



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 2022

MEDIA CONTACT:

Brandy Tuzon Boyd, Public Information Officer
SSCPIO@saccourt.ca.gov or (916) 591-0050

Sacramento Superior Court Judge Mesiwala Nominated to Third District Court of Appeal

Sacramento, CA — Gov. Gavin Newsom recently nominated Sacramento Superior Court Judge Shama Hakim Mesiwala to serve as an Associate Justice of the Third District Court of Appeal.

Judge Mesiwala, 48, of Yolo County, began her judicial career as a Court Commissioner in 2017. Later that year, she was appointed as Superior Court Judge by former Gov. Jerry Brown.

“For more than five years, the Sacramento County bench has benefitted from Judge Mesiwala’s unwavering service to justice – work which she will now carry over to the appellate court,” Presiding Court Judge Michael G. Bowman said.

During her tenure on the bench, Judge Mesiwala has presided over a variety of civil and criminal cases as well as mental health matters, dependency and delinquency proceedings, and drug court. She served as the Americans with Disabilities judge for the Sacramento County Superior Court Hall of Justice and created the first Indian Child Welfare Act Courtroom in Northern California.

Judge Mesiwala also ran the Court’s student externship program — designed to expose young people to the diverse and complex departments of a busy trial court, including criminal, civil, juvenile and family cases.

Judge Mesiwala was the first South Asian American to be appointed to a judicial position in Sacramento County and will be the first South Asian American female and Muslim American female on any appellate court in California, if confirmed. She is cofounder of the South Asian Bar Association of Sacramento.

Judge Mesiwala is an Adjunct Professor of Appellate Advocacy at the University of California, Davis School of Law, having taught more than 650 students since 2013. She

was a Judicial Attorney at the Third District Court of Appeal from 2004 to 2017, where she served as a Senior Judicial Attorney for the Honorable Ronald B. Robie from 2006 to 2017 and as a Central Staff Attorney from 2004 to 2006.

Judge Mesiwala served as a Staff Attorney at the Central California Appellate Program from 1999 to 2004 and as an Attorney at the Office of the Federal Public Defender, Eastern District of California in 1999. She earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of California, Davis School of Law.

“I have been honored to be part of a trial court that strives every day to deliver effective and prompt justice to all who come before it,” Judge Mesiwala said.

Judge Mesiwala’s nomination requires confirmation by the Commission on Judicial Appointments, which currently consists of Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye, Attorney General Rob Bonta and Senior Presiding Justice Ronald Robie. She would fill a vacancy on the Third District Court of Appeal created by the retirement of Justice Coleman A. Blease.

Justices of the California Courts of Appeal appointments must also be confirmed by the public via retention election at the first general election following appointment.

To be considered for appointment, a person must be an attorney admitted to practice in California or have served as a judge of a court of record in the state for 10 years immediately preceding appointment.

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