



Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
René C. Davidson Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, CA 94612

June 8, 2005

For Immediate Release

**ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT
ANNOUNCES NEW JUDICIAL LEADERSHIP**

Oakland: The Alameda County Superior Court announces its biennial change in judicial leadership taking effect January 1, 2006.

Judge George C. Hernandez, Jr., becomes Presiding Judge and Judge Henry E. Needham, Jr., is the new Assistant Presiding Judge. Both will serve two-year terms.

Judge Hernandez, who has served as Supervising Judge of the Hayward Hall of Justice since 2004, will lead the court's 85 judicial officers and oversee the operations of 15 court facilities and a budget of \$90 million. Hernandez has also served as Supervising Judge of the Gale-Schenone Hall of Justice in Pleasanton, and Presiding Judge of the former Fremont-Newark-Union City Municipal Court. He has served as a member of the California Judicial Council Advisory Committee on Records Management and is currently chair of the court's Civil Committee.

Gov. George Deukmejian appointed Hernandez to the former Municipal Court in Fremont in 1989 where he had served as a commissioner for four years. This was followed in 1996 by his appointment to the Superior Court by Gov. Pete Wilson. From 1977 to 1985 Hernandez was in private practice in San Francisco and the East Bay. He received his bachelor of arts from the University of California, Berkeley, and his *juris doctor* from Hastings College of Law.

Needham was appointed to the Superior Court of California, County of Alameda by Gov. Pete Wilson in 1996. Judge Needham's assignments have included presiding over civil and criminal matters, and serving as the court's civil law and motion judge. He is currently assigned the court's toxic tort – asbestos litigation cases. Needham also serves on the court's Executive Committee, Technology Committee, Civil Committee and is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Alameda County Bernard E. Witkin Law Library. Needham received his *juris doctor* from San Francisco Law School, served as deputy district attorney in Alameda County, and was a partner in the Walnut Creek law firm of Anderson, Galloway & Lucchese specializing in medical malpractice suits until 1996 when he was appointed to the bench. Prior to practicing law, Needham worked in the insurance industry.

For further information, please contact James Brighton, Bureau Chief of the Planning, Research, Court Services and Public Information Bureau, at (510) 272-5093.