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SAN MATEO COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT APPOINTS TWO COMMISSIONERS & REFEREE

Assistant Presiding Judge, George A. Miram announced today that the San Mateo County Superior Court has appointed three local attorneys to fill the vacant superior court commissioner and referee positions.

Joseph Allen of San Mateo and Richard Kelly of Redwood City were selected to fill the two vacant court commissioner positions. Stephanie Garratt of Redwood City was appointed to fill the vacant referee position.

Judge Miram, who along with Judge Robert D. Foiles, oversaw the selection process said “. . . the superior court judges selected these outstanding attorneys to serve as commissioners and as referee from a pool of more than 140 applicants.” Judge Miram stated “that Mr. Allen, Mr. Kelly and Ms. Garratt, were well respected, experienced attorneys, who the judges felt confident would treat litigants with fairness, patience and respect.” Judge Miram went on to say the he and Presiding Judge, Mark R. Forcum will meet to decide what the new commissioner’s assignments will be, but that he expected they would assign each to traffic and small claims matters in the Redwood City, San Mateo and South San Francisco courthouses. The appointment of the commissioners comes at a critical time for the court, given the additional retirement of four judges this year and the expected fifth retirement in October.

Joseph Allen has worked in San Mateo County since 1980, primarily representing criminal defendants as part of the County Private Defender Program. Most recently, Allen has specialized in representing addicts in the court’s highly successful Bridges program.

Richard Kelly has been practicing in San Mateo County since 1978. He has specialized in landlord-tenant law and served frequently as a judge pro-tem for the superior court hearing unlawful detainer cases.

Stephanie Garratt graduated from Santa Clara Law School in 1996 and has worked both as a deputy district attorney and a private defender panel lawyer. She has also frequently served as a judge pro-tem in traffic and small claims court.