

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MARIN**



*Press Release
(For immediate release: August 29, 2013)*

**Marin County Superior Court
Announces New Judicial Leadership**

The Marin County Superior Court announces its biennial change in judicial leadership, taking effect on January 1, 2014. The Bench has elected Judge Faye D'Opal to be the Presiding Judge and Judge Kelly V. Simmons as the new Assistant Presiding Judge. Both will serve two-year terms.

Judge D'Opal has served as the Assistant Presiding Judge since January 2012. She was elected to the Superior Court in 2004 and has previously served in criminal, civil and family law assignments. She is presently the Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court, presiding over juvenile delinquency and dependency matters, as well as Juvenile Drug Court. She also presides over probate matters, including conservatorships. Judge D'Opal received her bachelor's degree from Hendrix College in Arkansas and law degree from the New College of California, San Francisco.

Prior to her judicial appointment Judge D'Opal practiced civil law in Marin County and also served as the first Legal Director of the nonprofit agency, Legal Self Help Center of Marin. She lives in Greenbrae with her partner Wanden Treanor. She has two daughters and five grandchildren.

Judge Simmons was appointed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to the Superior Court in 2005. She has presided over a criminal department, as well as several collaborative justice court calendars including STAR Court, Adult Drug Court and Family Violence Court. She earned her bachelor's degree from San Diego State University and law degree from Pepperdine Law School.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Simmons was a deputy district attorney in the Marin County District Attorney's Office for thirteen years. She joined the Bench as a Court Commissioner in 2003, presiding over traffic, misdemeanors and small claims matters.

For additional information regarding this press release,
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