



CONTRIBUTED

Retired Judge Harold Underwood swears in new Trinity County Superior Court Judge Elizabeth Johnson.

Johnson sworn in as presiding judge

Elizabeth W. Johnson was sworn in as Trinity County Superior Court judge last Wednesday. She was administered the oath of office by retired Judge Harold Underwood who served as Superior Court judge in Trinity County for 24 years before retiring in 1983, and her swearing-in ceremony was witnessed by close friends and family.

Johnson was elected in a run-off election in November for the vacancy resulting from the recent retirement of Anthony Edwards. She will become the presiding judge in Trinity County as a result of the retirement of Judge James Woodward last week as well.

"I am honored to have the great privilege of working on behalf of the citizens of Trinity County in this capacity," said Johnson following her swearing-in ceremony. She added that with Judge Woodward's recent retirement, and the resulting one judge vacancy, there will be plenty of challenges to address, but that she looks forward to serving as the presiding judge

Supervisors are sworn in, page 3

in Trinity County, and is prepared to address court needs in light of recent state prison system realignment and funding constraints.

She also said she looks forward to "working with the dedicated court employees and the various additional law and justice system employees and officers, to strive for excellence in what we must do."

Among the priorities Johnson cited as being of particular importance to her while serving on the court are achieving improved rural community access to the courts, working with justice system officers and school representatives to better address youth violence prevention, and more fully implementing AB 109 through evidence based alternatives to incarceration where feasible and appropriate under the circumstances.