# State of the Probate Court 2023

# Some things remain the same

- Filings continue to increase
- Continue adding staff: third research attorney, additional examiners and court investigators
- Still have some backlog processing filings
  - Less severe if e-filing
  - Opening Victorville for filings should help



# Ch-ch-ch-changes

#### 2022

- Probate notes accessible to public without restriction
- Moving to the Annex at the historic court
- New probate manager Morgan Baxter (who was then promoted to Deputy Court Executive Officer, Operations)

#### 2023

- Probate notes and sensitive case information available to parties in CAP
- Moved to Fontana and expanded to Victorville
- David Brewster has been hired into a new position, the Deputy Director of Operations for Probate

# News

LEU HONON, JOão

- Court CEO Anabel Romero
- E-File
  - Will become mandatory in the next 12 to 18 months
- Proposed new Local Rules
  - Request for Bond Waiver shall include declaration
  - Petitions relating to Real and Personal Property to require proof of owner/title
- Minor update to LR 20-908
  - Inventories and Accountings (Estates & Trusts) language expanded to include acceptable documents

# EXPANSION

#### **New Judicial Officers**

Since January 1, 2023 we have retired one of our three probate judges *and* welcomed three new bench officers!

## 3 - 1 + 3 = 5

- Judge Michelle Gilleece
- Judge Douglas Mann
- Judge Candice Garcia-Rodrigo
- Judge Damian Garcia
- Commissioner Margaret Beare

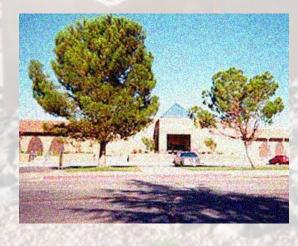


### Fontana

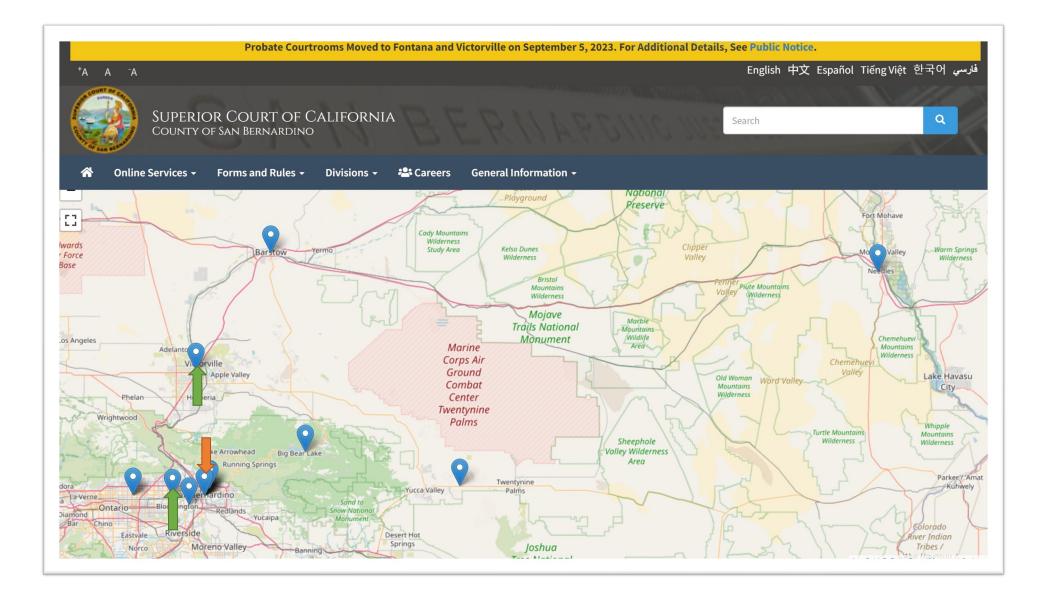
- In February, 2023, Judge Garcia opened a guardianship department in Fontana, the first probate court expansion of services in over a decade
- This Tuesday, September 5, 2023, Judges Mann and Gilleece moved Departments 35 and 36 from SBJC to F2 and F3 in Fontana, joining Judge Garcia
- Commissioner Margaret Beare sits in Fontana, Victorville and at the behavioral health court located at ARMC

# Victorville

 Judge Garcia-Rodrigo opened a new department in Victorville to serve our high-desert population. Under her leadership we will provide better access to our courts and expand services to the public



# VICTORVILLE



# Things to come

- CARE court implementation
- Trainings by the bench
  - Pro-tem
  - CAC and GAL
- Phase II of the expansion
  - Relocate clerks office from SBJC to Fontana next quarter
  - Provide full service in both Fontana and Victorville locations
  - Remote proceedings in Needles

