



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Karen Dalton
Phone: (619) 450-5353

San Diego Superior Court Judge Joel M. Pressman Retires

The Honorable Joel M. Pressman, well known in both the Central and North County Division Courts for his evenhandedness, thoughtfulness and legal acumen, is stepping down after 15 years on the bench. A highly-respected jurist, who has presided over, tried and settled some of the most significant cases in San Diego, has been active both in the courtroom and in court management. Judge Pressman officially retires on August 1st.

Appointed to the Superior Court in January 2002 by Governor Gray Davis, Judge Pressman brought a wealth of private practice experience to the Court. Prior to his appointment, Judge Pressman was a civil trial attorney litigating business, commercial, personal injury, real estate, and class action cases for more than 30 years. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

“Judge Pressman has had a distinguished career during his fifteen years on the San Diego Superior Court. He always brought insight, intelligence and common sense to the cases he decided and as a result was a highly effective judge. His retirement is a great loss for the San Diego Superior Court judges, staff and the community we serve said San Diego Superior Court Presiding Judge Jeffrey B. Barton”.

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During his tenure as Superior Court judge, Judge Pressman served in a variety of assignments, including Supervising Judge of North County, Executive Committee member of the Court, and has presided in an Independent Calendar Department in the downtown Hall of Justice.

Some of the cases drawing state and national attention that have passed through his courtroom include: Alaburda v. Thomas Jefferson School of Law and Alpine School District v. Grossmont School District. In 2015 Judge Pressman received the Bernard E. Witkin Award for Excellence in the Adjudication of the Law.

"It has been my privilege and honor to serve with the most outstanding bench in California. Our court community consists of dedicated and hardworking professionals who strive to serve the public day in and day out. I was proud to serve with them. Their friendship and support is special and I will always cherish it," says Judge Pressman.

Judge Pressman is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley. He received his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of Law. His future plans make room for travel with his wife to the remote corners of the world, including a forthcoming trip to see "the gorillas in the mist" in Rwanda. Judge Pressman also plans new challenges in private dispute resolution as a mediator and/or arbitrator.

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