



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO

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San Mateo County Superior Court names new court executive officer

The San Mateo County Superior Court Judges voted on Friday, Feb. 20 to appoint Deputy Court Executive Officer Rodina Catalano to the position of Court Executive Officer, succeeding current CEO John Fitton, who retires in August.

Ms. Catalano has served in increasingly responsible positions with the San Mateo Superior Court for nearly 29 years. Presiding Judge John L. Grandsaert said the bench is both "proud and fortunate to have such an exemplary candidate to fill the position."

"Rodina has been a primary member of our court administration and executive team for 17 years. She brings unparalleled skills, knowledge, ability and experience to this position," Judge Grandsaert said. Judge Grandsaert added that the decision "ensures a continuity of strong leadership and creates a seamless administrative transition for our court".

Ms. Catalano will work together with Mr. Fitton through his August departure which Grandsaert said will, "ensure stability of operations through this transition, continue to improve access to justice and provide the best trial court services possible for our community."

Mr. Fitton was named the San Mateo Court Executive Officer in May 2005, and in January shared with judges and court employees his plans to retire this coming summer after serving more than 10 years. During his tenure, beginning in 2008, California trial courts have been hit with more than a billion dollars in state cuts, with recent funding inadequate to sustain prior court services. Judge Grandsaert lauded Mr. Fitton for his role in the court's administration and judicial leadership facing these challenges directly and making decisions that strengthened the court for the public benefit.

"Through John's exemplary leadership and management we have successfully navigated the most challenging seven-year period ever faced by California trial courts - and we are weathering these storms from a position of stability and relative growth," Judge Grandsaert said.

Ms. Catalano's official start date is August 18th, 2015.