

# *The New Hires - 2022*



SANTA CLARA COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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**Jason Bussey** graduated from University of California, Berkeley in 2000 with high philosophy departmental honors. He received his J.D. at Harvard Law School in 2003, graduating cum laude.

Mr. Bussey comes to the Office after four years of serving Santa Clara County as a deputy county counsel. He represented the County in litigation and administrative matters, including civil rights, employment, dangerous condition, land use, and taxpayer lawsuits.

In one case, Mr. Bussey co-first-chaired an employment arbitration proceeding which established that just cause supported the firing of a correctional officer who witnessed excessive force by a colleague and lied about it in a written report.

In another case, he defended the County's policy of not honoring warrantless transfer requests by federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents. Mr. Bussey remembered listening with admiration when DA Jeff Rosen presented his nuanced position on immigration to the Board of Supervisors.

Most recently, he defended the County's COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders against constitutional challenges. In 2020, he received a commendation from the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors for defending the County's public health orders.

From 2003 to 2017, Mr. Bussey was in the litigation department of Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP in Palo Alto. While there, he represented high-tech clients in patent, antitrust, security, and complex commercial litigation matters.

In 2016, he received the Northern California Innocence Project's Pro Bono Award. It was there, working alongside former Assistant DA Karyn Sinunu-Towery, that Mr. Bussey collaborated with DA's offices for the first time. One office treated his innocence claim with defensiveness and disdain, Mr. Bussey recalled. In contrast, this Office responded to the innocence claim with respect and open-mindedness, he said. This interaction created a lasting impression that ultimately helped him decide to change his career to advocate for the public more directly.

The Central Valley native with a love for death metal and jazz is the longtime drummer for *The Recusals*, a band comprised largely of federal judges from the Northern District of California.