



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MERCED**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Merced Superior Court Judges Elect New Presiding Judge

The Merced Superior Court judges recently held their election and have elected Judge Donald Proietti as the new Presiding Judge. His two-year term formally begins Jan. 1, 2017 and ends Dec. 31, 2018. Proietti was appointed to the bench in 2009 by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. The former civil attorney joined the bench as part of a 2006 legislative bill that created 50 more judge positions across the state. The presiding judge has the authority and duties prescribed in the California Rules of Court, according to Linda Romero Soles, the court's chief executive officer.

Judge Mark Bacciarini was elected Assistant Presiding Judge. Bacciarini was appointed to the bench in 2010 by Governor Schwarzenegger. Prior to his appointment he worked for the Merced District Attorney's office from 2000 – 2010.

The assistant presiding judge is assigned duties as the presiding judge deems necessary and acts as presiding judge in Proietti's absence, according to CEO Romero Soles.

The judges hold the internal election every other year.

Current Presiding Judge Brian McCabe who was elected to serve three consecutive terms as Presiding Judge will end his term as PJ in December, 2016. McCabe was also recently appointed by Chief Justice Tani Sakauye to serve as Chair of the statewide Interpreter's Advisory Panel.

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