

7/12/13 - MARIN IJ: Governor elevates Marin court commissioner to judgeship

A Marin Superior Court commissioner has been appointed to a full judgeship, the governor's office announced Friday.

Beverly Wood, a 56-year-old San Rafael resident, has been a commissioner since 2005. Full judges are appointed by a governor or elected by voters; court commissioners are named by full judges to help with the caseload.

Wood was named to fill a vacant seat created last year when the state judiciary converted one commissioner's position to a full judgeship in Marin. Her annual salary will be \$178,789.

Wood earned a bachelor's degree at the University of California at Berkeley and a law degree at the University of San Francisco School of Law. She worked at three law firms between 1983 and 2005.

As a commissioner, Wood has led the Marin Community Court, a program that offers the homeless ways to eliminate the crushing financial burden of unpaid tickets and fines. Under the program, the court waives the fines if the defendants meet certain conditions, such as seeking employment or drug treatment.

Wood, who declined to state a political affiliation in her voter registration, is the second judicial appointment for Marin County by Gov. Jerry Brown. Judge Mark Talamantes was appointed last year.

With Wood's appointment, the court now has 12 full judges and two commissioners. The longest serving Marin County judge is Lynn Duryee, who received a gubernatorial appointment in 1993 and was retained in subsequent elections.