



Judicial Vignettes: San Bernardino County's Newest Superior Court Judges

by Ed Butler

When new judges are appointed, 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 monthly feature in the Bar Bulletin.

Kyle S. Brodie

Judge Kyle S. Brodie is a product of San Bernardino County whose grandmother, former Judge Ellen Brodie, once presided in the county.

He says that as an English major at UC Riverside, he wasn't definite at that time about career direction. (He also had an attorney uncle.)

Eventually, "I thought law school sounded interesting," Judge Brodie says.

After 12 years as a state deputy attorney general based in Los Angeles, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed him Dec. 21 to an imminent vacancy on San Bernardino County Superior Court.

He fills the office that was occupied by longtime Judge A. Rex Victor, who retired in January. His first assignment is a civil litigation department at Victorville.

Judge Brodie grew up in Upland. His father is a longtime educator who was a high school teacher for many years before working as principal of Valley View and Chaffey high schools in the Chaffey Joint Union High School District. His mother supervises garbage dump water quality enforcement for the state Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Judge Brodie says music was a big side interest of his growing up. He still plays drums in an occasional group gig.

He held various jobs on the side in school, including one in a grocery store.

He earned his law degree at the Southwestern University School of Law. During his last semester there, he was engaged in a fulltime externship with Justice Norman Epstein of the Second District State Court of Appeal.

That led to a job upon graduation at the state Attorney General's office in Los Angeles, where he spent all of his 12-year attorney career. He worked as a prosecutorial advocate in various post conviction matters.

While he enjoyed his job there, Judge Brodie indicates he was ready to consider a change. While his AG job was an

analytically stimulating written practice, "it was a fairly isolated practice." He had the desire to be more involved with the community in a broader and more immediate way, he explains, to "hopefully make a difference in people's lives."

Judge Brodie says he is busily absorbed in his civil court assignment, finding it challenging to learn about the cases before him and the law that governs them. He indicates that altogether it is a stimulating adjustment.

A Republican residing in Upland, he is married to a fellow attorney of the Los Angeles AG's office. They are absorbed these days raising their two young daughters, 2 ½ years and three months old.

As part of his status change, Judge Brodie has resigned from the Upland city planning commission, of which he has been a member four years.

Annemarie G. Pace

Judge Annemarie G. Pace had that certain something that prompted lawyers and judges to suggest that she try judging.

A deputy district attorney in San Bernardino County for 10 years, she says she thought about the prospect and concluded, "Maybe I should."

That led to Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger appointing her Dec. 21 to the office vacated by the retirement of longtime Superior Court Judge Craig Kamansky.

A Democrat residing in Pasadena, Judge Pace was sworn into office Jan. 2 and has taken up a criminal trials assignment in the San Bernardino courthouse.

Judge Pace once visualized a career as a

philosophy professor, but a detour into the law led to her fascination with that.

She was raised in the Detroit area, her father a financial analyst at Ford Motor Company and her mother a secretary and homemaker.

Judge Pace says her favorite recreations growing up were sports, including baseball and interscholastic softball and tennis. She also was an avid reader as a child.

She says she worked in miscellaneous jobs in her summers off from school.

She earned both a bachelor's degree in philosophy and her law degree at the University of Michigan, located at Ann Arbor.

She describes the law as having been something of a fallback after considering graduate work in philosophy. However, she found the law particularly captivating after becoming a San Bernardino County prosecutor.

She prosecuted for 4½ years at Victorville, continued at Joshua Tree two years, and spent the remainder of the time based at San Bernardino. Her assignments included major drug cases and felonies in general.

Adjusting to the role of judge, Judge Pace says she has to shift away from the mindset of advocate. For example, there is a temptation early on to raise an evidentiary objection when it is up to the advocate to do so.

Relishing her new role, Judge Pace has described it as "another way to serve the community."

On a personal level, she shares her life with a registered domestic partner. The judge says her favorite pastimes include reading, watching movies, going to dinner and working out.

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