



Superior Court of California County of Riverside

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NEWS ADVISORY

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Governor Appoints Irma Asberry and Mark Petersen to the Riverside Superior Court

Riverside County: The Riverside County Superior Court is pleased to announce the appointment of Irma Poole Asberry and Mark E. Petersen to the Riverside Superior Court bench.

Both judges were appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on Friday, April 13, 2007, to fill vacancies created by the retirements of Judge Dennis McConaghy and Judge Thomas Douglass, Jr. Judge Petersen, who was hired by the court as a commissioner in September 2006, was sworn in yesterday afternoon in Department 22 at the Hall of Justice in Riverside. Judge Asberry will take her oath and assume her official duties as judge once she has made arrangements for the cases from her private family law practice.

Judge Asberry, a longtime Riverside family law attorney, is the county's first female African American judge. She earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of San Diego after earning a Bachelor of Science degree from the University

of California, Riverside. She was a partner with the law firm of Butterwick and Bright in Riverside from 1980 to 1988 before starting her own family law practice in 1988.

Judge Mark Petersen has been a commissioner with the Riverside Superior Court since September 2006. Prior to that, he was in private practice, specializing in criminal law. He also served as a deputy public defender with the Riverside County Public Defender's Office from 2000 to 2005. From 1987 to 2000, he handled civil cases in private practice. He earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Western State University College of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from California State University, Long Beach.

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