



NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT • COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

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SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE RETIRES

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. Revak will retire on April 3, 2005, after more than 17 years on the bench. Judge Revak, 70, was appointed to the Superior Court by Governor Deukmejian in 1987. Prior to his judicial appointment, he served as a Deputy District Attorney in San Diego from January 1965 until May 1985. During this time he tried numerous homicide cases and in 1983 was named Prosecutor of the Year by the California District Attorney's Association. In May 1985 he joined the United States Attorney's Office in San Diego where he was assigned to the Organized Crime Narcotics Task Force.

While a Deputy D.A., Judge Revak successfully prosecuted Daniel Hyde in 1983 for a murder in which the victim's body was never recovered. This was one of the first prosecutions in San Diego of a murder case in which no body was found.

In 1992, Judge Revak presided over the murder case of Virginia and Billy Joe McGinnis who were accused of pushing a young woman from a cliff in Monterey, California after having taken out a life insurance policy on her in Chula Vista. Billy Joe McGinnis died in jail prior to trial. The jury, along with the defendant Virginia, were taken to Monterey where testimony was taken on the cliff where the victim was pushed to her death. Virginia was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced by Judge Revak to life in prison. Several television movies were made of this case, and a book, *Death Benefits*, was written about it.

Judge Revak graduated from McKeesport PA. High School in 1952 and thereafter enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving in Japan and Korea. In 1955 he returned to Camp Pendleton with the 1st Marine Division and was shortly transferred to MCRD where he played on the base basketball team that won the All-Marine Corps Championship in 1957. He attended San Diego State on a basketball scholarship, lettering there for three years. After receiving his B.A. degree in 1961, he went on to earn his law degree in 1964 from Hastings Law School in San Francisco.

Since 1991, Judge Revak has been an Adjunct Professor at California Western School of Law. He is on the Board of Directors of METRO (Methodists Efforts to Reach Out), a church-based outreach program in San Diego. Judge Revak served on the Board of Directors of the San Diego State Alumni Association.

Judge Revak reflected on his career as follows: "It has been a privilege to have served the citizens of San Diego for the past 40 years. I have worked with wonderful attorneys, judges, law



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enforcement officers and citizens of this community. I have also been blessed with terrific staff who have made my job so much easier.“

Judge Revak has two children: a daughter Lara residing in El Cajon, and a son William residing in Kauai.