

# Cottle named to appellate court

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SANTA CRUZ — Superior Court Judge Chris Cottle has been chosen to sit as a justice on the Sixth District Court of Appeals in San Jose.

The court hears appeals from Monterey, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties.

Cottle, who has been a Superior Court judge since 1977, was one of three judges appointed Friday by Gov. George Deukmejian to expand the court to six justices. The other two selections were from Santa Clara County.

Another former Santa Cruz Superior Court judge, Harry Brauer, currently is a justice on that court, but has announced that he intends to retire next year.

Cottle must be confirmed by a three-member panel before being sworn in at the end of September.

"I'm very happy; I couldn't be more delighted," Cottle said of his appointment. "This is something I have wanted for a long time. I received a lot of support from a lot of places," he said.



**Chris Cottle**  
Governor's nominee

Cottle said he was especially happy to have been appointed by Deukmejian because Cottle is a Democrat and was named to the Superior Court bench by former Gov. Jerry Brown.

Cottle, who was raised in Los Angeles, graduated from Stanford University in 1963 with a degree in history. While at Stanford, Cottle was a starting center and linebacker on the football team. He was team captain in 1961.

He earned his law degree from Hastings College of Law in 1966.

After two years of private practice in San Jose, Cottle joined the District Attorney's Office here in 1968.

Cottle was elected district attorney in 1974, leaving that post for his judgeship in 1977.

He took the bench, he said, just as the population of the county really started booming. The number of criminal and civil cases soared, he said, but the number of judges has remained constant at four.

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## Judge/ Cottle gets appeals nod

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"Back in 1968, when I joined the District Attorney's Office, homicide was rare here. Now it's frequent. And drugs," he said, "are now at the root of nearly every criminal case in local courts."

He said the Richard Bandler murder trial, over which he presided earlier this year, has probably been the most interesting case in his courtroom. Bandler, co-founder of Neuro-Linguistic Programming, was found innocent of murdering a Capitola woman.

Bandler and the prosecution's key witness were with the woman when she was shot. Bandler and that witness, James Marino, pointed the finger at each other at the trial.

But because his legal experience was exclusively in criminal law, Cottle said he has enjoyed most the break of hearing civil cases.

As an appellate justice, Cottle will spend most of his time out of the courtroom, researching cases and writing opinions.