

Ceremonial honor delayed out of respect

District Attorney
Jeff Rosell takes up mantle of Santa Cruz County district attorney

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SANTA CRUZ » Good, prosecutors matter.

Judge Ariadne "Ari" Symons, a former prosecutor herself, praised the work of Jeff Rosell Thursday as she officiated over his ceremonial swearing in to the Santa Cruz County district attorney's position.

Rosell, who was appointed to the position by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in November, takes the place of former District Attorney Bob Lee, who died in October from cancer.

The swearing in ceremony was delayed, Rosell said, out of respect for Lee and his family. He said Lee was his "best friend and boss."

"The other was on the heels of Bobby's death," Rosell said of his Nov. 18 appointment. "He was beloved by this office and the community. I didn't want to do anything to take away

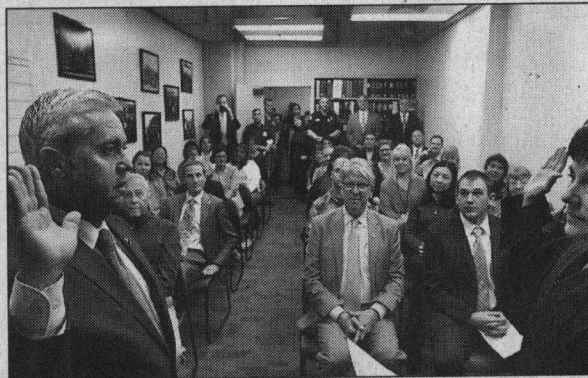
Online: To see a short video of Santa Cruz County District Attorney Jeff Rosell being sworn in to office, visit santacruzsentinel.com and click on this story.

from that."

About 50 people, mostly prosecutors, filled to capacity a conference room at the Santa Cruz County Governmental Center. Barbara Lee, Bob Lee's widow, also was present for the ceremony.

"It's a huge honor for me. It's a big deal for me," Symons said of being asked to officiate over the ceremony. "I was once a part of this office. I have the utmost respect for Jeff Rosell, I think he'll do a fabulous job. We're all disappointed about the circumstances that led to it, but he still should be recognized and honored."

Rosell told those gathered that while Thursday's swearing in was not a celebration, it could be if he is formally elected to the role during the 2016 general elections.



PHOTOS BY SHMUEL THALER — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

Judge Ariadne Symons, right, administers the oath of office to Jeff Rosell as he is sworn in as the Santa Cruz County District Attorney on Thursday.



Newly sworn in District Attorney Jeff Rosell thanks the members of the D.A.'s office for their support Thursday.