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Boscoe appointed to judgeship

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By AMY LINDBLOM

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger yesterday appointed James Boscoe as a Tuolumne County Superior Court judge.

Boscoe, 64, fills the vacant seat created on March 1, when William Polley retired after 16 years on the bench.

"This is an honor and I am humbled," Boscoe said late yesterday afternoon. "I have very big shoes to fill, but I think I am up to the task."

An attorney since 1969, Boscoe has served for nine years as the superior court family law and child support commissioner for Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties and has presided over Tuolumne County's drug court program.

As commissioner, Boscoe presides over uncontested family law matters. He also fills in as judge when judges have scheduling conflicts.

He will be sworn in within the next two weeks to take over the civil and family law cases, said Eric DuTemple, Tuolumne County's presiding superior court judge. Also on the bench in Tuolumne County are judges Doug Boyack and Eleanor Provost.

A recruitment flier will be sent out today to find a replacement for Boscoe's appointed commissioner position, DuTemple said. A panel of judges and court executive officers will name a new commissioner.

The job pays 85 percent of a judge's salary. The next commissioner will handle court duties in only Amador and Tuolumne counties. DuTemple said Calaveras County Superior Court has chosen to no longer have a commissioner assist with family law matters.

"Jim is familiar with the court system and from the perspective of the courts, this is an easy transition," said DuTemple.

Donald Segerstrom, Tuolumne County district attorney and Gregory Oliver, Tuolumne County counsel, also sought the governor appointment. Both yesterday offered their congratulations to Boscoe.

Although the governor's selection process was kept confidential, a spokeswoman for the governor said that Schwarzenegger felt Boscoe was the most qualified.

Oliver, who had also sought and was not appointed to a judgeship in San Joaquin County, had high praise for Boscoe.

"He will make a fine judge and we look forward to working with him on the bench," Oliver said.

Prior to becoming court commissioner, Boscoe was a Tuolumne County deputy district attorney, city attorney for Sonora, a deputy Tuolumne County counsel, a San Joaquin County deputy public defender and in private practice specializing in family and personal injury law.

He received his law degree from Santa Clara School of Law and his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

Boscoe, a Republican, lives in Sonora with his wife Linda. The superior court judgeship pays \$149,160 per year.

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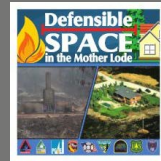
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