



NEWS RELEASE

GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW JUDGES TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF
CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE
4050 Main Street
Riverside, CA 92501

951.777.3163

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Contact: Marita C. Ford, Public Information Officer

RIVERSIDE COUNTY:

On March 25, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the appointments of Manuel Bustamante Jr. and Valerie A. Navarro to vacant judgeships in the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside.

Manuel Bustamante Jr., 41, of La Quinta, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Riverside County Superior Court. Mr. Bustamante has been a Trial Attorney at the Walter Clark Legal Group since 2019 and an Adjunct Professor at California State University, San Bernardino since 2009. He served as a Deputy District Attorney at the Riverside County District Attorney's Office from 2006 to 2019. He earned a Juris Doctor degree from Pepperdine School of Law. Mr. Bustamante fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge David A. Gunn.

Valerie A. Navarro, 40, of Eastvale, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Riverside County Superior Court. Ms. Navarro has served as a Deputy Public Defender at the Law Offices of the Riverside County Public Defender since 2007. She was a Paralegal at Community Legal Aid SoCal in 2007. Ms. Navarro earned a Juris Doctor degree from the Western State University, College of Law. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Bambi J. Moyer.

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 Mr. Bustamante and Ms. Navarro will greatly assist the Court's goal in continuing to provide access to justice for court litigants.

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