



SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF YOLO

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PRESS RELEASE

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Presiding Judge Janet Gaard announced today that, effective in June, the Yolo Superior Court will be making three judicial assignment changes: Judge Steven M. Basha will hear juvenile delinquency matters, Judge Sonia Cortés will hear civil matters, and Judge Samuel McAdam will hear juvenile dependency matters. The changes are in response to the following letter to Judge Gaard from Judge Basha.

“In light of recent events, I believe that my continuing to serve as dependency judge on our Yolo Superior Court would distract from the caring purposes of that Court. I also believe that my reassignment to a different judicial responsibility would assist the families, CASAs, social workers, foster parents, and attorneys to focus on the best interests of our dependency children without that distraction. My approach for the past eight plus years as juvenile dependency judge has been to carefully follow the law and always act in the best interests of those children who through no fault of their own find themselves in dependency court. So it is with sadness that I respectfully request a reassignment but I believe that a reassignment best serves all those in our Court who share that approach. Please know that I will always treasure the time spent as a dependency judge and the incredible opportunity I have had to work with children and their families, CASAs, social workers, foster parents, and attorneys. My sincere thanks to each of them for their dedication and the respect they have shown me during the time I have been privileged to serve as Yolo Superior Court’s dependency judge. I also thank you and my judicial colleagues for the support you have shown me over the years especially these past few days.”

Presiding Judge Gaard responded, “It is with a heavy heart that I am honoring Judge Basha’s request for an assignment change. Judge Basha is a man of integrity who has spent the majority of his judicial career serving the families, and most particularly, the children, of Yolo County. He has performed his duties in a way that is beyond reproach both legally and ethically. His outstanding work as a juvenile dependency judge has been

recognized throughout the State, most recently by the Chief Justice of California. Fortunately, Judge Basha will continue his dedication to our youth and their families in his upcoming assignment as juvenile delinquency judge. I am honored to work alongside him, and I thank him for his past and future service to the Court and the cause of justice. I am also very grateful to my colleagues, particularly Judge Cortés and Judge McAdam, for their understanding and willingness to join with me in honoring Judge Basha's request to be reassigned."