

Press Release

Gov. Schwarzenegger Appoints Eleven to Los Angeles County Superior Court

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today announced the appointments of Michael J. Convey, Christine C. Ewell, Dianna J. Gould-Saltman, Brian M. Hoffstadt, James E. Horan, Upinder S. Kalra, Marc R. Marmaro, Timothy R. Saito, Chestopher L. Taylor, Carlos E. Vazquez and Yvette Verastegui to judgeships in the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Convey, 50, of Valley Village, has served as a court commissioner for the Los Angeles County Superior Court since 2002. Previously, he was an attorney for Silva, Clasen & Raffalow from 1992 to 2002 and Nelsen, Thompson, Pegue & Thornton from 1989 to 1991. Convey was an attorney for Struckmeyer & Wilson from 1987 to 1998. He earned a Juris Doctorate degree from DePaul University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Arizona State University. He fills the vacancy created by the conversion of a court commissioner position on July 27, 2009. Convey is a Democrat.

Ewell, 48, of Los Angeles, has served as chief of the criminal division for the U. S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California since 2007, previously held the positions of chief of the major frauds section from 2004 to 2007, special assistant to the U. S. attorney from 2002 to 2004 and an assistant U.S. attorney for the major frauds section from 1991 to 1996. She was counsel for O'Melveny & Myers from 1997 to 2000 and an assistant U.S. attorney in the U. S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of Texas from 1990 to 1991. Ewell was an associate attorney for Vinson & Elkins from 1986 to 1990. She earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Harvard Law School and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&M University. Ewell fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Josh M. Fredricks. Ewell is a Republican.

Gould-Saltman, 51, of Los Angeles, has been a partner at Gould-Saltman Law Offices since 1997 and was a sole practitioner at the firm from 1994 to 1997. Previously, she was an attorney for the Law Offices of Lorraine C. Gollub from 1986 until 1994. Gould-Saltman worked for Gollub & O'Connor as a law clerk, then associate attorney from 1984 until 1986. She earned a Juris Doctorate degree from Southwestern University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Irvine. Gould-Saltman fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Judith C. Chirlin. Gould-Saltman is a Democrat.

Hoffstadt, 39, of Glendale, has served as a partner at Jones Day since 2007. He served in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Central District of California as an assistant U. S. attorney from 2000 to 2007 and was senior counsel for the U.S. Department of Justice from 1998 until 2000. Hoffstadt served the Federal Communications Commission, Office of General Counsel as special counsel from 1997 to 1998. He was a law clerk for the Honorable Sandra Day O'Connor, Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court from 1996 to 1997 and the Honorable Cynthia Holcomb Hall, Judge of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals from 1995 to 1996. Hoffstadt earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from California State Polytechnic University Pomona. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Bob T. Hight. Hoffstadt is a Democrat.

Horan, 47, of Anaheim, has served as a deputy alternate public defender for the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office since 2000. Previously, he was a deputy public defender for the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office from 1996 to 2000 and staff counsel for the California Employment Development Department from 1990 to 1996. He earned a Juris Doctorate Degree from Georgetown University Law Center and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan. Horan fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Brett C. Klein. Horan is a Democrat.

Kalra, 45, of Los Angeles, has served as a deputy alternate public defender for the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office since 1995. He was a deputy public defender for the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office from 1990 to 1995. Kalra earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen. Kalra is a Democrat.

Marmaro, 62, of Los Angeles, has served as a partner with Jeffer, Mangels, Butler & Marmaro since 1981. Previously, he was a litigation associate and partner for Manatt, Phelps & Phillips from 1979 to 1981. Marmaro served the U.S. Attorney's Office, Southern District of New York as an assistant U.S. attorney from 1975 to 1978. He was an associate for Debevoise & Plimpton from 1973 to 1975 and a law clerk for the Honorable John J. Gibbons, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit from 1972 to 1973. Marmaro earned a Juris Doctorate degree from New York University School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from George Washington University. He fills the vacancy created by the conversion of a court commissioner position on January 4, 2010. Marmaro is a Democrat.

Saito, 47, of Glendale, has served as a deputy city attorney for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office since 2000. He served the U.S. District Court, Central District of California as a research attorney and judicial law clerk from 1994 to 2000. Saito earned a Juris Doctorate degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in law from Glendale University College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Los Angeles. He fills the vacancy created by the conversion of a court commissioner position on January 26, 2010. Saito is a Republican.

Taylor, 55, of Manhattan Beach, has been a sole practitioner since 1991. Previously, he was an associate with Sidley & Austin from 1988 to 1990. Taylor was a law clerk for the Honorable Lawrence T. Lydick, judge of the U. S. District Court, Central District of California from 1987 until 1988. Prior to that, he was an assistant district attorney with the New York City District Attorney's Office from 1983 to 1987. Taylor earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from Fordham University. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge William R. Chidsey. Taylor is registered decline-to-state.

Vazquez, 46, of Pasadena, has served as a deputy district attorney for the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office since 1988. He earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, San Diego. Vazquez fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Terry B. Friedman. Vazquez is a Democrat.

Verastegui, 43, of Los Angeles, has served as a deputy alternate public defender for the Los Angeles County Alternate Public Defender's Office since 2001. Previously, she was a deputy public defender for the Orange County Public Defender's Office from 1994 to 2001 and the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office in 1994. Verastegui earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of California, Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of California, Irvine. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Michael S. Mink. Verastegui is a Democrat.

The compensation for each position is \$178,789.

Source: Gov. Schwarzenegger Press Release, June 30, 2010