



NEWS RELEASE

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Superior Court Judge Patricia Ann Yim Cowett Retires

San Diego Superior Court Judge Patricia Ann Yim Cowett has retired after nearly 30 years on the bench. Judge Cowett, 60, began her judicial career in 1979 after being appointed to the Municipal Court by then-Governor Jerry Brown, Jr. Judge Cowett succeeded to the Superior Court in 1998. She served as the second of only two women to be the Presiding Judge of the San Diego Municipal Court (1991) and helped establish the specialized criminal domestic violence court.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Cowett worked as a litigation attorney for San Diego Gas & Electric (1975-1976), an attorney for the State Department of Transportation (1973-1975) and an attorney for the City of San Diego (1972-1973).

Born in Sacramento, California, Judge Cowett received a Bachelor's degree from UC Berkeley (1969) and received her law degree from the UC Davis, School of Law (1972).

She has been an active member of several organizations. She is a member of the California Judges Association and the California Asian Judges Association. She has served as president of the Lawyers Club of San Diego, the Pan-Asian Lawyers of San Diego and as the District Nine Governor of the California Women Lawyers.

As she retires, Judge Cowett says, "It has been a privilege to serve on the Superior Court bench with so many fine and dedicated judicial colleagues."

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“Judge Cowett has made enumerable contributions not only to the court but to the entire legal community. Her expertise will be missed by the court,” says Presiding Judge Kenneth K. So.

In retirement, Judge Cowett plans to continue serving on the State Bar Council on Access and Fairness, the San Diego Inn of Court and various committees of the Lawyers Club of San Diego and the Pan Asian Lawyers of San Diego. She also plans to pursue interests in volunteerism and the arts.

Judge Cowett’s retirement was effective April 8, 2008.

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