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<u>**MEDIA RELEASE**</u>

Judge Peter Sakai Elected Local Administrative Judge for District Courts

Judge Peter Sakai was elected on Friday, Dec. 1, as Local Administrative Judge (LAJ) for the Bexar County District Courts. As the newly elected Administrative Judge, Judge Sakai will be sworn in on Jan. 1, 2018, replacing Judge Ron Rangel, the current LAJ.

"It is an honor to have the full faith and confidence of my fellow judges to serve as the Local Administrative Judge for the next two years," stated Judge Sakai. "I look forward towards this new role with excitement, and eager to serve the courts, and our community."

In accordance with Texas Government Code 74.092, some of the duties the LAJ are to coordinate the budget negotiations for all of the District Courts and general matters in regard to the district judges. This gives the Bexar County Commissioner Court and other officials a point of contact on issues related to the courts.

Judge Sakai is widely recognized in the community as being a leader who works hard to bring new ideas and solutions to help resolve issues of child abuse and neglect, and family violence, and to constantly challenge all involved in the child welfare system to more effectively serve the families that come into his courtroom and prevent child abuse and neglect.

Beyond his work with CASA and Child Protective Services Department, Judge Sakai is constantly looking for new and innovative ideas to help keep families together and improve children's lives. Most recently, he has been involved in the planning and building of a national model Bexar County Children's Court in the historic Bexar County Courthouse, the implementation of a Family Drug Treatment Court for parents with addiction issues who have children in the foster care system, and the implementation of the Early Intervention Program to bring families together.

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