

COMPLEX LITIGATION IN RIVERSIDE SUPERIOR COURT

(revised 6-8-20)

Department 6 has been designated as Riverside Superior Court's only complex litigation department. All complex cases filed in Riverside Superior Court will be assigned to Department 6 for all purposes, including trial.

This applies to complex cases filed in all of the court's three geographical divisions: Western (Riverside), Mid-County (Murrieta), and Eastern (Palm Springs).

It applies both to all complex cases filed after January of 2015 and to all pending complex cases. Exceptions may be allowed for existing cases if the judge to whom a case had been previously assigned has invested so much time in the case that the judge believes that judicial economy would best be served by retaining that case.

For this purpose, "complex" cases are deemed to be:

- All construction defect cases
- All class action cases
- All JCCP coordinated cases
- All cases otherwise determined by the Court to be complex
- All cases designated as provisionally complex by either a plaintiff or a defendant.
- All insurance coverage claims arising out of any of the claims listed above.

If any party believes that a particular case is not likely to be a complex case as defined in California Rules of Court, rule 3.400(a)), that issue should be raised at the first case management conference or status conference.

All PAGA cases – i.e., cases brought under the Labor Code Private Attorneys General Act of 2004 (Lab. Code, § 2698, et seq.) – are assigned to these departments, but are not automatically designated as complex under California Rules of Court, rule 3.400.

All cases brought under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) are also assigned to these departments, but are not likely to be designated as complex under California Rules of Court, rule 3.400.

DEPARTMENT 6: JUDGE PRESIDING

Current Office:

Sunshine S. Sykes, Judge of the Superior Court, appointed by Edmund G. Brown in 2013, elected to a full term in 2014.

Current Assignments:

Judicial: Complex civil independent calendar, May 2019 to present.
Presiding Judge, Appellate Division, 2019 to present.

Administrative: Member, Court's Executive Committee, 2018 to present.
Member, Commissioner Committee, 2019 to present.

Prior Assignments:

Judicial: Unlimited civil trials and case management, 2013-2019.
Appellate Division, 2017 to present.

Administrative: ADR Subcommittee, 2016 to 2018.

State Committees:

Member, Judicial Council Tribal Court/State Court Forum, 2016 to present.

Prior Professional Positions:

Deputy County Counsel, Riverside, California, 2005-2013.

Contract Attorney, Juvenile Defense Panel, Riverside County, 2003-2005.

Staff Attorney/Equal Justice Works Fellow, California Indian Legal Services,
Oakland, CA and Escondido, CA, 2001-2003.

Education:

Stanford Law School, J.D., 2001.

Stanford University, B.A. English, 1997, Graduated with Departmental Honors.

Contact Information:

Mailing address: 4050 Main Street, Department 6, Riverside, CA 92501

DEPARTMENT 6: STAFF

(Revised 6-8-20)

Courtroom Assistant (Clerk):	Susan Salazar:	951-777-3047
Judicial Assistant (Secretary):	Amy Estrada:	951-777-3067
Court Reporter:	Yvonne Soto:	To order a transcript, go to http://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/crttranscripts.shtml
Sheriff's Deputy (Bailiff):	Unassigned	951-777-3068