



Eighth Judicial District Court

For Immediate Release

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Judge Linda Bell Named Presiding Specialty Court Judge For Eighth Judicial District Court

Judge Bell Enters New Post With Plan To Bolster Veterans Court

Judge Linda Marie Bell has been named to preside over the adult specialty courts in the Eighth Judicial District. The courts include adult felony drug, felony DUI, mental health and veterans' court. The docket also includes competency cases.

The intent of the specialty courts is to reduce recidivism by working with service providers and resources to address the root-causes of criminal behavior that stem from substance abuse or mental health problems. Linking participants with resources enhances their likelihood for success and ultimately builds a safer, more productive community by helping offenders to become productive citizens, keeping them out of jail and avoiding the costs of incarceration.

"The specialty courts have a lot of good programs and a team that works hard to help prevent crime and improve lives," said Judge Bell. "I am excited to have the opportunity to build on the successes of the program, especially with respect to the veterans' court. I see this as a great opportunity bring in new partners and implement new ideas to make a difference in our community."

Judge Bell was elected to District Court and took the bench in January of 2009. Prior to taking on the specialty courts, she heard large civil and felony criminal cases and served as the Grand Jury Judge for the Eighth Judicial District Court and oversaw the Civil Settlement Conference Program. Judge Bell grew up in Nevada. She graduated from Bonanza High School and the University of Nevada, Reno with honors. Her undergraduate degree is in psychology. In 1993, Judge Bell received her law degree *magna cum laude* from the University of San Diego School of Law. During law school, Judge Bell worked for the Clark County District Attorney's Office and the San Diego Public Defender's Office. After graduation, Judge Bell worked as a law clerk to the Honorable Sally Loehrer in the Eighth Judicial District Court. Following her clerkship, Judge Bell worked in Las Vegas law firms, practicing primarily in the areas of medical malpractice and family law. For twelve years prior to taking the bench, Judge Bell served as a public defender. She spent five years as a Clark County public defender, handling all manner of criminal cases. She then spent seven years in the non-capital post-conviction unit of the Law Offices of the Federal Public Defender's Office, handling complex post conviction cases in Nevada's state courts, the United States District Court and the While at the Federal Public Defender's Office.

"Judge Bell brings an impressive wealth of experience that is well suited to meet the challenges of the specialty courts," said District Court Chief Judge Jennifer P. Togliatti. "Under her competent leadership, these very important courts will continue to meet the goals to reduce recidivism and make our community safer."

The specialty courts are a great example of how the Eighth Judicial District Court is using alternative, more efficient means to ensure justice. District Court continuously works to develop innovative ideas, improve efficiencies, address issues and improve access to justice. For more information about the courts, please visit our website at clarkcountycourts.us.

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