



**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA**  
**COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Gov. Newsom Announces New Appointment to Sacramento Superior Court**

Sacramento, CA — Gov. Gavin Newsom on Tuesday announced the appointment of 10 new California superior court judges.

Rei Onishi, 41, of Sacramento County, has been named to the Sacramento Superior Court.

“The Court welcomes the appointment of Rei Onishi and looks forward to him joining the Sacramento County bench,” Presiding Court Judge Michael G. Bowman said.

Onishi has served as a Deputy Legal Affairs Secretary in governor’s office since 2017. In 2020, he was appointed as advisor to Gov. Newsom and his team on all ethics matters.

Onishi previously served as a Senior Policy Advisor and White House Fellow in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development from 2015 to 2017.

From 2012 to 2015, Onishi served as a Deputy Attorney General in the California Attorney General’s Office where he was responsible for defending the constitutionality of California’s laws, and helped craft and implement the legal strategy to defend California’s 2012 public pension reforms. He also played a leading role in developing and implementing the department’s agenda to fight transnational organized crime, and served as an adviser to the Department’s Bureau of Children’s Justice.

Before joining the Attorney General’s Office, Onishi clerked for the Honorable Beverly Martin at the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit from 2011 to 2012, worked on justice sector reform in West Africa, taught in Japan through the JET Program, co-authored travel books, and was a California Senate Fellow. Onishi was also an Eisenhower Fellow, U.S.-Japan Leadership Program Fellow and Buck Scholar.

Onishi earned a Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School and a Master of Public Policy degree from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, where he was an

editor on the Harvard Law Review. He is a co-founder of the Buck Fellows Program — a mentoring and scholarship program for low-income high school students whose parents never graduated from college — and past board member of the American Constitution Society, Bay Area Lawyer Chapter.

Onishi was born in Japan and immigrated to the U.S. as a child and grew up in the Sacramento area. He fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Michael A. Savage in June 2022.