



Superior Court of California County of El Dorado

2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667

PRESS RELEASE

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El Dorado County Superior Court Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge Election

Placerville, CA, October 1, 2025:

The El Dorado County Superior Court is pleased to announce the election of Hon. Michael J. McLaughlin as Presiding Judge, and Hon. Jamie L. Pesce as Assistant Presiding Judge. The Presiding Judge and Assistant Presiding Judge serve a two-year term, to commence on January 1, 2026.

Judge McLaughlin is the current Assistant Presiding Judge and has served in that capacity since 2022. He was appointed to the bench by former Governor Edmund G. Brown in 2018. Currently sitting in Department 3 of the South Lake Tahoe Branch, he presides over criminal matters.

Prior to his career as a judicial officer, Judge McLaughlin earned a Juris Doctor degree from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles. He began his legal career working as a civil litigation attorney in the Los Angeles area before relocating to El Dorado County in 1998, where he practiced in the areas of general civil litigation and business transactions until his appointment to the bench in 2018.

Judge Pesce was appointed to the bench by former Governor Edmund G. Brown in 2018. Currently sitting in Department 7 of the Placerville Main Street Branch, she presides over criminal misdemeanor matters.

Prior to her career as a judicial officer, Judge Pesce received her Juris Doctor degree from the University of Pacific, McGeorge School of Law and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of California, Davis. She served as a deputy district attorney at the El Dorado County District Attorney's Office from 2005 until her appointment to the bench in 2018. Prior to this, she was a sole practitioner and a research attorney at Orion Outdoor Media.

Judge Vicki Ashworth announced that she will not be seeking another term as Presiding Judge. She will conclude her current term on December 31, 2025, after assuming the role on January 1, 2022. Previously, she served as Assistant Presiding Judge from January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2021. After serving in these leadership roles, Judge Ashworth believes it is important to allow fresh perspectives and new leadership to guide the Court

forward. The Court expresses its deep appreciation for Judge Ashworth's dedicated service, steady leadership and lasting contributions during her tenure as both Presiding and Assistant Presiding Judge.

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

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