

April 28, 2009

## Superior Court Appoints Chief Probation Officer

### Stuart Forrest a Well-Respected Veteran Committed to Public Safety

**REDWOOD CITY, Calif.** – Presiding Judge Stephen M. Hall of the San Mateo County Superior Court today announced that Stuart Forrest, a veteran San Mateo County probation officer and manager, has been appointed Chief Probation Officer.

Forrest will oversee a department with a \$74 million budget whose 463 employees play a critical role in San Mateo County’s criminal justice system. The department supervises adults and youth in the community to ensure compliance with court-ordered sanctions, operates camps and institutions and provides vital background and other information to help judges impose appropriate sentences and sanctions.

“Stu’s unparalleled talent, ethics and years of experience will serve the Probation Department and our County well,” Judge Robert D. Foiles said.

Judge Foiles and Judge Marta S. Diaz served on a search committee that recommended Forrest’s appointment to the full Superior Court, which makes the appointment.

“I’ve known Stu for a very long time,” Judge Diaz said. “His modesty and leadership skills are only exceeded by his ability and integrity. I have absolute confidence that, as chief, the management of the Probation Department will be transparent, responsive and accountable to the men and women of the Probation Department and to the entire County.”

Forrest succeeds interim Chief Calvin Remington, who served temporarily while the Court searched for long-term replacement for Loren Buddress. Buddress retired in early January following many years in public service.

Forrest began his career in 1976 as a group supervisor at San Mateo County’s juvenile hall. From 1990 to 1998 he oversaw the Probation Department’s Adult Division and since 1998 has served as Deputy Chief. His exact start date as Chief has not been determined.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska with a degree in psychology, Forrest is a trained mediator and volunteers with the Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center. He is also a firearms and defensive tactics instructor and a management and communications skills trainer.

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**About the Probation Department:** The Probation Department's overriding philosophy is that public safety is best served by implementing proven programs that hold offenders accountable, offer opportunities for rehabilitation and education and assist victims of crime. The Probation Department operates Adult, Juvenile and Institutions divisions.

Although the Superior Court appoints the Chief Probation Officer, the department's budget is allocated by the Board of Supervisors.

*A photo of Stuart Forrest is available upon request.*

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