

# COURTNEWS

AN ONLINE AND EMAIL NEWSLETTER TO THE BAR

MARK R. FORCUM  
PRESIDING JUDGE

GEORGE A. MIRAM  
ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE

AUGUST 27, 2004

## INTERIM CALENDAR INFORMATION

We have combined into one report the two previous issues of CourtNews regarding interim calendar changes.

As you know, our court is experiencing an unusual number of changes. Five outstanding judges with tremendous experience will have retired by October. Judges Kopp, Hahn, Whitmer, Kemp and Shelton have served this court and the public with distinction and class. We are grateful that retired Judges Quentin L. Kopp and Thomas McGinn Smith have agreed to return as assigned judges on a regular basis. The retirement of judges in conjunction with the unexpected departure of three court commissioners, has limited our ability to manage our work and called for our court administration to be creative in the utilization of existing resources.

On behalf of all the judges we would like to sincerely thank the many members of our Bar Association who have volunteered to serve as pro-tem judges in traffic and small claims court. We are equally grateful for the attorneys who have volunteered to serve, often on short notice, as judge pro-tems on the family law support and unlawful detainer calendars.

We would also like to recognize the efforts of Peggy Thompson, Superior Court Executive Officer and the Administrative Office of the Court for the help they have provided in assigning and funding retired judges who have helped staff our calendars this summer.

Some of the calendar changes we have had to make are made out of absolute necessity and not by choice. We would like to thank the many judges and commissioners who have been willing to take on new assignments.

We would also like to thank the members of the bar for their understanding and patience, while we work through these changes.

Given the foregoing, the following calendar changes are being implemented. These changes will be reviewed once three new commissioners are hired and commence work in September or October 2004.

**Please note that this information will be updated and revised as required due to other factors. We invite you to check the Court's website ([www.sanmateocourt.org](http://www.sanmateocourt.org)) regularly for updates and revisions.**

Criminal Court Commissioner Joseph N. Gruber is transferred to hear Redwood City Branch traffic and small claims.

Redwood City traffic and small claims Commissioner Susan Greenberg is transferred to hear South San Francisco Branch traffic and small claims.

Family Law Commissioner Kathleen McKenna is transferred to hear San Mateo Branch traffic and small claims from August 18, 2004 to September 10, 2004.

Judge Carol Mittlesteadt will hear Commissioner Kathleen McKenna's Family Law Calendar the week of August 23, 2004. Judge Steven Dylina will hear Commissioner McKenna's Family Law Calendar the weeks of August 30, 2004 and September 6, 2004.

Law and Motion will be heard by Judge Robert Foiles August 23 –30, 2004.

Judge John Schwartz will hear the San Mateo Branch traffic and small claims calendars the weeks of September 13, September 20 and September 27, 2004.

Trial Judges in Redwood City will hear, on a rotating basis, non-trial criminal calendars previously assigned to Commissioner Gruber.

One trial department will be reduced in the South San Francisco branch. A visiting judge will be assigned to the South San Francisco branch to hear criminal arraignments, pre-trials and preliminary hearings. Judge Steven Dylina will also hear criminal matters in the South San Francisco branch as needed.

Assistant Presiding Judge George A. Miram will serve as Presiding Judge the weeks of August 30, 2004 and September 6, 2004.

As Judge Foiles is assigned to a criminal jury trial, he will now hear his Wednesday and Friday CMC Calendars the weeks of August 30, 2004 and September 6, 2004. Judge Foiles will also hear his Early Settlement Conferences on Friday September 3, 2004 and Friday, September 10, 2004.

Commissioner Gruber will hear Tuesday Night Small Claims Court.

Presiding Judge Forcum will hear Wednesday Night Traffic Court. During the weeks of August 30, 2004 and September 6, 2004 in Judge Forcum's absence, Commissioner Joseph N. Gruber will conduct Central Branch Traffic night court.

During the week of August 30, 2004, Judge Quentin L. Kopp will hear Mandatory Settlement Conferences. During the Peterson trial, Judge Kopp will be sitting in Courtroom 2G.

During the week of September 6, 2004, Judge Carl W. Holm will hear Mandatory Settlement Conferences.

Judge Phrasel L. Shelton will hear the Civil OSC/Dismissal Calendar on Tuesday, September 7, 2004. Prior to his retirement, Judge Shelton will be sitting in Redwood City, Courtroom 8A.

Presiding Judge Mark R. Forcum's Bridges calendars will not be heard the weeks of August 30, 2004 and September 6, 2004. Any probation violations pertaining to Presiding Judge Forcum's Bridges caseload are to be directed to Acting Presiding Judge George A. Miram.

During the week of September 6, 2004, Supervising Judge Rosemary Pfeiffer's Probate Calendar will be heard by Judge Quentin L. Kopp. During the week of September 6, 2004, Judge Stephen M. Hall will hear Judge Kopp's CMC Calendar on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Upon the retirement of Judge Kemp, effective September 3, 2004, Mandatory Settlement Conferences will be assigned to available judges from Presiding Judge Mark R. Forcum's department. On a weekly basis, a calendar will be posted on the first floor with the department number your case will be assigned to. A duplicate copy of this calendar will be posted on Presiding Judge Forcum's courtroom door. In Judge Forcum's absence, Assistant Presiding Judge George A. Miram will assign settlement conference from his courtroom following the same protocols.

Starting September 14<sup>th</sup>, a separate and new section of our Court website will contain a notice as to which

Judge will be assigned settlement conferences. If you have a question as to the location of your settlement conference please contact Presiding Judge Mark R. Forcum's department at 650-363-7835.

Effective September 3, 2004, correspondence pertaining to settlement conferences, e.g., a request to not have an insurance adjustor or principal appear, are to be directed to Assistant Presiding Judge, George A. Miram, Department 28.

Effective September 14, 2004, the Tuesday morning OSC/Dismissal Calendar will be heard in Assistant Presiding Judge George A. Miram's department.

Once again, we thank all members of the Bar for their patience. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact either one of us.

Mark R. Forcum  
Presiding Judge

George A. Miram  
Assistant Presiding Judge