

CALIFORNIA  
COURTS AND JUDGES  
HANDBOOK

2013-2014 EDITION

VOLUME TWO



**JAMES  
PUBLISHING**  
INCORPORATED

LAW PUBLISHERS

CALIFORNIA JUDICIAL CENTER  
LIBRARY

OCT 18 2013

SAN FRANCISCO

Contact us at (800) 440-4780 or [www.JamesPublishing.com](http://www.JamesPublishing.com)

**Continuances**

Asked to comment on Judge Nakata's policy on granting continuances, one attorney said, "I would say he's reluctant. He expects you to show up, be on time and be ready, or to have good cause for why you want some sort of continuance." Another interviewee said, "Yes, he can be reluctant. He is a demanding judge, but that's okay. When you know what you're doing, he will respect you. But he moves things along. You have to have a pretty good reason about why you're going to be continuing something, usually." A third attorney had a role in a complicated case in Judge Nakata's court that involved multiple lawyers, some with conflicts, and a reversal on appeal. "There were some continuances in that case. But my experience with him was that there had to be some really good basis for it," the attorney said.

**Settlement**

One interviewee with experience in settlement discussions with Judge Nakata said, "I think he's helpful in getting settlements. Because he is such a take charge person, he can be extremely effective in settlement negotiations." The attorney who handled a death penalty case in Judge Nakata's court said, "That case never could have gotten resolved. But I have no doubt that he would engage in that kind of give and take in other cases."

**Proclivities**

Judge Nakata doesn't discriminate when it comes to meting out abuse, one interviewee asserted. "He is a free wheeler. He would be demeaning to anybody, whether they had been a lawyer for five years or 25 years. But Judge Nakata is equally demanding of both the prosecution and the defense in cases, and he can be fair," said the interviewee, summing up a complaint about his surly disposition voiced by several other attorneys. Another interviewee said, "The only good thing I can say about it is that he is an evenhanded bully. He beats up on the DA as much as he does on the defense, but he really should back off. That's unnecessary and unpleasant. I wish he would overcome this concept he has that you have to be an ogre with the samurai sword in order to be a judge. He is a quality guy. He doesn't need to do that. He could be a patient, gentlemanly person on the bench, friendly and smiling. I don't know why he feels the need to be a bully," said the attorney, who went on to say that "there is good and bad about him. He is a bright enough guy, a scholarly guy. He will read the law. If you cite a case, he will look at it. He is hard working, he is efficient, and he can be extremely pleasant, if he wants to. But usually he doesn't." Other interviewees confirmed that he is evenhanded. "Even though he was essentially a career prosecutor, I don't think he's necessarily pro-prosecution," said a deputy public defender, who also commented on his punctuality. "He is one of the few that is on the bench right at 8:30, or actually 8:29, and he expects you to be there." A deputy district attorney said, "He definitely runs his courtroom with what I would say is an iron fist. With all of the other judges, if you have cases in other courts, you can just check in with the bailiff and tell him where you will be. With Judge Nakata, you have to be in his courtroom when he calls the calendar." Knowing that, the prosecutor would check in with the bailiffs in the other courts and wait in Nakata's court. "The other courts would call his bailiff and they would ask for his permission for me to leave, and it was never a problem," said the prosecutor, who added, "If you treat him with respect, he treats you with respect." The defense attorney who praised his performance in a death penalty trial was one of the few interviewees with no complaints. "In the courtroom, he was decisive and learned. I think he enjoys good lawyers. I would go back in front of him anytime," the attorney said. Another interviewee added, "I know that he's well respected among the judges. I don't know what that tells you, except that he's considered to be one of theirs." As for his prickly demeanor, the attorney added, "Smiles are optional, I have found with some of these guys."

**Summary**

Judge Nakata is a stern and demanding judge who has very particular rules that he expects lawyers to follow. He

was a career prosecutor, but is as tough on prosecutors as on defense attorneys. Those who step out of line, whichever side of the case they are on, will feel his wrath. Those who toe his line will likely do fine in his court. Some interviewees said he is a petty bully, but all agreed that he is very smart and competent, and an efficient, effective trial judge. (10J)

**NARANJO, Richard E.**

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT, Los Angeles County

**Appointment/Election:** Elected to office on Nov. 5, 2002 for a six-year term commencing Jan. 6, 2003.

**Past Employment:** Deputy District Attorney, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, 1991-2003. Inventory control/warehouse manager, Malden Mills Ind., Lawrence, Mass., 1987-88; Buyer/planner, Centronics Corp., Hudson, New Hampshire, 1985-87; SNR Inventory Planner, Lockheed Corp., Nashua, New Hampshire, 1983-87.

**Memberships/Awards:** Former Member: Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, 1976; Innerguard, Esquire, Brattleboro, Vermont and Nashua, New Hampshire.

**Education:** J.D. (1991), Southwestern Univ. Law School; B.A. (1987) Southern New Hampshire Univ., Manchester, New Hampshire. Attended Rutgers Univ., New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1970-73 (Delta Upsilon).

**Personal:** Born Oct. 3, 1952; Roslyn, NY; Married. Five children.

**Interests:** Enjoys reading, astronomy, coaching track, entertaining and cooking.

**Admission:** Admitted to Calif. Bar, Dec. 16, 1991.

**Office Address:** 42011 4th Street West, Dept. A-7  
Lancaster, CA 93534

**Office Phone:** (661) 974-7307

**NARES, Gilbert**

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL, Fourth Appellate District, Division One

**Appointment/Election:** Appointed to newly-created position by Governor Deukmejian Aug. 12, 1988, confirmed by Commission on Judicial Appointments Oct. 13, 1988, oath same day, and confirmed by electorate Nov. 6, 1990.

**Other Judicial Office:** Judge, Superior Court, San Diego County, Oct. 19, 1978 (date of oath) to Oct. 13, 1988, appointed [succeeding Judge Verne O. Warner, retired] by Governor Brown Jr. Oct. 17, 1978, elected in 1980, and reelected in 1986. Judge, Municipal Court, North County Judicial District, San Diego County, Jan. 26, 1976 (date of oath) to Oct. 19, 1978, appointed Jan. 12, 1976 by Governor Brown Jr. Presiding Judge, 1977.

**Past Employment:** Private law practice (general practitioner), Oceanside, Calif., 1968-76 (first as associate and then as partner in firm most recently known as Daubney, Banche, Patterson & Nares).

**Memberships/Awards:** Member: Calif. Judges Assn., 1976—. Vice Chair, Calif. Judicial Council's Advisory Committee on Court Interpreters, 1990-92. Former Trustee, San Diego County Law Library. Former Vice Chair, San Diego Indigency Policy Board.

**Education:** J.D. (1967), Univ. of San Diego School of Law, San Diego, Calif.; B.A. (1964, Economics and Philosophy), Univ. of San Diego, San Diego, Calif.

**Personal:** Born Feb. 28, 1943; Oceanside, Calif.

**Interests:** Enjoys swimming, body surfing, and bicycling.

**Admission:** Admitted to Calif. Bar June 19, 1968.

**Office Address:** 750 "B" Street, Suite 300  
San Diego, CA 92101

**Office Phone:** (619) 744-6032 or (619) 744-0773

**NASH, Lloyd Mark**

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT, Los Angeles County

**Appointment/Election:** Appointed [succeeding Judge Beauford H. Phelps, elevated] by Governor Deukmejian