



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

## **VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT ELECTS PRESIDING AND ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGES FOR 2015 and 2016**

The Judges of the Ventura Superior Court have elected Judge Donald D. Coleman as Presiding Judge and Judge Patricia M. Murphy as Assistant Presiding Judge for 2015 and 2016. The new term for both begins January 1, 2015.

Judge Coleman has served as a Ventura Superior Court judge for 18 years. He is currently the Superior Court Assistant Presiding Judge, as well as the Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division. He 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 calendar.

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 Sergeant/Spec 5 in the United States Army during 1970-71.

Judge Murphy was appointed to the Ventura Superior Court by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in March 2006. She has been a judge for eight years assigned to the criminal division.

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.

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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