



NEWS RELEASE

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San Diego Superior Court Judge Gerald C. Jessop Retires

Judge Gerald C. Jessop, a well-known and honored Family Court Judge, is stepping down after more than 20 years on the bench. Judge Jessop, who recently received the Outstanding Family Law Judge of San Diego County award from the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, will officially retire on February 15, 2019. He was elected to office in November 1998 and took the Bench on January 1, 1999. Versed in family law, Judge Jessop has spent the bulk of his judicial career presiding over family law cases, most recently he has presided over Long Cause Family Law cases.

A native San Diegan and a member of one of San Diego's oldest and most well-known families (Jessop's Jewelers), Judge Jessop brought a deep understanding of Family and Probate law to the Court. Prior to his election to the bench, Judge Jessop practiced family law, probate and estate planning as a partner with the law firm of Ward, Thorn & Jessop. He had previously worked as a probate trust officer at San Diego Trust & Savings Bank.

In 1991, Judge Jessop became a certified family law specialist and taught family law at the UCSD extension program for eight years. He also volunteered his legal skills at that time providing assistance with domestic violence cases. With this background, those who have

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appeared before Judge Jessop say he is a meticulous jurist who displays a depth of family law knowledge. Attorneys have also said his court decisions are well thought out and take into account all sides.

Presiding Judge Peter C. Deddeh says, “Judge Jessop is a consummate gentleman, who brought dignity and energy to his courtroom on a daily basis. He greeted everyone, whether friends, foes or litigants with a smile and a kind word. Judge Jessop was a recognized expert in Family Law, and his knowledge and strong work ethic will be sorely missed by our Bench.”

“Family law impacts many people in a variety of ways. It is an area of law that effects the very fabric of our community. I was honored and have always considered it a privilege to serve as a judge on the San Diego Superior Court,” says Judge Jessop.

Judge Jessop holds a bachelor degree in Business Administration from the University of Denver and received his law degree from the University of San Diego. In retirement, he plans to join the local JAMS (Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services) office and specialize in Family Law and Probate mediation. “Mediation of disputes provides parties with the opportunity to settle their disputes on terms that are satisfactory to everyone. I look forward to joining JAMS in the coming months as a full-time neutral,” says Judge Jessop.

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