



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: January 25, 2018

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FORMAL INSTALLATION CEREMONY FOR JUDGE JOANN JOHNSON

The formal installation ceremony for Judge JoAnn Johnson will take place on Thursday, February 1, 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 Judge John R. Smiley, Ventura County Bar Association President Mark Kirwin, Field Representative Daniel Dominguez on behalf of Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Field Representative Samantha Omana on behalf of Assemblymember Monique Limón, and Field Representative Karie Portillo Guerra on behalf of Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin.

Presiding Judge Patricia M. Murphy and Assistant Presiding Judge Kent M. Kellegrew will lead the ceremony. The oath of office will be administered by retired Judge Colleen Toy White. Judge Johnson's husband, Joe Aranda, and Court Senior Attorney Lidia Almaguer will assist with the enrobing.

Judge Johnson was appointed to the bench by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr., on November 2, 2017. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Donald D. Coleman in April of 2017.

Prior to her appointment, Judge Johnson served as a commissioner with the Ventura Superior Court for over seven years, hearing family law, child custody, and domestic violence and civil restraining orders. From 2002 to 2010, she was a Senior Court Attorney and Supervising Family Law Facilitator for the Ventura

Superior Court Family Law Self-Help Centers at the Hall of Justice, East County Courthouse, and Juvenile Courthouse. Before that, she was the sole practitioner in the Law Offices of JoAnn Johnson from 1993 to 2002. Her primary areas of practice included civil law, as well as bankruptcy and worker's compensation.

Judge Johnson is a former director for the Family Law Bar Association and the Family Law Facilitator's Association. She has served on several statewide committees associated with the California Judicial Council, including the Domestic Violence Task Force and Elder Abuse, Self-Represented Litigants, and Case Management committees. She is a frequent presenter at various Judicial Council sponsored trainings for facilitators and AB 1058 commissioners, as well as the Child Support Directors Association and Family Law Institute. She has been an adjunct professor at the Ventura and Santa Barbara Colleges of Law since 2003, teaching courses on family law and community property.

Judge Johnson was named Judicial Officer of the Year in 2011 by the California Child Support Directors Association and is a past recipient of the Knights of Columbus Public Safety Award.

Judge Johnson earned her law degree from Ventura College of Law and a certificate in mediation from the Straus Institute at Pepperdine University. She is currently assigned to Courtroom 35 hearing family law matters.

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