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## FEDERAL PROSECUTOR LEAVING TO BE PARTNER IN LAW FIRM

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By Denny Walsh

Bee Staff Writer

--Matthew Jacobs, the second-ranking federal prosecutor in the Sacramento-based Eastern District of California, is leaving government service at the end of the month for private practice. He will be joining the Sacramento law firm of Downey Brand Seymour and Rohwer as a partner, he said.

Jacobs, 40, who had been with a San Francisco law firm, joined the U.S. Attorney's Office in 1990 as an assistant in a unit targeting white-collar crime.

He was chief of another unit focusing on corruption and financial crimes for nearly two years before U.S. Attorney Paul Seave elevated him to his first assistant in July 1997.

Since then he has supervised the investigation and prosecution of the office's most significant criminal cases, including the investigation of Shasta County brothers Matthew and Tyler Williams in connection with arson attacks on three Sacramento-area synagogues and the investigation and federal prosecution of Cary Stayner, who is accused of killing four women in and around Yosemite.

In addition to day-to-day management of the 130-employee office -- with jurisdiction over 34 counties from Bakersfield to the Oregon border -- Jacobs has carried a white-collar caseload.

Considered an excellent courtroom lawyer, he heads the prosecution of a group of people accused of one of the nation's largest computer frauds, alleged to have cost the Hewlett-Packard Co. tens of millions of dollars.

Jacobs was appointed to the city of Sacramento Planning Commission in December 1997, and he is now its vice chairman. He is also vice president of the Federal Bar Association's Sacramento chapter.

Married with three children, Jacobs has coached youth sports for several years.

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