Superior Court of California
County of Orange

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE POSTED: Jan. 7, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

JUVENILE DEPENDENCY CASE REASSIGNMENT

JUDGE BENJAMIN AZAR – L31 – EFFECTIVE MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2026

Judge Benjamin Azar will be assigned to Department L31 at the Lamoreaux Justice Center effective January 12, 2026.

This is your notice that all Juvenile Dependency cases currently assigned to Judge Jennifer McCartney for all purposes, and all cases assigned to Judge Jennifer McCartney for all purposes between now and January 9, 2026, will be reassigned to Judge Benjamin Azar, for all purposes, on the effective date, January 12, 2026.

If you are an attorney who is appointed or retained to represent a party in a new case assigned to Judge Jennifer McCartney for all purposes between now and January 9, 2026, based on this advance notice, notice of your case's reassignment to Judge Benjamin Azar will be deemed effective on the date of your appointment or, if you are retained, notice will be deemed effective the first time you appear on behalf of your client on the case, or the first time your client appears in the case, whichever comes first.

Any peremptory challenge filed against Judge Benjamin Azar prior to the effective date of January 12, 2026 shall be directed to Judge Craig E. Arthur, Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court. Any peremptory challenge filed after the effective date of January 12, 2026 shall be directed to Judge Benjamin Azar or Judge Craig E. Arthur, Presiding Judge of Juvenile Court.

Unless otherwise indicated, once a case is assigned to a particular judge or commissioner, the assignment is for all purposes. (Superior Court of California, County of Orange Local Rule 900.2; Orange County Juvenile Court Administrative Order No. 11/003-900)

Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 170.6(a)(2), peremptory challenges are timely only if they are filed within 15 days after notice of the reassignment, or if the party has not yet appeared in the action, then 15 days after the first appearance.