



SUPERIOR COURT
OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF
SANTA CRUZ
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

New Judicial Leadership Changes

Santa Cruz— The Superior Court of Santa Cruz County is pleased to announce that the Honorable Jerry Bustos Vinluan III has been elected by the bench to serve as the Presiding Judge (PJ) and the Honorable Erika Ziegenhorn has been elected to serve as Assistant Presiding Judge. Their new terms will commence on January 1, 2026.

Judge Vinluan has served on the Santa Cruz Superior Court bench since 2021, after being appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom. He is serving as both the Assistant Presiding Judge and the Juvenile Presiding Judge, with both terms concluding on December 31, 2025. He currently presides over Juvenile Justice and Civil Harassment Retraining Orders. In addition, Judge Vinluan contributes to the Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission and serves on the Judicial Council's Appellate Advisory Committee.

Judge Ziegenhorn has served on the Santa Cruz Superior Court bench since 2023, after being appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom. She currently presides over Dependency, Small Claims as the Lead Judge and Adoptions. Judge Ziegenhorn is also an active member of the Children's Network Cabinet and the Foster Youth EAC.

Beginning January 1, 2026, Judge Vinluan will begin the felony assignment in Department 3 and Judge Ziegenhorn will begin the family law assignment in Department D.

