## **DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

DISTRICT ATTORNEY Larry D. Morse II

CHIEF DEPUTY
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Mark V. Bacciarini



ASSISTANT
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## BACCIARINI NAMED NEW CHIEF DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Merced County District Attorney Larry D. Morse II has announced that Mark V. Bacciarini has been named Chief Deputy District Attorney, replacing Dave Moranda who was recently appointed to the Merced Superior Court.

Bacciarini, 51, a native of Merced, has been in the District Attorney's office since 2000. Prior to earning a law degree, Bacciarini spent 16 years as a high school music teacher and directed many award winning high school bands in Merced and Clovis. A 1980 graduate of the University of the Pacific's Music Conservatory, Bacciarini attended San Joaquin College of Law where he graduated with honors.

Since joining the District Attorney's office, Bacciarini has prosecuted a wide variety of cases, including working as co-counsel with Morse in the 2007 death penalty trial of Tao Rivera. The case was moved to Colusa County because of pre-trial publicity. A jury there found Rivera guilty of the 2004 murder of Merced Police Officer Stephan Gray and sentenced him to death.

"Mark has an exceptional legal mind and is widely respected by his colleagues, the defense bar and members of the judiciary," Morse said. "We worked side by side for many months in the Tao Rivera case and I have the highest regard for his diligence, legal acumen and commitment to justice," he added.

Bacciarini joins Assistant District Attorney Joe Tresidder and Chief Deputy Harold Nutt in managing a staff of 25 attorneys. The Merced County District Attorney's office has one of the highest caseloads per prosecutor in the state, Morse said, and "we are constantly challenged to protect public safety while woefully understaffed.

"Mark has made valuable contributions to this office since the day he arrived and I am grateful that he will be assuming an even larger leadership role in the management of our office," Morse said.

Bacciarini and his wife, Linda, have three children.