



**Superior Court of California  
County of El Dorado**

2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667

**PRESS RELEASE**

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Electronic version available at:

<https://eldorado.courts.ca.gov/>

**El Dorado County Superior Court  
Announces Retirement of Presiding Judge Suzanne N. Kingsbury**

**Placerville, CA, October 26, 2021:**

El Dorado County Superior Court announces the retirement of Presiding Judge Suzanne N. Kingsbury effective December 31, 2021, after 25 years of service on the bench. Elected to the bench in 1996, she made history as the first woman to serve as a superior court judge in El Dorado County, and in 1999 became its first female presiding judge. Sitting in Department 3 of the South Lake Tahoe Branch, she has presided over civil, criminal, juvenile, family, appellate, and probate matters as well as various collaborative courts.

Prior to her career as a judicial officer, Judge Kingsbury received a Juris Doctorate degree from McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento in 1982. After admittance to the bar, she went into private civil practice until accepting a position as deputy district attorney with the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office in 1985. In 1990, she joined the El Dorado County Public Defender's Office as a deputy public defender until her election to the bench in 1996.

During her tenure, Judge Kingsbury has served on various committees and collaborated with justice partners to improve California's court system on a statewide and local level. She was the first person from El Dorado County appointed to sit on the Judicial Council, the policy making body of the California Courts (2004–2007), and from there she has been appointed to serve on a multitude of committees tasked with addressing issues aimed at improving judicial performance and ethics, increasing access for self-represented litigants, and the application of new and existing laws and rules within the judicial branch. Locally, in El Dorado County, due in large part to Judge Kingsbury's efforts, more services have been made available to self-represented litigants, including adding family law facilitators, expansion of the Court's Self-Help Center to provide paralegal services, and its civil and family law dispute resolution programs.

Working with justice system partners and fellow judicial officers, Judge Kingsbury brought to El Dorado County its first juvenile and adult drug courts, Behavioral Health Courts, Veteran's Court and a DUI Court. In addition, in 2015, in partnership with the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians Tribal Court, and with El Dorado County, Judge Kingsbury helped develop the state's first joint jurisdiction court. Each of these courts is designed to improve outcomes and reduce recidivism.

Since 1985, Judge Kingsbury has been active in community affairs, including serving as a member, officer, and president of the Board of Directors for the South Lake Tahoe Women's Center and a member of the Board of Directors of the Sierra Recovery Center, the Lake Tahoe Educational Foundation, and Hospice of the Lake. She participates each year in educational events such as The Drug Store Project, Every 15 Minutes, and Teen Court. She was also an adjunct instructor in the Criminal Justice Program at Lake Tahoe Community College for over a decade.

Judge Kingsbury's commitment to the bench, the community, and the judicial branch are evidenced by her continued engagement and efforts to address relevant issues and concerns and to participate in implementing solutions that make a difference. Judge Kingsbury appears to be California's longest serving presiding judge of the superior court, having served continuously in that capacity since June of 1999. Her resolve and leadership have been a stabilizing factor for this Court.

For more information, please visit the Court's website at <https://eldorado.courts.ca.gov/>.

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