



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Gov. Newsom Announces New Appointments to Sacramento Superior Court**

Sacramento, CA—Today, Gov. Gavin Newsom announced his appointment of 18 Superior Court judges, including three to the Sacramento Superior Court.

“These appointees bring a wealth of experience and knowledge that will round out the bench,” Presiding Court Judge Bunmi O. Awoniyi said.

Lee S. Bickley of Sacramento County has been appointed as a Judge in the Sacramento County Superior Court.

Bickley has served as a Senior Attorney at the California Public Employees’ Retirement System since 2024. She served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney at the U.S. Attorney’s Office, Eastern District of California, from 2010 to 2024.

Bickley was a Branch Chief for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission from 2005 to 2010 and a Senior Litigation Associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP from 1998 to 2005. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from Yale Law School and fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Gerrit W. Wood.

Appointee Joseph M. Cress of Sacramento County has been a Chief Assistant Public Defender at the Sacramento County Public Defender’s Office since 2022. He has served in several roles there since 1995, including Supervising Assistant Public Defender and Assistant Public Defender.

Cress was an Adjunct Professor at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, from 2012 to 2015. He earned a Juris Doctor from the University of California College of Law, San Francisco, and fills the vacancy created by Judge James M. Mize's retirement.

Brenda R. Dabney of Sacramento County has also been appointed as a Judge in the Sacramento County Superior Court.

Dabney has been the Northern California Regional Director at the Children's Law Center of California since 2017. She has held several roles at the law center since 2001, including Firm Director from 2011 to 2017, Supervising Attorney from 2005 to 2011, and Staff Attorney from 2001 to 2005.

Dabney earned a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Paul L. Seave.