



**Superior Court**  
**Of the State of California for the**  
**County of Yolo**  
725 Court Street, Room 308  
Woodland, CA 95695  
**(530) 406-6838/Fax (530) 406-6835**  
Shawn Landry  
Court Executive Officer

## NEWS RELEASE

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### For Immediate Release

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** July 16, 2015  
**Contact:** Court Executive Office  
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Woodland, CA 95695

### **New Judge Appointment**

Next month, Yolo County will have a new courthouse and a new judge. Governor Brown announced today the appointment of Sonia Cortes to fill the vacancy created by Judge Janene Beronio's election to the seat formerly held by retired Judge Stephen L. Mock. Judge Beronio's commissioner position was converted to a judgeship by operation of law to serve Yolo County's expanding population. The position has been vacant since January 2015.

"We are absolutely delighted by the appointment," said Judge Kathleen M. White, Presiding Judge of the Yolo bench. "Ms. Cortes is a superb lawyer with an extensive legal background. Yolo's judges carry a heavy caseload and must handle everything from felonies to family law. Ms. Cortes is more than up to the task, and we look forward to her joining us in the new courthouse."

Ms. Cortes is a senior lawyer in the office of Yolo County Counsel. Judge Steven Basha, who served as County Counsel from 2000 to 2006, recalls hiring Ms. Cortes as deputy county counsel in November 2002. "She was an excellent attorney and I have no doubt that she will be an excellent member of the Yolo Superior Court bench. I am especially delighted because she has deep roots in Yolo County. She was raised in Winters and graduated from Winters High School in 1989 as salutatorian." The Yolo Superior Court has ten judges and two commissioners. Ms. Cortes will be the 11<sup>th</sup> judge on the Yolo Superior Court bench.