



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Judge Tom Black joked with Sam Stevens before swearing him in as Superior Court judge.

Stevens sworn in as judge

By MARK BERGSTROM
Sentinel staff writer

2-23-89
SANTA CRUZ — Local attorney Sam Stevens was invested Wednesday as the county's newest Superior Court judge.

Superior Court Judge Tom Black conducted the swearing-in ceremony for Stevens. The two men previously were associated in the same law firm.

"We made a great deal when we took Sam in," said Black, who was

a partner in the firm when Stevens was hired. "He has a real eye for the goal line."

Black predicted that Stevens will make a big contribution to the court in his ability to get to the heart of legal issues.

Stevens, 43, will assume the bench Monday, handling civil law matters. In his law practice, Stevens specialized in real estate and business law.

Stevens, a graduate of UC Berkeley and Hastings College of

Law, pledged to try to retain a bit of Santa Cruz in Superior Court, which is undergoing mechanization and rigid structuring.

"I, like many of you, was not born in Santa Cruz. We all came at various times in our lives and share the belief that Santa Cruz is a very special place," Stevens said.

"It is important that as times change, the special feeling and the distinctiveness about Santa Cruz does not. There is no reason that the special feeling should change," Stevens said.