



# NEWS RELEASE

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## GOVERNOR APPOINTS TWO NEW JUDGES TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
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Riverside, CA 92501

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### **RIVERSIDE COUNTY:**

On October 22, 2025, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the appointment of Gareit Newstrom and Jonathan Mendoza to vacant judgeships in the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside.

Gareit Newstrom, of Orange County, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Riverside County Superior Court. Newstrom has served as a Commissioner at the Riverside Superior Court since 2022. She was a solo practitioner at Newstrom Law from 2017 to 2022. She worked as a Senior Associate at Hess Verdon and Associates from 2015 to 2017. She was the Owner at Gareit Newstrom Law from 2012 to 2015 and served as a Contract Attorney at the Juvenile Defense Panel from 2008 to 2013. She worked as a Law Clerk at the Cronin Law Group from 2004 to 2007. Newstrom received a Juris Doctor degree from Western State University College of Law. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Chad W. Firetag.

Jonathan Mendoza, of Riverside County, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Riverside County Superior Court. Mendoza has been the Owner of Empire Law since 2017. He served as a Deputy Public Defender at the Riverside County Public Defender's Office from 2011 to 2017. Mendoza worked as a solo practitioner at the Law Office of Jonathan Mendoza from 2010 to 2011. Mendoza received a Juris Doctor degree from the University of La Verne School of Law. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Frederick P. Dickerson.

A state Judicial Needs Assessment has found that the Riverside Superior Court is in dire need of judgeships to help process the growing caseloads in its communities. The filling of these vacancies by Gareit Newstrom and Jonathan Mendoza will greatly assist the Court's goal in continuing to provide access to justice for court litigants.

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