

## Judicial Vignettes:



### Our Newest Superior Court Judges in the County of San Bernardino

by Ed Butler

#### Judge David Cohn

Formerly self employed as a piano tuner and restorer, Judge David Cohn brings 16 years of civil litigation experience to a newly created judgeship at Victorville District of San Bernardino County Superior Court.

Appointed by the governor in March and sworn in April 1, Judge Cohn began with a civil assignment including probate and in December shifted to presiding over criminal preliminary hearings.

While civil matters were a more familiar area for getting his feet wet in judging, he's excited to adapt to the criminal side, "essentially learning a whole new area of the law."

He says in law school he had intended to become a prosecutor but circumstances led him elsewhere.

Born and raised in Colorado, Judge Cohn majored in theater at U.S. International University in San Diego and received his law degree in 1987 at the University of San Diego.

Upon his appointment as judge he was a San Bernardino-based partner in Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith, the eighth largest law firm in California. In that capacity he represented insurance companies in disputes over coverage matters and engaged in assorted commercial litigation, an emphasis of his practice career that also included defense of public entities.

A resident of the Inland Empire since 1994, Judge Cohn says he had wanted to be a judge ever since the beginning of law school. He values the impartiality of the role and the opportunity to help resolve disputes.

He is married and has a daughter, 6.

#### Judge Janet Frangie

Judge Janet Frangie has wanted to be a judge since she was 10 years old.

She achieved that goal in fall 2003 with gubernatorial appointment to the Superior Court of San Bernardino County.

Presiding over family matters at Rancho Cucamonga, Judge Frangie sees judging as a way of helping make decisions and being of service to the community. "I thought I'd be good at it," she explains.

After practicing law in Los Angeles County for approximately 24 years, she also appreciates the regularity of work schedule of a judge.

When she was appointed on Oct. 6 (followed by her swearing in on Oct. 24), her law practice workload was divided about equally between family cases and business and real estate litigation.

Judge Frangie hales from Detroit, Mich. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Michigan State University, East Lansing. She moved to California to earn her law degree at Loyola University of Los Angeles.

Her advocacy work included criminal as well as civil cases.

Her interests include all sports and she plays softball.

Married for 28 years and the mother of two, she will be relocating her home soon to the Inland Empire.

She says the big challenges right now of adapting to her new role are adjusting to the new county, familiarizing herself with its court rules and procedure.

A judge applicant since 1999, Judge Frangie was asked to share about the appointment review process. She said it starts with directing an application to the governor's judicial appointments secretary. Then there is a commission investigation and evaluation of qualifications by various bar associations. Then there is an interview by the judicial appointments secretary.

Judge Frangie takes the position of Judge Phil Morris, who has retired.

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