



## Superior Court of California County of Riverside

4050 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92501

### **NEWS ADVISORY**

December 3, 2007

Contact: Richard T. Fields, Presiding Judge

(951) 955-5536

(electronic version available at:

<http://riverside.courts.ca.gov/newsmedia/newsmedia.htm> )

### **NEW COMMISSIONERS JOIN THE RIVERSIDE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY:** The court is pleased to announce that three new judicial officers have joined the Riverside County Superior Court. Lawrence Best, Bradley Snell, and Tamara Wagner were recently selected to serve as court commissioners for the court.

Lawrence P. Best comes to the court from the Riverside County District Attorney's Office where he began his career as a prosecutor in 1983. He served as a deputy district attorney in Indio until 1997, handling felony jury trials and the supervision of municipal court deputy district attorneys for the department. In 1997, Best left the district attorney's office to serve as a court commissioner with the Riverside County Superior Court in Indio from 1997 to 1998. While with the court, he presided over traffic court, small claims, unlawful detainers, misdemeanor trials, a criminal law and motion calendar, and preliminary hearings before returning to the district attorney's office in late 1998. Since his return to the district attorney's office as a deputy district attorney in 1998, Best has been responsible for filing and prosecuting criminal cases as well as supervising and training new attorneys. Best earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal law from California State University, Fullerton and a Juris Doctorate degree from University of California, Los Angeles School of Law.

Bradley O. Snell, who also comes from the Riverside County District Attorney's Office, began his legal career with that office in 1991. As a deputy district attorney, he handled a wide range of criminal cases and completed over 50 jury trials. He served as trial team leader for the department's drug unit, handling cases from the filing stage through the sentencing phase. He also mentored young attorneys joining the district attorney's office and trained district attorneys throughout the county on how to establish effective drug prosecutions. Snell earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in broadcast journalism from Brigham Young University and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Arizona College of Law.

Tamara L. Wagner, who was in private practice prior to her selection as court commissioner, began her legal career as an associate with the law firm of Julander, Brown & Bollard in Irvine California, where she handled civil and criminal litigation and conducted Workers Compensation hearings from 1997 until 1998. From 1998 to 1999, Wagner was an associate with the Fountain Valley law firm of Bridgman, Mordkin & Shapiro, handling misdemeanor and felony criminal matters, federal criminal matters, and family law cases. In 1999, she joined the Riverside firm of Wallin & Klarich, where she handled misdemeanor and felony cases, juvenile criminal matters, and family law cases, while also serving as a temporary judge for the Riverside County Superior Court. Ms. Wagner earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in criminal justice from California State University, Fullerton and a Juris Doctorate degree from Whittier Law School in Los Angeles.

Commenting on the new commissioners, Presiding Judge Richard Fields stated, “We’re thrilled to have these outstanding lawyers join us as judicial officers of the Riverside County Superior Court.”

#####