

County of Santa Clara



**Office of the County Executive
70 West Hedding Street, East Wing 11th Floor
San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 299-5119**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2, 2009

Contact: Gwendolyn Mitchell/Lingxia Meng
Office of Public Affairs
(408) 299-5119

County of Santa Clara Appoints Miguel Márquez as Acting County Counsel

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF. – The County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors has appointed Assistant County Counsel Miguel Márquez as the Acting County Counsel, effective July 6, 2009.

Márquez is stepping in with the departure of County Counsel Ann Ravel. He served as Assistant County Counsel for the past year and provided advice and counsel to the various County departments. Márquez also worked closely with Ravel on advice and counsel to the Board of Supervisors. His areas of focus included general government, health & hospital, workers' compensation, redevelopment, and finance matters.

"Márquez has demonstrated leadership in several important areas as the Assistant County Counsel," said Supervisor Liz Kniss, President of the County Board of Supervisors. "We appreciate his willingness to serve as Acting County Counsel."

Prior to joining the County of Santa Clara, Márquez was the General Counsel for the San Francisco Unified School District where he managed a multi-million dollar budget and was responsible for all legal matters, including the District's child development centers and schools/programs run by the County Office of Education. In addition to school matters, his practice areas included labor negotiations, employment, civil rights, land use, Brown Act, Public Records Act, First Amendment issues, facilities and construction, and general government and litigation. He also served as a Deputy City Attorney for the City and County of San Francisco where he provided legal services to the City's Department of Elections and the Ethics Commission, and was a deputy county counsel in San Mateo County for nearly five years.

- more -

County of Santa Clara Appoints Miguel Márquez as Acting County Counsel, page 2 of 2

Márquez served on the Executive Board of the Coalition of Essential Schools, a national leader of the small schools movement, from 2004-2007. He was also the President of the California La Raza Lawyers Association, a statewide association of Latino Lawyers, from 2004-2005, and was elected as the student body co-president of Stanford University during the 1988-1989 school year.

"It's a tremendous honor to serve as the Board of Supervisor's chief legal advisor as Acting County Counsel, and it's a privilege to take the reins from Ann Ravel who transformed this office into one of the best public law offices in the nation," said Márquez. "I look forward to serving the Board and the County in this new role and will do my level best to ensure that the County Counsel's Office continues to provide top notch legal services to the County and to all of the other public agencies it serves."

Márquez earned a Juris Doctor degree from University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law, where he received the *AmJur Award* in Accounting and Finance. He holds a master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard University, and a bachelor's degree in Public Policy from Stanford University.

"The County Board of Supervisors will make a determination about filling the position on a permanent basis when it returns from recess in August," said Supervisor Kniss.

###