



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF FRESNO



NEWS RELEASE

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Court Executive Officer Retires

Court Executive Officer Tamara L. Beard has announced that she will retire effective December 28, 2012, after 30 years of service in the statewide judicial system and 20 years of service with the Fresno Superior Court. Beard has been the Fresno County Superior Court Executive Officer, Clerk of the Court and Jury Commissioner since 1992.

During Beard's tenure, the Fresno Superior Court became a leader in many areas. It was awarded state KLEPS awards for the grant-funded Spanish Speaking Self-Help Center, Keep Kids in School program, ACTION (After Criminal Traffic Infraction One-stop Network) Center, and the multi-court collaborative Transcript Assembly Program. Even during tough fiscal times, and under Beard's leadership, the Court has sought to improve public access to the judicial system in Fresno County. The Fresno Superior Court is currently working with the California Judicial Council to adopt a State Rule of Court that will authorize this Court to implement a pilot project providing rural county residents the opportunity to attend traffic hearings by remote videoconferencing. The Judicial Council will make its final decision on the proposed Rule of Court in January.

Beard was a member of the California Judicial Council from 2004-2007, as well as numerous other state and local committees. She was the chair of the Judicial Council's Court Executive Advisory Committee in 2005 and president of the California Association of Superior Court Administrators in 1995. In 2002, the California Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court awarded Beard the Judicial Council's Distinguished Service Award in Judicial Administration. She was also named one of the Marjaree Mason Center's Top Ten Business Professional Women of the Year in 2006 and one of Fresno's Most Influential Leaders by *Fresno Magazine* in 2007.

With the prospect of Tamara Beard's retirement, the judges of the Fresno Superior Court announced the appointment of Sheran Morton as Acting Court Executive Officer effective December 29, 2012. Morton began working with the courts in 1986 as the first and only paralegal assigned to the Family Law Department. She was later promoted to the positions of Supervising Court Examiner, Manager of the Family Law Department, the Court's first Juvenile Court Administrator, Director of Operations, and Assistant Court Executive Officer in 2008. Morton has a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Master's Certificate in Judicial Administration from California State University, Sacramento. Morton has also been an instructor for the Court Clerk Training Institute in a number of areas, including family law, juvenile, and probate. Morton's position as Acting Court Executive Officer is a vital post at this juncture. Her unwavering commitment will ensure a continuation of the Fresno Superior Court's mission to provide quality public service and access to the judicial system.

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