SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MONTEREY
240 Church Street, Salinas, California 93901 - (831) 775-5400
www.monterey.courts.ca.gov

RAFAEL VAZQUEZ
Presiding Judge

JENNIFER J. O'KEEFE
Asst. Presiding Judge

KATY GRANT
Court Executive Officer

MONTEREY COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ANNOUNCES UPDATED JUDICIAL ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2027

2027 Judicial Assignments
Effective January 1, 2027

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 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 Appellate Division Alternate

DEPARTMENT 6: 2nd Floor	**HON. MARK E. HOOD** Felony Trial Department
DEPARTMENT 7: 1st Floor	**TO BE DETERMINED** Misdemeanor Trial Department
DEPARTMENT 8: 1st Floor	**HON. LINDSEY BERG-JAMES** Misdemeanor Trial Department
DEPARTMENT 9: 1st Floor	**HON. BRIAN T. JONES** Misdemeanor Trial Department
DEPARTMENT 10: B Level	**HON. JARED A. JEFFERSON** Combined Drug Court DUI Treatment Court Military Diversion & Veterans Treatment Court Criminal Mental Health (CNC, Diversion,1370.01) Withdrawal of Consent to Adopt LPS Conservatorships CARE Court Juvenile Truancy Department Felony Arraignment Department
DEPARTMENT 11: B Level	**TO BE DETERMINED** Misdemeanor Arraignment Department
DEPARTMENT 12: 1422 Natividad Road Salinas	**HON. SAM LAVORATO, JR.** *Supervising Judge, Juvenile Division* Juvenile Justice Department Juvenile Dependency Department

Monterey Courthouse

DEPARTMENT 13: 3rd Floor	**HON. MURAT A. OZGUR** Adoptions Civil Firearm Hearings Collections Guardianships Orders for Examination Probate Department Riese Hearings/Mental Health Writs Small Claims Appeals Unlawful Detainers

DEPARTMENT 13A: **HON. ELIZABETH R. LEITZINGER**
3rd Floor
Direct Calendar Civil and Law & Motion Department
Ex Parte Calendar
Fee Waiver Requests/Denials
Labor Appeals
Name Changes

DEPARTMENT 14: **HON. IAN A. RIVAMONTE**
2nd Floor
Supervising Judge, Civil Division
Direct Calendar Civil and Law & Motion Department
Ex Parte Calendar
Fee Waiver Requests/Denials
Labor Appeals
Name Changes

DEPARTMENT 15: **HON. THOMAS W. WILLS**
2nd Floor
Direct Calendar Civil and Law & Motion Department
Ex Parte Calendar
Fee Waiver Requests/Denials
Labor Appeals
Name Changes

DEPARTMENT 16: **HON. VANESSA W. VALLARTA**
1st Floor
Family Law Department

DEPARTMENT 16A: **COMM. MARIA L. MENDOZA**
1st Floor
Civil Harassment Restraining Orders
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders

DEPARTMENT 17: **HON. HEIDI K. WHILDEN**
1st Floor
Family Law Department

<u>King City Courthouse</u>

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. NORMA SAMRA & COMM. MARIA L. MENDOZA** Traffic Court Small Claims Court
DEPARTMENT 21:	**COMM. STEPHEN A. SILLMAN** Child Support Department

- Presiding Judge Vazquez will be in Salinas. He will handle judicial administration duties, cover criminal calendars, and will handle criminal jury trials when necessary.