

**For Immediate Release**

June 10, 2003

**JUDGE BARBARA J. MILLER ELECTED PRESIDING JUDGE  
JUDGE ROBERT B. FREEDMAN ELECTED ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE  
of the  
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA**

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The Judges of the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda, announce that **Judge Barbara J. Miller** was elected, to serve as Presiding Judge, commencing a two-year term on January 1, 2004, consistent with the provisions of California Rule of Court 6.602. Judge Miller is the first woman to be elected by her peers to serve as Presiding Judge of the Unified Superior Court.

The judges of the court also elected **Judge Robert B. Freedman** as the Assistant Presiding Judge. Judge Freedman will also begin a two-year term on January 1, 2004, consistent with California Rule of Court 6.602. The assistant presiding judge acts for the presiding judge when the presiding judge is absent or unable to act. Additionally, the presiding judge consults with the assistant presiding judge on significant policy matters affecting the court. Judge Miller intends to continue this collaborative approach

The duties of the presiding judge are described in California Rule of Court 6.603, "The presiding judge 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, provides a forum for the fair and expeditious resolution of disputes, maximizes the use of judicial and other resources, increases efficiency in court operations, and enhances service to the public."

This rule also gives the presiding judge the power to make judicial assignments and schedules, apportion the business of the court, call meetings of judges and appoint judges to standing and select committees. The presiding judge shall also serve as the liaison between the court and the Judicial Council, as well as the spokesperson for the court. Judge Miller will serve as the Chief Judge of a trial court including 69 judges, 16 commissioners, and over 800 employees and contractors in 16 locations.

**Presiding Judge Elect Barbara J. Miller**

Judge Barbara J. Miller was elected to the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda in 1996, having previously served as a Superior Court Commissioner, beginning in 1987. She is currently the Assistant Presiding Judge, the Supervising Judge of the Hayward Hall of Justice sitting in Department 511, and the Civil Master Calendar Judge for Southern Alameda County. She has served in a variety of assignments including Civil Law & Motion, Probate, Family Law and Criminal Trials.

Judge Miller is a member of the court's Executive Committee and chairs the Domestic Violence Team Committee. Additionally, she is a member of the following court committees: Bench/Bar Liaison, Bench/Bar Media, Law Day, Community Focused Court Planning, Family Law, Civil, Information Technology, and Facilities. Judge Miller is an active participant in the Community

Focused Court Planning project, and has worked closely with her colleagues, Judge Gordon S. Baranco, and Judge Leo Dorado, to organize youth education programs about the judicial branch of government in Alameda County middle schools.

Since 1989, Judge Miller has served as a faculty member for the annual B. E. Witkin Judicial College of California, where she is an instructor in Probate, Family Law and Domestic Violence.

Judge Miller was a member of the Family Law Committee of the California Judges Association (1992-1997), and appointed Chair of that committee in 1996 and 1997. She was also the Vice-Chair of the Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Conservatorships and Guardianships (1989-1992), which compiled and published the statewide mandated "Handbook for Conservators."

Before her judicial career, Judge Miller was an attorney in private practice for ten years, which included six years with the law firm formerly known as Thelen, Marrin, Johnson, & Bridges in San Francisco.

Judge Miller was admitted to the California Bar on November 29, 1978 after receiving her Juris Doctor cum laude in 1978 from the University of San Francisco, School of Law where she was a member of the McAuliffe Honor Society and the recipient of Am Jur Awards for Civil Procedure and Estate Planning. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications in 1973, from the University of Kentucky.

#### **Assistant Presiding Judge Elect Robert B. Freedman**

Governor Pete Wilson appointed Judge Freedman to the Oakland, Emeryville, Piedmont Municipal Court in 1996. Governor Wilson then elevated him to Superior Court in July of 1998. He currently sits in Department 21 in the Administration Building in Oakland hearing Civil Trials and is a case management judge. He has also served in a variety of other court assignments including felony jury trials.

Judge Freedman is a member of the court's Executive Committee and the chair of the court's Information Technology Committee. He also serves on the following court committees: Bench/Bar Liaison, Civil, and Facilities.

Outside the court, Judge Freedman serves as a member of the Judicial Council's Civil & Small Claims Advisory Committee (chair of the Legislation Subcommittee) and has been a faculty member at the California Judicial College (1998-2002). He is currently vice president of the Board of Trustees of the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library.

Before his judicial career, Judge Freedman was an attorney in private practice with the firm formerly known as Wald, Freedman, Chapman, and Bendes in Oakland for more than 25 years. He also served as an adjunct professor of law at John F. Kennedy School of Law, teaching courses on Creditor's Rights and Debtors Remedies. While in practice, Judge Freedman served as President of the Alameda County Bar Association in 1988 and President of the Alameda County Bar Foundation in 1995.

Judge Freedman was admitted to the California Bar on February 6, 1969 after receiving his Juris Doctor in 1968 from Boalt Hall at the University of California, Berkeley. He graduated with Honors and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1965.