing commanders, officers, and soldiers in areas of military law. He also served as Command Judge Advocate with the U.S. Army in Afghanistan from 2006 to 2007 and is a recipient of the Bronze Star.

Mr. Kawai is a graduate of Brigham Young University and earned his law degree from the J. Reuben Clark School of Law.

Superior Court Commissioners hear matters including, but not limited to, Family Law, Juvenile Delinquency and Dependency, Child Support Services, Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment, Traffic, Criminal and Small Claims.

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