

PRESIDING JUDGE SUZANNE KINGSBURY

El Dorado County Superior Court
South Lake Tahoe, California

Hon. Suzanne Kingsbury was elected the Presiding Judge of the El Dorado County Superior Court in 1999, an assignment that will continue until at least December of 2014. She sits in Department Three of the court, which is located in South Lake Tahoe, where she presides over civil, criminal, juvenile, family, appellate and probate matters. She is the first woman to serve in the position of Superior Court Judge in the county's history, as well as being its first female Presiding Judge.

Judge Kingsbury has been instrumental in the creation and expansion of innovative programs in El Dorado County. Through her efforts, a variety of services have been made available to self-represented litigants to provide them with information they need to successfully navigate the court system. She was part of the team that obtained approval for the funding and construction of the El Dorado County Juvenile Hall in South Lake Tahoe. She expanded the civil alternative dispute resolution program to include full services in South Lake Tahoe, which provides litigants with a 'no cost' means to resolve their cases without going to trial. Judge Kingsbury also initiated a family law dispute resolution program, which allows families going through a marital dissolution the ability to settle their cases in an amicable fashion. Through collaboration with other justice system partners, Judge Kingsbury also brought El Dorado County its first juvenile and adult drug courts, mental health court and dependency mediation and drug courts.

In June of 2004, Chief Justice Ronald M. George appointed Judge Kingsbury to a three year term on the Judicial Council, the policy making body of California's state court system. She is the first judge from El Dorado County to serve in that capacity. From 2005 to 2007, she served as the chair of the Council's internal Rules and Projects Committee (RUPRO). In 2011, Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye appointed Judge Kingsbury to serve as a member of the Strategic Evaluation Committee. In 2012, that committee produced and published an exhaustive report assessing the transparency, efficiency and accountability of the Administrative Office of the Courts. She has also been appointed by both Chief Justice George and Cantil-Sakauye to the California Supreme Court Committee on Judicial Ethics Opinions and to the Tribal Court/State Court Forum.

Since assuming the bench, Judge Kingsbury has served as a member of CJER's Continuing Judicial Studies, Rural Courts and Presiding Judge and Court Executive Education Committees and the Continuing Judicial Studies, Cow Counties and California Judicial Administration Conference Planning Committees. Since 1999, she has served on the Trial Court Presiding Judges' Advisory Committee, serving as a member of the Executive Committee, and as vice chair. She was appointed by the Chief Justice to serve as a member of the Task Force on Self Represented Litigants, the Task Force on Judicial

Ethics Issues, the Task Force on Mental Health Issues and the Criminal Law Advisory Committee. She also has been a member of several Judicial Council Working Groups relating to judicial administration issues. Judge Kingsbury is also actively involved in judicial education, serving as a frequent faculty member and facilitator, particularly in the area of judicial administration.