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The Yolo Superior Court announced that the Honorable Steven M. Basha has been elected to serve as Presiding Judge upon the completion by current Presiding Judge David R. Rosenberg of his term on September 15, 2012. Judge Rosenberg has served for more than four years as Presiding Judge with his term extended to permit him to fulfill his statewide responsibilities as Chair of the Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee. Those responsibilities end on September 15. Judge Basha is the current Assistant Presiding Judge and has been responsible for the day-to-day judicial oversight of the Yolo Superior Court since January 1, 2012.

In addition to the election of Judge Basha as Presiding Judge, the Yolo Superior Court Judges elected the Honorable Kathleen M. White to be the Assistant Presiding Judge, also effective September 15, 2012.

Judge Basha was appointed to the Yolo Superior Court bench in March, 2006. His judicial assignments have included adult and juvenile drug courts as well as misdemeanor and felony trial courts. He is currently assigned to the juvenile dependency and juvenile delinquency calendar. Prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Basha spent 22 years in three California County Counsel offices and was Yolo County Counsel for 5 and one-half years. Judge Basha earned his Juris Doctorate degree at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan and his Bachelor of Arts degree at Albion College in Albion, Michigan.

“The Yolo Superior Court is fortunate to have exceptionally well-qualified and capable judicial officers and an outstanding staff. As such, it is an honor and privilege to have this opportunity to serve as Presiding Judge of the Yolo Superior Court. The unprecedented budget reductions will require the very best from judicial officers and court staff, but I am confident that together we will continue to perform our responsibilities in an effective and excellent manner,” Judge Basha stated. “I am very pleased that Judge White was elected as Assistant Presiding Judge. She has served with distinction since her judicial appointment and has consistently handled challenging assignments with considerable skill” said Judge Basha. “Her insights and thoughtful approach to problem solving has proven invaluable to the court.”

Judge White was appointed to the bench on April 9, 2003. Her assignments have included felony, civil, misdemeanors, juvenile delinquency and juvenile dependency. After practicing law in Los Angeles and Yolo County, Judge White has served Yolo Superior Court since 1997 in the positions of General Counsel and Court Executive Officer.

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 access to justice for all members of the public. In the absence of the Presiding Judge, the Assistant Presiding Judge assumes the responsibilities. The terms for Judges Basha and White will begin on September 15, 2012 and last through December 31, 2013.