



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT**

Meara Hattan
Acting Court Executive Officer/
Jury Commissioner

Kelly L. Neel
Presiding Judge

Timothy A. Canning
Assistant Presiding Judge

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 24, 2026**

*******PRESS RELEASE*******

HEATHER S. DURAND TO BE SWORN IN OCTOBER 2, 2026

Heather S. Durand was appointed to the position of Superior Court Judge, County of Humboldt, August 24, 2026. She will be sworn in on October 2, 2026, and will begin her judicial duties in a criminal law assignment on October 5, 2026.

Ms. Durand grew up in Yolo County. She earned her bachelor's degree in criminal justice administration from Sonoma State University, then earned her law degree from Empire College School of Law. She has been practicing law in Humboldt County for 26 years. Before this appointment, Heather S. Durand worked for the Humboldt County Counsel's Office since 2018. During that time she was assigned to County Behavioral Health and the Public Guardian's Office.

Ms. Durand worked extensively on the CARE Court program. This program was created to provide community-based behavioral health treatment and housing support, and has made a large impact on our unhoused community. Humboldt County's CARE Court program has been widely praised as one of the top ten most successful CARE Court programs in the state. As counsel for County Behavioral Health, Ms. Durand also worked with the Sheriff's Office and Court to secure expedited psychiatric treatment for inmates in the Humboldt County Jail. She has also been an integral part of the County's Penal Code §1001.36 Mental Health Diversion program.

Presiding Judge Kelly L. Neel stated that, "We are fortunate and thrilled to be welcoming Ms. Heather S. Durand to our Bench. Ms. Durand is a well-respected and long-time member of this legal community and I have every confidence she will serve our county with thoughtfulness and integrity."

"I'm honored and humbled by the governor's appointment and look forward to continuing to serve the community in this new role," said Ms. Durand.

* * *