

# Attorney <sup>✓</sup> named to <sup>Judge</sup> judgeship

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SANTA CRUZ — Attorney Robert Attack has been appointed Municipal Court judge by Gov. George Deukmejian, filling a slot vacated by Judge John Marlo's move from Municipal to Superior Court late last year.

"I think it's always up in the air until it's nailed down," Attack, 40, said Tuesday. "This is a surprise, obviously, and I'm quite happy about it."

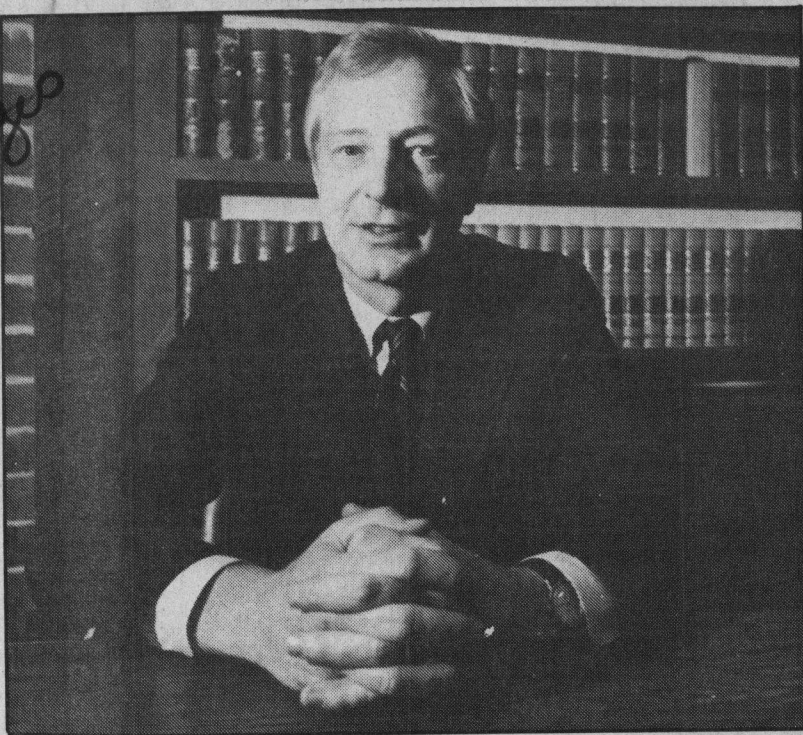
Attack will take over Santa Cruz Municipal Court D when that court's judge, Richard Kessell, leaves to fill the Watsonville Municipal Court seat vacated by Marlo. Attack expects to take over the court in early May.

The new judge had been considered a favorite among five contenders for the position mainly because he is a Republican, a former prosecutor and had the backing of four judges.

The job pays \$74,432 a year.

Marlo's original six-year term has only two years left, but Attack said he expects to run for the judgeship after the term runs out. "I wouldn't enter into this unless I thought that it was something I wanted to do and could continue to do for some period of time," Attack said.

Attack grew up in Cleveland and graduated with a bachelor's degree



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

## New Municipal Court judge Robert Attack

from Muskingum College in New Concord, Ohio. He moved west in the early '70s, and received his legal training at Western State University in San Diego.

After working between 1975-78 as a deputy district attorney in Stanislaus County, Attack accepted a position with the Santa Cruz County District Attorney's office. He spent a year there before joining the private practice of Murphy, Williams, Stevens, Book, Attack and Thompson in downtown Santa Cruz. While in private practice, Attack specialized in "real estate problems and litigation and criminal law."

One of the first problems Attack

will face is the so-called "court crush" of cases that had judges complaining earlier this year.

"I think it's manageable," Attack said. "But until I get over there I really don't know what the backlog is."

"I don't sense anything more severe than it was six or nine months ago," Attack said. "I think there's always room for improvement, though."

Asked what he considers the greatest challenge of being a judge, Attack said, "I think that it's going to take good administration and a good sense of humor."