



# NEWS RELEASE

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## Longtime Prosecutor Appointed to Assistant DA

*Otis Bruce Jr. is well known for his community service.*



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**San Rafael, CA** – Marin County District Attorney Lori Frugoli has appointed prosecutor Otis Bruce Jr., a respected 30-year employee, who was the first African American prosecutor in Marin County history 25 years ago, as the department's Assistant District Attorney - the number 2 position in the office.

DA Frugoli announced "I am honored to appoint Otis Bruce Jr. to this important position. His exemplary career in this office along with his work ethic, leadership skills and commitment to our community and social justice programs make him the perfect choice for this important position. Mr. Bruce has already begun working on social and racial equity programs in our office and the community."

In his new position in the office, Mr. Bruce will be expanding the Marin County District Attorney's Social Justice program. His duties will include supervising and supporting the programs and staff who serve victims in our community.

Additionally, he will oversee a team of prosecutors who will review all current and pending prison cases as well as cases alleging use of force by law enforcement.

He will continue our commitment to transparency by expanding our work with Code for America and Measures for Justice as well as our community leaders.

Mr. Bruce's experience within the department runs the gamut, including coordinating teams of attorneys and prosecuting high-profile cases. In the courtroom, he has specialized in prosecution of cases involving domestic violence, gangs, adult drug offenses, elder financial abuse, business fraud and embezzlement and other felonies. Outside of court, he worked in child and family support debt collections, supervising and developing office intern programs, investigations, research, and the support of crime victims, spouses, and children.

Mr. Bruce stated "I am honored for the opportunity to continue my longtime commitment to public service and our office goal and

commitment to the safety of our citizens; protecting the vulnerable and preventing crime in our community. I look forward to collaborating with our community to take our Social Justice program to the next level through engagement and transparency.”

In Marin, Mr. Bruce is well known outside of his work at the DA's Office, having received numerous awards and recognition for his longtime community service. He serves as president or director for several service organizations and nonprofits in Marin and on a state level, including Board Director for the Rotary Club of San Rafael and President of the Marin Athletic Foundation. He has served on the boards of the College of Marin Foundation, Marin Symphony, the American Red Cross (Marin chapter), the North Bay Children's Center, the Friends of Margarita Johnson Senior Center in Marin City, and many others.

In 2011, he became the Marin County Bar Association's first President of any ethnic minority. Among other attorney organizations, he is a Board Director for California District Attorney Association (CDAA) Foundation and was a 2019 CDAA Board Director, and he is an advisor to the California Lawyer's Association Criminal Law Executive Committee.

Mr. Bruce grew up in Mississippi during the Civil Rights Era. He attended a segregated all-black public school in the town of Soso (population 600 at the time, now 400) through sixth grade. Starting in seventh grade in 1970, he was among the last group of students in his community to experience the desegregation of his school.

After high school, he relocated to the Bay Area and attended and graduated from Merritt College in Oakland, then later earned a criminal justice administration degree from San Jose State University. While supporting his family through another job, he earned a law degree by taking night classes at New College of California School of Law. Not knowing anybody in Marin, Mr. Bruce saw that the County government had no African American attorneys on its staff at the time and became determined to change it. After serving as a volunteer law clerk with the County Counsel's Office, he was hired in 1990 as a contract legal assistant in the DA's Office. In 1995, he became the first African American prosecutor in Marin County history when he was hired as a full-time Deputy DA.

“I am excited and proud to work with District Attorney Frugoli, our staff and the community in this new position. Together we will move the Marin County District Attorney's Social Justice, Racial Equity and Diversity programs to the next level and better serve our community.” announced Mr. Bruce.