

**Superior Court of California
County of Santa Clara**



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**Court Lauds Outgoing Presiding Judge Risë Jones Pichon for
Her Steady Leadership**

*On New Year's Day, Hon. Patricia M. Lucas assumed helm as Presiding Judge
and Hon. Deborah A. Ryan assumed role as Assistant Presiding Judge.*

SAN JOSÉ, Calif. (January 3, 2017): On January 1, 2017, Hon. Patricia M. Lucas began her two-year term as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara. Judge Lucas shoulders the responsibilities passed to her by outgoing Presiding Judge, Hon. Risë Jones Pichon, who served as the Court's judicial leader from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

Also effective on this day, Hon. Deborah A. Ryan took on her role as the Court's new Assistant Presiding Judge, in addition to her duties as the Supervising Judge of the Criminal and Traffic Divisions. The Court's judicial leadership rotates on a two-year cycle: Presiding Judge Lucas will serve in this capacity until December 31, 2018, when Judge Ryan is expected to step into the role of Presiding Judge.

"Judge Pichon certainly deserves our enduring gratitude for all that she achieved during her time as Presiding Judge. From the implementation of our new computerized case management system to the completion and opening of our new Family Justice Center Courthouse, Judge Pichon has helped steer our Court through difficult economic times with her trademark grace and dignity," said Presiding Judge Lucas.

Judge Lucas continued, "Certainly, we have tremendous challenges ahead, but our commitment to the residents of Santa Clara County and those we serve has never been stronger. I am confident that we will continue to build on the advances made during Judge Pichon's tenure and will find innovative ways to deliver services despite substantially reduced court funding."

Judge Pichon will remain on the Bench and preside over the Court's probate calendars. She will also continue to serve on the Court's Executive Committee, in her capacity as Immediate Past Presiding Judge.

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