

# Santa Cruz County gets new judge

Mercury News Staff Report

✓ John Salazar, a lawyer who has served as a court commissioner since 1992, was appointed by Gov. Gray Davis on Tuesday to the Santa Cruz County Superior Court bench.

Salazar was called by the governor Tuesday night and told of his appointment, said Christine Patton, executive officer and clerk of the county Superior Court.

Patton said that Salazar will fill the vacancy created when veteran Judge Bill Kelsay retired at the end of 1998 and Judge Richard McAdams, who had been a Municipal Court judge, successfully ran for Kelsay's seat on the Superior Court bench.

Salazar will essentially fill McAdams' seat. But with the consolidation of the two courts, all Santa Cruz County judges today sit on the Superior Court.

Santa Cruz County has 10 judges, several court commissioners and a traffic referee, Patton said.

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