



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONTEREY**

240 Church Street, Salinas, California 93901 - (831) 775-5400
www.monterey.courts.ca.gov

CARRIE M. PANETTA
Presiding Judge

RAFAEL VAZQUEZ
Asst. Presiding Judge

KATY GRANT
Court Executive Officer

**MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ANNOUNCES
JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2026**

2026 Judicial Assignments
Effective January 1, 2026

Hon. Rafael Vazquez, Presiding Judge

Salinas Courthouse

DEPARTMENT 1:
3rd Floor

HON. STEPHANIE E. HULSEY
Prison Cases
SVP and MDO cases
Parole & Post Release Community Supervision
(PRCS)
Criminal Writs
Felony Arraignment Department
Civil Grand Jury Advisor

DEPARTMENT 2:
3rd Floor

HON. ANDREW G. LIU
Felony Trial Department
Appellate Division

DEPARTMENT 3:
3rd Floor

HON. PAMELA L. BUTLER
Supervising Judge, Criminal Division
Presiding Judge, Appellate Division
Felony Trial Department

DEPARTMENT 4:
2nd Floor

HON. JENNIFER J. O'KEEFE
Assistant Presiding Judge
Felony Trial Department
Appellate Division

DEPARTMENT 5:
2nd Floor

HON. CARRIE M. PANETTA
Felony Trial Department

DEPARTMENT 6:
2nd Floor

HON. MARK E. HOOD
Felony Trial Department

DEPARTMENT 7:
1st Floor

HON. MURAT A. OZGUR
Misdemeanor Trial Department

DEPARTMENT 8:
1st Floor

HON. JARED A. JEFFERSON
Misdemeanor Trial Department

DEPARTMENT 9:
1st Floor

HON. BRIAN T. JONES
Misdemeanor Trial Department

DEPARTMENT 10:
B Level

HON. TIMOTHY P. ROBERTS
Juvenile Dependency Department
Combined Drug Court
DUI Treatment Court
Military Diversion & Veterans Treatment Court
Criminal Mental Health (CNC, Diversion, 1370.01)
Withdrawal of Consent to Adopt

DEPARTMENT 11:
B Level

HON. ROBERT A. BURLISON
Misdemeanor Arraignment Department

DEPARTMENT 12:
1422 Natividad Road Salinas

HON. SAM LAVORATO, JR.
Supervising Judge, Juvenile Division
Juvenile Justice Department
Juvenile Truancy Department

Monterey Courthouse

DEPARTMENT 13:
3rd Floor

HON. ELISABETH K. MINETA
Probate Department
LPS Conservatorships
CARE Court
Unlawful Detainers
Adoptions
Small Claims Appeals

DEPARTMENT 13A:

3rd Floor

HON. JULIE R. CULVER

Direct Calendar Civil Trial Department
Ex Parte Calendar
Labor Appeals
Collections
Fee Waiver Requests
Riese Hearings/Mental Health Writs
Civil Firearm Hearings

DEPARTMENT 14:

2nd Floor

HON. IAN A. RIVAMONTE

Supervising Judge, Civil Division
Direct Calendar Civil Trial Department
Complex Civil
Ex Parte Calendar

DEPARTMENT 15:

2nd Floor

HON. THOMAS W. WILLS

Direct Calendar Civil Trial Department
Complex Civil
Ex Parte Calendar

DEPARTMENT 16:

1st Floor

HON. VANESSA W. VALLARTA

Family Law Department

DEPARTMENT 16A:

1st Floor

COMM. MARIA L. MENDOZA

Civil Harassment Restraining Orders
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders

DEPARTMENT 17:

1st Floor

HON. HEIDI K. WHILDEN

Family Law Department

King City Courthouse

DEPARTMENT 18:

TRAFFIC COMMISSIONER

2ND Tuesday of the Month
Traffic Court

DCSS/COMM. STEPHEN A. SILLMAN

3RD Wednesday of the month (6x/year)

Marina Courthouse

DEPARTMENT 20:

COMM. WILLIAM M. LITT & COMM. MARIA L. MENDOZA

Traffic Court
Small Claims Court

DEPARTMENT 21:

COMM. STEPHEN A. SILLMAN

Child Support Department

- As PJ, I will be in Salinas. I will handle judicial administration duties, cover criminal calendars, and will handle criminal jury trials when a judicial officer has more than one trial confirmed in his or her department. I will also serve on the appellate panel. If there is no judicial appointment by January 1, 2026, then I will cover Department 9.