

Cordell in line for judgeship

By Mary Madison
Times Tribune staff

LaDoris Hazzard Cordell, 32, assistant dean of the Stanford University Law School, was expected to be named a Santa Clara County Municipal Court judge today by Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr., the Times Tribune has learned.

Sources in Sacramento said the governor would appoint Cordell to a newly created judgeship in the county, which carries a salary of about \$57,000.

Cordell would be the first black woman to reach the bench in Santa Clara County and would be the only black judge currently serving, according to John Heckel, law librarian for Santa Clara County.

She could not be reached today for comment on the pending appointment.

Becoming the county's first black woman judge will not be the first time that Cordell has set records or "firsts" in her career. As assistant dean for student affairs at Stanford Law School, she set up a program of recruiting minority students that has put Stanford



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Please see CORDELL, A-8

LaDoris Cordell is due for another "first."

CORDELL

Continued from A-1

Law School first in the nation among major law schools for its high percentage of minorities enrolled. The school now has 20 to 25 percent minority enrollment in each of its three classes, largely due to Cordell's efforts.

In 1976 Cordell became the first lawyer to open private offices in East Palo Alto, where she still maintains a practice.

Cordell has been a member of the Stanford law school staff since 1978.

Cordell is a 1974 graduate of Stanford Law School. She received her bachelor's degree in speech and drama from Antioch College (now university) in Yellow Springs, Ohio, in 1971.

She was born in a suburb of Philadelphia. After her graduation from Antioch, she enrolled at Stanford Law School, where she was president of the Black Law Students Association and vice president of the Law Association.

During 1973 she was a law clerk to Judge George Phillips Jr. of Alameda County Superior Court. In 1974 she became the first recipient outside the South to be awarded the NAACP's four-year Earl Warren Fellowship for young black lawyers.

After graduation from Stanford, Cordell worked for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund at its San Francisco office. Then she began her own law practice, both in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto.

She is married to Gary Cordell, an insurance sales representative for Transamerica and Occidental. The Cordells have two children, Cheran 6, and Starr, 1½, and live in Mountain View.