



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 2013 and 2014

On September 12, 2012, the Judges of the Ventura Superior Court unanimously elected Judge Brian J. Back as Presiding Judge and Judge Donald D. Coleman as Assistant Presiding Judge for 2013 and 2014. The new term for both begins January 1, 2013.

Judge Back was appointed to the Ventura Municipal Court by Governor Pete Wilson in 1997 and elevated to the Superior Court in 1998 by court unification. He has been a judge for 14 years. He has served as the Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge since January 2011.

Judge Back is currently assigned to the criminal division. Previous assignments have included juvenile delinquency, family law, guardianship, domestic violence, and adult mental health courts. Judge Back has presided over specialized juvenile drug and mental health calendars and served on numerous professional and community boards and commissions. In 2003, he was named Judge of the Year by the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Back was an attorney with Arnold, Back, Mathews, Wojkowski & Zirbel from 1990 to 1997, Arnold & Back from 1989 to 1990, and Nordman, Cormany, Hair & Compton from 1977 to 1989. His area of specialization was civil litigation and business law.

Judge Back earned his bachelor's degree at Claremont Men's College and his law degree from the University of Santa Clara Law School. He also holds a master's degree in Government from the Claremont Graduate School.

Judge Coleman has served as a Ventura Superior Court judge for 15 years. He is currently the Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division and is a former Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Division. Past assignments have included criminal trials, juvenile dependency and juvenile delinquency. He has also presided over the specialized Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court and Juvenile Mental Health Court calendars.

Judge Coleman was elected to the Ventura Superior Court in March 1996. His term of office began January 1997. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Coleman was a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office for 18 years. He advanced through the positions of Deputy District Attorney, Senior Trial Attorney, and Special Assistant District Attorney. His final three years in the District Attorney's Office were in the position of Chief Deputy District Attorney.

Judge Coleman earned his bachelor's degree at UCLA and his law degree from Southwestern Law School. He served in Vietnam as a member of the United States Army.

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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