



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Brenda L. McCormick
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Robert Sherman
Assistant Executive Officer
(805) 289-8514

VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT ELECTS PRESIDING AND ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGES

The Judges of the Ventura Superior Court have elected Judge Kevin G. DeNoce as Presiding Judge and Judge Matthew P. Guasco as Assistant Presiding Judge for the term of 2023 through 2025. The new term for both will begin on January 1, 2023.

The Presiding Judge, with the assistance of the Court Executive Officer, is responsible for leading the court, establishing policies, and allocating resources in a manner that promotes equal access to justice, increases efficiency in court operations, and enhances service to the public. The Assistant Presiding Judge performs duties as assigned by the Presiding Judge, and in the absence of the Presiding Judge, exercises the powers of the Presiding Judge.

Judge Kevin G. DeNoce is the Assistant Presiding Judge for Ventura County, was appointed to the bench in 2007, and currently presides over general and complex civil cases. Judge Kevin G. DeNoce was awarded and named "*Judge of the Year*" by the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association in 2017 and bestowed with the Knights of Columbus Public Safety Award in 2022. Judge DeNoce was the Supervising Judge for the Civil Division and served in the Criminal and Family Law Divisions.

Judge DeNoce has conducted more than 500 jury trials including the following types of cases: medical malpractice, product liability, wrongful death, negligence, trade secrets, auto and airplane accidents, breach of contract, real property transactions, wage disputes, asbestos, conservatorships, dangerous road conditions, murder/manslaughter, gang charges, robbery, burglary, kidnapping, sexual assault, battery, DUI, domestic violence, grand theft, and many other types of cases.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge DeNoce was a sole practitioner at the Law Offices of Kevin G. DeNoce and a partner in the Law Offices of Andrade & DeNoce, LLP. From 1987 to 1996, he served as a prosecuting attorney with the Ventura County District Attorney's Office, where he was the supervising attorney for the Appellate Division from 1992 to 1996 and a Senior Deputy District Attorney from 1994 to 1996. Judge DeNoce earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Colorado at Boulder and his law degree from Pepperdine University School of Law.

Judge DeNoce is currently assigned to Department 22 where he conducts Mandatory Settlement Conferences in civil cases.

Judge Matthew P. Guasco was appointed to the Ventura Superior Court by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. in December 2011. Judge Guasco was honored as "*Judge of the Year*" for 2020 by the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association. He has served as the Presiding Appellate Judge (2015-2017) and as the Supervising Judge of the Civil Division (2020). Judge Guasco has served in the Criminal, Appellate, Family and Civil Divisions of the Court. He has presided over more than 125 criminal and civil jury trials.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Guasco was a professional mediator and arbitrator as well as an appellate practitioner. He served as Of Counsel to Arnold, LaRochelle, Mathews, Van Conas & Zirbel, LLP (2008 - 2010), and Norman Dowler, LLP (2001-2008). He was a sole practitioner with Innovative Mediation (1998-2001), an associate attorney with Engle & Carobini (1993-1998), and an associate with Lascher & Lascher (1989-1993). He began his legal career as a Deputy Public Defender with the Marin County Public Defender (1985-1989).

Judge Guasco is a past president of the Ventura County Bar Association. He is a member of the faculty of the Center for Judicial Education & Research, Judicial Council of California. Judge Guasco has served on the workgroup appointed by the Chief Justice to develop the curriculum for judicial ethics education. He also teaches judicial ethics. Judge Guasco is a graduate of the University of California, Davis (1980), and Golden Gate University School of Law (1984).

Judge Guasco is currently assigned to Department 20 where he presides over limited and unlimited civil cases for all purposes, including pretrial motions and trials.

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