



# SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

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## PRESS RELEASE

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## MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF COMMISSIONER DIANA C. BAKER

Monterey County Superior Court Presiding Judge Julie R. Culver announces the retirement of Commissioner Diana C. Baker effective July 3, 2020, after more than 23 years of service on the Monterey County Superior Court bench.

Commissioner Baker was one of the State's original commissioners in the Statewide Child Support Services Program. As a long standing and respected expert in this field, she has served as a panelist at nearly every annual Statewide Training Conference for Child Support Commissioners and Family Law Facilitators.

Commissioner Baker joined the Monterey County Superior Court in January 1997 as the Domestic Violence and Family Court Coordinator. In September 1997 she was appointed as a 60% Superior Court Commissioner assigned to the Department of Child Support Services calendar. In addition to her child support assignment, Commissioner Baker's assignments have included Small Claims, Domestic Violence, Civil Harassment, and self-represented Family Law calendars. In 2011 Commissioner Baker began splitting her time between Monterey and San Benito Counties, taking on a pro tempore Child Support Commissioner assignment. She was later named San Benito's permanent Superior Court Commissioner in October 2012. Commissioner Baker will be retiring from both positions on July 3, 2020.

Prior to her role as commissioner, Commissioner Baker graduated from Golden Gate University Law School in 1978 with Honors. She worked in private practice in Berkeley doing Civil and Family Law until 1986, when she relocated to Monterey County to set up a new legal aid office. She served as Executive Director of Monterey County Legal Services until January 1997, when she joined the Monterey County Superior Court.

Commissioner Baker remarked, "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as a Superior Court Commissioner these many years. But it is time to start a new chapter of my life. I plan to spend more time with my family, take classes, garden, do volunteer work, and get back into genealogical research. So many possibilities!"

Presiding Judge Julie Culver commented, "Monterey County has benefitted tremendously from Commissioner Baker's expertise in family law and child support services. She has been a valued member of our bench, always

attentive to those appearing on her calendars. Commissioner Baker's commitment to serving our community will be missed."

Commissioner Baker will be succeeded by retired Judge Stephen Sillman. Judge Sillman will begin serving in the position of commissioner on July 5, 2020.

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