



NEWS RELEASE

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Superior Court Judge William J. McGrath Retires

Well-known East County Jurist William J. McGrath is leaving the San Diego Superior Court Bench after more than 25 years of judicial service. Judge McGrath has presided over thousands of East County cases serving mostly in Criminal Court assignments.

Beginning his court career as a Court Commissioner in 1989, Judge McGrath was appointed to a judgeship one year later on the El Cajon Municipal Court by Governor George Deukmejian. Judge McGrath then joined the Superior Court in 1998 upon court unification.

Before his time with the Court, Judge McGrath spent 15 years working as a general practitioner in El Cajon with his later practice focused on criminal defense work. He was a partner at Borgerding, Peterson, McGrath, Burnell, Glauser & Waters (1977-89); and an associate, Thacher & Hurst (1974-77).

“I’ve spent my entire 40 year legal career as an attorney and a judge serving the people of East County. My thoughts upon retiring are that it will be a little strange to no longer have a presence in El Cajon on a daily basis. As I’m sure it is with most retirees, it is a bitter-sweet prospect”, says Judge McGrath.

(MORE)

“El Cajon loses, literally and figuratively, a grand presence on the local bench. His retirement is a signal of how much things are changing. Another stalwart of justice in the branch is moving on after so many years of outstanding, steady and distinguished service. It just won’t be the same,” noted Presiding Judge David Danielsen.

A graduate of the University of San Diego, School of Law (1973), Judge McGrath also holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Santa Clara (1970). During college, he studied at the University of Vienna in Vienna, Austria. A native San Diegan, Judge McGrath graduated from University High School.

“My wife Grace and I plan to travel extensively in Europe, especially Vienna, Austria where we first met as students in 1968. I’m sure we’ll also take annual trips to Boston, where our son and grandchildren now reside, says Judge McGrath.

Judge McGrath’s last official day with the Court is August 15, 2014.

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