



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Presiding Judge Appoints Interim Chief Probation Officer

Sacramento, CA—Sacramento Superior Court Presiding Judge Bunmi O. Awoniyi has appointed Sacramento native Julie Wherry as Interim Chief Probation Officer for Sacramento County

“Ms. Wherry was a clear standout for this interim role,” Awoniyi said. “She started her law enforcement career with Sacramento County Probation and will lean on her 26 years to lead the agency.”

Wherry will assume the interim post in mid-December when Chief Probation Officer Marlon Yarber retires.

In March 2018, Julie Wherry was appointed as Assistant Chief Probation Officer. She started employment as a probation aide assigned to the Youth Detention Facility, and over two decades, acquired extensive experience in court and field operations, program and policy implementation, facility management and expansion, enhancing department training, media communications, and personnel relations.

Assistant Chief Wherry is well-versed in the planning, implementation, and operations of the Adult Day Reporting Centers, is committed to holding individuals accountable, and values alternatives to incarceration to reduce harm while providing support and stability to clients and their families.

Social and justice initiatives currently within Wherry’s oversight include the operation of the Pre-Trial Release and Monitoring program, a transition to provide risk-based assessments on individuals in custody to be considered for release in lieu of a release system based on wealth.

Wherry also oversees a capital grant-funded project to provide mental health treatment, substance use disorder treatment, and trauma-centered services at the Sacramento County Jail Diversion Treatment Resource Center as an alternative to incarceration.

“I am pleased to support the Superior Court’s appointment of Julie Wherry as Interim Chief Probation Officer. Julie has demonstrated exceptional leadership, integrity, and a deep commitment to the principles of justice throughout her career, working tirelessly to balance accountability with alternatives for the justice-involved population,” said Eric Jones, Deputy County Executive for Sacramento County. “Ms. Wherry has intimate knowledge of all probation operations, having worked through the ranks throughout her 27-year career. She is known as a driver of change, having implemented numerous initiatives throughout her tenure. I am confident that her experience and dedication will serve the court and community well as the department moves forward in this important time of transition.”

Wherry is a California State University, Sacramento graduate and a CSUS Criminal Justice Advisory Committee member.

[The court is leading recruitment for a new Chief Probation Officer. The deadline to apply is Dec. 5, 2024.](#)

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