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BY NV
DEPUTY

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF PINAL**

**IN THE MATTER OF ASSIGNMENT AND)
DUTIES OF THE SUPERIOR COURT)
JUDGES, COURT COMMISSIONERS/)
JUDGES PRO TEM (AMENDING A.O. 2022-29)
AND 2022-56))
_____)**

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

No. 2023 - 00003

WHEREAS, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of Arizona in and for Pinal County is the chief judicial officer of the county and has administrative authority over all courts in Pinal County, pursuant to Article VI of the Arizona Constitution and Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Order No. 2017-79; and

WHEREAS, in an ongoing effort to enhance the efficiency of the Judicial Branch of Government in Pinal County, a reallocation of resources is appropriate.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED affirming all current duties and assignments of all full-time and part-time judicial officers of the Superior Court, except where modified by this Administrative Order. This order is effective February 1, 2023, unless otherwise specified in this Administrative Order.

DIVISION NUMBERS

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Division Numbers are assigned as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Judge Kevin D. White (KDW), | Division 19 |
| Judge Joseph R. Georgini (JRG), | Division 20 |
| Judge Steven J. Fuller (SJF), | Division 23 |
| Judge Daniel A. Washburn (DAW), | Division 24 |
| Judge Jason R. Holmberg (JRH), | Division 25 |
| Judge Delia R. Neal (DRN), | Division 28 |
| Judge Robert Carter Olson (RCO), | Division 30 |
| Judge Patrick K. Gard (PKG), | Division 31 |
| Vacant Criminal Caseload | Division 33 |
| Vacant Civil Caseload | Division 34 |

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Commissioner/JPT Larry Wharton (LMW),	Division 106
Commissioner/JPT Karen Palmer, (KFP),	Division 114
Commissioner/JPT Jessica K. Dixon (JKD),	Division 115
Commissioner/JPT Matthew Reed (MSR),	Division 116
Commissioner/JPT Kelly S. Neal III (KSN),	Division 117
Commissioner/JPT Danielle Harris (DH),	Division 118
Commissioner/JPT Jamie R. Ramirez (JRR)	Division 119

A.R.S. §36-2152 PETITIONS (MINOR ABORTIONS)

IT IS ORDERED that Daniel A. Washburn and Delia R. Neal shall preside over any petitions filed pursuant to A.R.S. §36-2152.

ADOPTIONS

IT IS ORDERED that all adoptions filed by either a private party or attorney (including the Arizona Attorney General or Pinal County Attorney's Office) shall be assigned to Joseph R. Georgini.

CIVIL

IT IS ORDERED that Robert C. Olson shall serve as the Presiding Civil Judge.

IT IS ORDERED that the following civil matrix shall continue to be utilized through January 31, 2023:

00 LSG	10 CJO	20 JRG	30 LSG	40 CJO	50 JRG	60 LSG	70 CJO	80 JRG	90 LSG
01 CJO	11 JRG	21 LSG	31 CJO	41 JRG	51 LSG	61 CJO	71 JRG	81 LSG	91 CJO
02 JRG	12 LSG	22 CJO	32 JRG	42 LSG	52 CJO	62 JRG	72 LSG	82 CJO	92 JRG
03 LSG	13 CJO	23 JRG	33 LSG	43 CJO	53 JRG	63 LSG	73 CJO	83 JRG	93 LSG
04 CJO	14 JRG	24 LSG	34 CJO	44 JRG	54 LSG	64 CJO	74 JRG	84 LSG	94 CJO
05 JRG	15 LSG	25 CJO	35 JRG	45 LSG	55 CJO	65 JRG	75 LSG	85 CJO	95 JRG
06 LSG	16 CJO	26 JRG	36 LSG	46 CJO	56 JRG	66 LSG	76 CJO	86 JRG	96 LSG
07 CJO	17 JRG	27 LSG	37 CJO	47 JRG	57 LSG	67 CJO	77 JRG	87 LSG	97 CJO
08 JRG	18 LSG	28 CJO	38 JRG	48 LSG	58 CJO	68 JRG	78 LSG	88 CJO	98 JRG
09 LSG	19 CJO	29 JRG	39 LSG	49 CJO	59 JRG	69 LSG	79 CJO	89 JRG	99 LSG

IT IS ORDERED that beginning February 1, 2023, all new Civil files (identified by the prefix (CV), regardless of the specific case type, and any lower court appeal of a civil protective proceeding, except as otherwise specified in this AO, shall be assigned to Robert C. Olson and Joseph R. Georgini, as determined by the two terminal digits of each new Civil file, as follows:

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00 RCO	10 RCO	20 RCO	30 RCO	40 RCO	50 RCO	60 RCO	70 RCO	80 RCO	90 RCO
01 JRG	11 JRG	21 JRG	31 JRG	41 JRG	51 JRG	61 JRG	71 JRG	81 JRG	91 JRG
02 RCO	12 RCO	22 RCO	32 RCO	42 RCO	52 RCO	62 RCO	72 RCO	82 RCO	92 RCO
03 JRG	13 JRG	23 JRG	33 JRG	43 JRG	53 JRG	63 JRG	73 JRG	83 JRG	93 JRG
04 RCO	14 RCO	24 RCO	34 RCO	44 RCO	54 RCO	64 RCO	74 RCO	84 RCO	94 RCO
05 JRG	15 JRG	25 JRG	35 JRG	45 JRG	55 JRG	65 JRG	75 JRG	85 JRG	95 JRG
06 RCO	16 RCO	26 RCO	36 RCO	46 RCO	56 RCO	66 RCO	76 RCO	86 RCO	96 RCO
<u>07 JRG</u>	17 JRG	27 JRG	37 JRG	47 JRG	57 JRG	67 JRG	77 JRG	87 JRG	97 JRG
08 RCO	18 RCO	28 RCO	38 RCO	48 RCO	58 RCO	68 RCO	78 RCO	88 RCO	98 RCO
09 JRG	19 JRG	29 JRG	39 JRG	49 JRG	59 JRG	69 JRG	79 JRG	89 JRG	99 JRG

IT IS ORDERED that all lower court, including criminal and non-criminal, appeals be assigned to Robert C. Olson and in his discretion, may be reassigned within the Civil Bench by separate Order of the Presiding Civil Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that routine filings by inmates, including but not limited to torts, violation of civil rights (42 USC §1983 actions) and requests for injunctive or declaratory relief, are assigned to the Civil Bench pursuant to the matrix above, notwithstanding the Plaintiff's status as an inmate.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all current and new cases assigned to the Adult Drug Court, in Apache Junction, shall transfer from Lacey Stover Gard (LSG) and be assigned to Joseph R. Georgini. Case transfer shall be completed no later than May 1, 2023.

CRIMINAL

IT IS ORDERED that Jason R. Holmberg be assigned as the Presiding Criminal Court Judge effective February 1, 2023.

IT IS ORDERED that effective immediately all new Criminal files (identified by the prefix CR), except for those matters assigned to specialty courts, such as *Mental Health Treatment Court, Veteran's Treatment Court, Adult Drug Court, Fines, Fees and Restitution Court, Probation and Restoration Court and Early Disposition Court*, shall be assigned to Robert C. Olson, Jason R. Holmberg, Steven J. Fuller and Daniel A. Washburn as determined by the two terminal digits of each case as follows:

00 RCO	10 SJF	20 RCO	30 SJF	40 RCO	50 SJF	60 RCO	70 SJF	80 RCO	90 SJF
01 DAW	11 JRH	21 DAW	31 JRH	41 DAW	51 JRH	61 DAW	71 JRH	81 DAW	91 JRH
02 SJF	12 RCO	22 SJF	32 RCO	42 SJF	52 RCO	62 SJF	72 RCO	82 SJF	92 RCO
03 JRH	13 DAW	23 JRH	33 DAW	43 JRH	53 DAW	63 JRH	73 DAW	83 JRH	93 DAW
04 RCO	14 SJF	24 RCO	34 SJF	44 RCO	54 SJF	64 RCO	74 SJF	84 RCO	94 SJF

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05 DAW	15 JRH	25 DAW	35 JRH	45 DAW	55 JRH	65 DAW	75 JRH	85 DAW	95 JRH
06 SJF	16 RCO	26 SJF	36 RCO	46 SJF	56 RCO	66 SJF	76 RCO	86 SJF	96 RCO
07 JRH	17 DAW	27 JRH	37 DAW	47 JRH	57 DAW	67 JRH	77 DAW	87 JRH	97 DAW
08 RCO	18 SJF	28 RCO	38 SJF	48 RCO	58 SJF	68 RCO	78 SJF	88 RCO	98 SJF
09 DAW	19 JRH	29 DAW	39 JRH	49 DAW	59 JRH	69 DAW	79 JRH	89 DAW	99 JRH

IT IS ORDERED that in the absence of a separate order by the Presiding Criminal Judge, the arraignment judge will equitably and efficiently assign cases, in the discretion of the arraignment judge, and cases that are reopened will remain assigned to the original judge if still on the Criminal Bench or, if not still on the Criminal Bench, will be administratively reassigned by the Clerk using the above matrix, except for petitions for post-conviction relief that are assigned to the sentencing judge, regardless of current assignment, if still a member of the Bench.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective immediately, all new criminal and quasi-criminal cases in which the Defendant is in custody in a correctional facility or jail, other than the ADOC, shall be assigned to Robert C. Olson, Daniel A. Washburn, Jason R. Holmberg, and Steven J. Fuller, as determined by the two terminal digits of each case as follows:

00 RCO	10 SJF	20 RCO	30 SJF	40 RCO	50 SJF	60 RCO	70 SJF	80 RCO	90 SJF
01 DAW	11 JRH	21 DAW	31 JRH	41 DAW	51 JRH	61 DAW	71 JRH	81 DAW	91 JRH
02 SJF	12 RCO	22 SJF	32 RCO	42 SJF	52 RCO	62 SJF	72 RCO	82 SJF	92 RCO
03 JRH	13 DAW	23 JRH	33 DAW	43 JRH	53 DAW	63 JRH	73 DAW	83 JRH	93 DAW
04 RCO	14 SJF	24 RCO	34 SJF	44 RCO	54 SJF	64 RCO	74 SJF	84 RCO	94 SJF
05 DAW	15 JRH	25 DAW	35 JRH	45 DAW	55 JRH	65 DAW	75 JRH	85 DAW	95 JRH
06 SJF	16 RCO	26 SJF	36 RCO	46 SJF	56 RCO	66 SJF	76 RCO	86 SJF	96 RCO
07 JRH	17 DAW	27 JRH	37 DAW	47 JRH	57 DAW	67 JRH	77 DAW	87 JRH	97 DAW
08 RCO	18 SJF	28 RCO	38 SJF	48 RCO	58 SJF	68 RCO	78 SJF	88 RCO	98 SJF
09 DAW	19 JRH	29 DAW	39 JRH	49 DAW	59 JRH	69 DAW	79 JRH	89 DAW	99 JRH

IT IS ORDERED that *Early Disposition Court, Probation and Restoration Court, Virtual Court and Fines, Fees and Restitution Court* shall be heard by Karen F. Palmer

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that effective January 1, 2023, *Adult Drug Court, Mental Health Court and Veterans Court* shall be heard by Joseph R. Georgini.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED pursuant to Administrative Order 2021-00024, once an application for Habeas Corpus is filed, it shall be assigned to the Criminal Presiding

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Judge for assessment and assignment as determined by separate Order of the Presiding Criminal Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all cases in which the Defendant is in custody of the ADCRR and set on the Virtual Court calendar shall be heard by Karen F. Palmer beginning January 1, 2023. This calendar will be used for all appropriate uses and calendar size will expand with demand.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all matters assigned to the arraignment calendar shall be heard by Matthew S. Reed; and, all matters assigned to *Early Disposition Court, Probation and Restoration Court, and Fines, Fees and Restitution Court* shall be heard by Karen F. Palmer.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all matters involving the Restoration of Rights, Expungements and Petitions to Set Aside Convictions shall be assigned to Robert C. Olson, Jason R. Holmberg, Steven F. Fuller and Daniel A. Washburn, as determined by the CR matrix, except that if the judicial officer who heard the criminal matter is still on the Criminal Bench, that petition will continue to be assigned to them.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Petitions for Post-Conviction Relief shall be assigned to Robert C. Olson, Jason R. Holmberg, Steven F. Fuller and Daniel A. Washburn, as periodically determined by separate Order of the Presiding Criminal Judge, except that if the judicial officer who heard the criminal matter is still on the Bench, that petition will continue to be assigned to them.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all new ex parte motions filed in criminal matters will continue to be assigned to Jason R. Holmberg or following consultation with the trial judge, may be reassigned to the trial judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that due to the need for court staff to obtain signatures on various routine orders on short notice, such as summons and transport orders, the Criminal Presiding Judge shall continue to schedule a revolving assignment among the judicial officers of the Criminal Bench, who shall provide a prompt response to requests that are placed in a signature basket, and that judicial officer shall consider such requests without regard to who is the assigned judge. The Criminal Presiding Judge shall also define and regulate the scope of permissible orders that are appropriate for this resource, as opposed to matters that must be submitted directly to the judicial officer who is assigned to the underlying case.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all criminal cases in which the competency and/or restoration of the defendant is at issue pursuant to Rule 11 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be heard by Matthew S. Reed beginning January 1, 2023.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Rule 11 Pre-Screens shall remain with the Court ordering the evaluation, unless such evaluation originates from the Arraignment Court. Rule 11 Pre-Screens originating from the Arraignment Court shall be transferred to a Trial Division. If a full Rule 11 evaluation is ordered by the trial court it shall be

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assigned to Matthew S. Reed beginning January 1, 2023. If found competent to stand trial, cases shall be assigned or reassigned to a trial court.

FAMILY

IT IS ORDERED that Patrick K. Gard will continue to serve as the Presiding Family Law Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all family law cases currently assigned to Karen F. Palmer shall be reassigned to Jessica K. Dixon as soon as practical, by whatever method deemed most appropriate by the Presiding Family Law Judge but case transfer shall be completed no later than May 1, 2023.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that beginning January 1, 2023, all new Family Law or Domestic Relations cases (identified by the prefix DO, shall be assigned to Patrick K. Gard, Jessica K. Dixon, Larry M. Wharton and Kelly S. Neal III as determined by the two terminal digits of each Domestic Relations file as follows:

00 KSN	10 KSN	20 KSN	30 KSN	40 KSN	50 KSN	60 KSN	70 KSN	80 KSN	90 KSN
01 JKD	11 LMW	21 PKG	31 JKD	41 LMW	51 PKG	61 JKD	71 LMW	81 PKG	91 JKD
02 LMW	12 PKG	22 JKD	32 LMW	42 PKG	52 JKD	62 LMW	72 PKG	82 JKD	92 LMW
03 PKG	13 JKD	23 LMW	33 PKG	43 JKD	53 LMW	63 PKG	73 JKD	83 LMW	93 PKG
04 JKD	14 LMW	24 PKG	34 JKD	44 LMW	54 PKG	64 JKD	74 LMW	84 PKG	94 JKD
05 LMW	15 PKG	25 JKD	35 LMW	45 PKG	55 JKD	65 LMW	75 PKG	85 JKD	95 LMW
06 PKG	16 JKD	26 LMW	36 PKG	46 JKD	56 LMW	66 PKG	76 JKD	86 LMW	96 PKG
07 JKD	17 LMW	27 PKG	37 JKD	47 LMW	57 PKG	67 JKD	77 LMW	87 PKG	97 JKD
08 LMW	18 PKG	28 JKD	38 LMW	48 PKG	58 JKD	68 LMW	78 PKG	88 JKD	98 LMW
09 PKG	19 JKD	29 LMW	39 PKG	49 JKD	59 LMW	69 PKG	79 JKD	89 LMW	99 PKG

FAMILY LAW COMMISSIONER/IVD

IT IS ORDERED that the all Family Law or Domestic Relations cases (identified by the prefix DO), which proceed to a default hearing; all consent decrees; and, any case to establish, enforce or modify child support that the Arizona Attorney General Office is the attorney of record, shall continue to be heard by Kelly S. Neal III on a designated "Family Law Commissioner" calendar.

GUARDIANSHIP/CONSERVATORSHIP/PROBATE

IT IS ORDERED that Kevin D. White shall remain the Presiding Probate Judge.

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IT IS ORDERED that all Guardianship and/or Conservatorship cases (identified by the prefix GC), filed pursuant to Title 14 of the Arizona Revised Statutes shall be assigned to the Guardianship/Conservatorship judge and heard by Kevin D. White.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Formal Probate cases (identified by the prefix PB), filed pursuant to Title 14 of the Arizona Revised Statutes shall also be assigned to the Kevin D. White.

JUVENILE DEPENDENCY/DELINQUENCY

IT IS ORDERED that Delia R. Neal will continue to serve as the Presiding Juvenile Court Judge.

IT IS ORDERED that Delia R. Neal, Jamie R. Ramirez and Danielle Harris shall preside over all dependency matters assigned to them, including pre-protective hearings every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The objective, to the fullest extent possible and practical, is for the assigned Dependency superior court judges to maintain equal caseloads and address all issues including pre-protective placement and permanency and thereby achieve the earliest appropriate adjudication of such matters, which is consistent with the best interests of the child.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all delinquency matters currently assigned to the Danielle Harris, as the "Juvenile Delinquency Judge," in addition to all new Juvenile Delinquency matters shall be heard by Mathew S. Reed commencing January 1, 2023.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all juvenile dependency and severance cases currently assigned to Barbara A. Hazel be reassigned to Jamie R. Ramirez and all juvenile dependency and severance cases currently assigned to Jessica K. Dixon be reassigned to Danielle Harris.

SEVERANCES

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that all Severance matters filed by the Arizona Attorney General, and/or arising from a Dependency matter, shall be heard by the assigned dependency judge. All new private severances (identified by the prefix (SV), filed on or after January 1, 2023, shall be assigned to Delia R. Neal, Jamie R. Ramirez and Danielle Harris, as determined by the two terminal digits of each new Severance file, as follows:

00 DRN	10 JRR	20 DH	30 DRN	40 JRR	50 DH	60 DRN	70 JRR	80 DH	90 DRN
01 JRR	11 DH	21 DRN	31 JRR	41 DH	51 DRN	61 JRR	71 DH	81 DRN	91 JRR
02 DH	12 DRN	22 JRR	32 DH	42 DRN	52 JRR	62 DH	72 DRN	82 JRR	92 DH
03 DRN	13 JRR	23 DH	33 DRN	43 JRR	53 DH	63 DRN	73 JRR	83 DH	93 DRN
04 JRR	14 DH	24 DRN	34 JRR	44 DH	54 DRN	64 JRR	74 DH	84 DRN	94 JRR

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05 DH	15 DRN	25 JRR	35 DH	45 DRN	55 JRR	65 DH	75 DRN	85 JRR	95 DH
06 DRN	16 JRR	26 DH	36 DRN	46 JRR	56 DH	66 DRN	76 JRR	86 DH	96 DRN
07 JRR	17 DH	27 DRN	37 JRR	47 DH	57 DRN	67 JRR	77 DH	87 DRN	97 JRR
08 DH	18 DRN	28 JRR	38 DH	48 DRN	58 JRR	68 DH	78 DRN	88 JRR	98 DH
09 DRN	19 JRR	29 DH	39 DRN	49 JRR	59 DH	69 DRN	79 JRR	89 DH	99 DRN

MENTAL HEALTH (TITLE 36/RULE 11)

IT IS ORDERED that all Mental Health cases (identified by the prefix MH), pursuant to A.R.S § 36-501, currently assigned to Danielle Harris shall be assigned to Matthew S. Reed commencing January 1, 2023. In addition, all new Mental Health cases (identified by the prefix MH), pursuant to A.R.S § 36-501, shall be assigned to Matthew S. Reed, effective January 1, 2023.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that as defined in the Criminal section of this Order, all criminal cases in which the competency and/or restoration of the defendant is at issue pursuant to Rule 11 of the Arizona Rules of Criminal Procedure, shall be heard by Matthew S. Reed commencing January 1, 2023.

DESIGNATION OF PRESIDING JUDGES

IT IS ORDERED delegating the authority of the Presiding Judge to the following jurists as presiding judges of their respective benches:

Robert C. Olson, Civil Presiding Judge
 Jason R. Holmberg, Criminal Presiding Judge
 Delia R. Neal, Juvenile Presiding Judge
 Patrick K. Gard, Family Law Presiding Judge
 Kevin D. White, Presiding Probate Judge

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Presiding Judge for each bench is delegated general authority over their bench, except as modified or limited by Administrative Order or direction by the Presiding Judge, and shall specifically supervise staff judges that are assigned to the bench, coordinate coverage, and reassign cases within the bench as required. This includes authority to approve, or direct, the retention of cases by a judicial officer when they are otherwise due to be transferred per this Order. Questions regarding specific case transfers will be determined by a consensus of the Presiding “bucket” Judges impacted. The Presiding Judge will retain final authority if an agreement is not reached.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Kevin D. White will continue in his role as Associate Presiding Judge of the Pinal County Superior Court.

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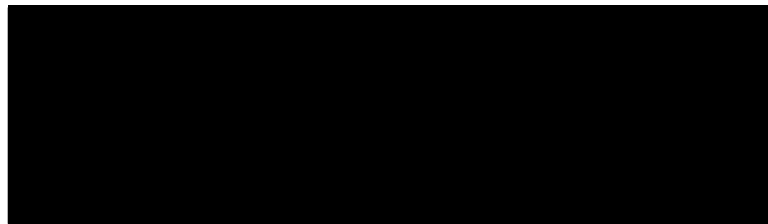
IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Robert C. Olson shall continue to manage jury trial resources for the Superior Court and serve as liaison to the Jury Department, as directed by the Presiding Judge, including allocating jury trial resources for regular trial days, approving special trial days when an unusually large jury pool is required, and increasing the Superior Court jury trial capacity when authorized by the Presiding Judge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Kelly S. Neal III will serve as Chief Pretrial Judge and act as liaison to the limited jurisdiction courts.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED Larry M. Wharton will continue to serve as the Coordinating Commissioner until his term expires on June 30, 2023.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall update its case management system to reflect these changes as soon as practical but no later than June 30, 2023.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2023



Honorable Joseph R. Georgini,
Presiding Judge



- Original: Clerk of the Superior Court
Copies: Judges, Pinal County
Kent Volkmer, Pinal County Attorney
Rebecca Padilla, Clerk of the Court
Catherine Whalen, Indigent Defense Services
Kate Milewski, Office of Public Defender
Todd D. Zweig, Court Administration
Tracy McElroy, Conciliation Court Director
Saul Schoon, Chief Probation Officer
Denise Smith, Juvenile Court Services Director
David Rodriguez, Chief Criminal Deputy County Attorney