



Judicial Vignettes:

San Bernardino County's Newest Superior Court Judges

by Ed Butler

When new judges are sworn in, our field reporter, Ed Butler, Esq. interviews them and submits for your information, a "Judicial Vignette." These vignettes are added to our online collection of Benchmarks, a frequent feature in the Bar Bulletin.

Judge Christopher B. Marshall

After a 22-year career as a civil litigator, Judge Christopher B. Marshall has followed his father's footsteps into the role of Superior Court judge.

Formerly engaged in medical malpractice defense for many years, Judge Marshall was sworn in Feb. 17 as the newest judge of San Bernardino County Superior Court. Appointed by Gov. Schwarzenegger Jan. 22, he takes the position of Judge Joan Borba, who retired. His varied assignment at Rancho Cucamonga includes various misdemeanor criminal trials and hearings such as "walk ins," preliminary hearings, and motions; the Friday domestic violence calendar; and several long cause civil cases.

Judge Marshall's most recent employment as attorney was that of deputy county counsel for San Bernardino County the past 1½ years. As a member of the general unit, his assignments included advising the flood control district and public works department.

Judge Marshall says he views becoming a judge as a natural outgrowth and development of his career as advocate, into another role that can help decide and resolve cases. He finds it exciting to adapt to the decision maker role, and at the same time focus on criminal adjudication.

Judge Marshall grew up in West Los Angeles, the son of Judge Arthur Marshall of Los Angeles County Superior Court. His youth interests included tennis, including play on the junior varsity team in high school. He began to participate in the Lawn Tennis Association circuit, but that conflicted with his undergraduate studies. After a first quarter at UC Riverside, he completed his bachelor's program at UCLA, as an American history major.

Envisioning a career in the law, he worked on the side as an undergraduate as a student clerk in the Los Angeles County courts and then as a librarian in a law firm.

He earned his law degree at Loyola University of Los Angeles, later working as clerk/research attorney for Justice Clarke Stephens of the Second District California Court of Appeal.

One of his early litigator jobs was as associate at the Bonne Jones firm for 3½ years. Then came 2½ years as in-house counsel for Mullikin Medical Centers and Pioneer Hospital in Artesia.

Then in September 1988 he began a long career at Bonne, Bridges, Mueller, O'Keefe & Nichols, first as associate for five years, then as shareholder in the Riverside office handling Inland Empire cases. He litigated in medical malpractice in the defense of physicians and hospitals and other medical care providers.

He joined the county counsel's office in August 2007.

Formerly a distance runner, these days he and his life partner, residents of South Pasadena, enjoy movies and classical music as favorite pastimes.

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