



# NEWS RELEASE

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## GOVERNOR APPOINTS NEW JUDGE TO RIVERSIDE COUNTY

SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE  
4050 Main Street  
Riverside, CA 92501

951.777.3163

**Release Date: December 12, 2023**

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**RIVERSIDE COUNTY:**

On December 7, 2023, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the appointment of Melissa Hale to a vacant judgeship in the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside.

Melissa Hale, of San Bernardino County, has been appointed to serve as a Judge in the Riverside County Superior Court. Hale has served as a Deputy Public Defender at the Riverside County Public Defender's Office since 2006. She was an Adjunct Professor at the University of La Verne College of Law from 2016 to 2019. Hale earned a Juris Doctor degree from Whittier Law School. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Elaine Kiefer.

A state Judicial Needs Assessment has found that the Riverside Superior Court is in dire need of judgeships to help process the growing caseloads in its communities. The filling of this vacancy by Melissa Hale will greatly assist the Court's goal in continuing to provide access to justice for court litigants.

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Electronic version available at: <https://www.riverside.courts.ca.gov/> under Media Center.