



Judicial Vignette:

Featuring our
Newest Superior Court
Bench Officer(s)

by Ed Butler

Leslie E. Murad, II

A senior leader of the San Bernardino County Bar Association has been chosen to join the esteemed stable of court commissioners of the county.

Until recently secretary-treasurer of the association, Commissioner Leslie E. Murad II was sworn in to his new bench office March 28. He remains vice president of the Joseph Campbell Inn of Court and will ascend to its presidency July 1.

Formerly assistant city attorney of Redlands for seven years, Commissioner Murad presides at Fontana over traffic arraignments and trials, small claims, unlawful detainer matters, and misdemeanor pre-trial hearings.

He was hired as commissioner by majority vote of the county's judges.

Having arbitrated more than 500 cases over many years, Commissioner Murad says he enjoys the opportunity to help people resolve their cases.

The lifelong resident of the Inland Empire recently marked his 24th anniversary as a member of the State Bar of California.

He grew up in Highland, the son of an internal medicine physician employed by Patton State Hospital and the state prison system. The commissioner graduated from San Geronio High School in San Bernardino, where he played percussion in the band and also went out for tennis and football. He continued drumming in the marching and jazz bands as a history major at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, and also played professionally in combos.

He earned his law degree at the University of San Diego.

His practice career drew him back to the Inland Empire, where he was associated with Wilson, Borrer and Dunn of San Bernardino in tort defense. Cases included the MGM Hotel fire in Las Vegas. That association led to his recruitment by Fidler and Bell of Riverside in 1986, where he continued in tort defense and also worked in insurance defense and as city of Redlands outside counsel. His cases at the firm included the Stringfellow Acid Pits hazardous waste matter.

He became fulltime in municipal law when he worked as deputy city attorney of San Bernardino, starting in 1997, before becoming assistant city attorney of Redlands in 1999.

Adjusting to the role of judicial officer, Commissioner Murad finds "you have to stop thinking like a lawyer. You're no longer an advocate."

Off work, he enjoys golf and spending time with his three children and two grandchildren.

His wife and high school sweetheart, Marilynn, is a kindergarten teacher in the San Bernardino schools.

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