



NEWS RELEASE

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Superior Court Judge Allan J. Preckel Retires

One of San Diego's most experienced and well-known criminal court judges is retiring. Judge Allan J. Preckel will officially retire from the Court on March 8, 2014 after serving 25 years on the bench.

Governor George Deukmejian appointed Judge Preckel to the Municipal Court in 1989; a year later, he elevated him to the Superior Court where he has presided over more than 200-felony jury trials, including 30-murder jury trials.

Having spent the past 20-years in the Court's East County division, Judge Preckel has also overseen felony cases in North County and has served as the Criminal Supervising Judge at the Downtown Courthouse. During his judicial tenure, Judge Preckel has presided over six death penalty jury trials, including the first capital death penalty trial in East County, a trial that included dual juries.

Judge Preckel brought a rich background in criminal law to the bench, having served 17 years as San Diego County Deputy District Attorney (1972-1989). Presiding Judge David J. Danielsen has stated: "Judge Allan Preckel quickly became one of the elite criminal trial judges, an integral part of the design for the delivery of criminal justice in this county and a mainstay for our courts for decades."

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“It has been a singular privilege and honor to serve the public as a judge these past 25 years. I thank former Governor George Deukmejian for appointing me to the San Diego Municipal Court in 1989 and to the San Diego Superior Court in 1990. Special thanks to Justice Richard Huffman and the late District Attorney Ed Miller for nurturing me as a prosecutor and facilitating my judicial career. Forty-three years in the courtroom, doing felony trial work, has been challenging and personally rewarding. The human drama of the courtroom is great theater, and I am gratified to have been a player on that stage,” says Judge Preckel.

Described as professional with a strong knowledge of the law, Judge Preckel has also participated in court management, having served several terms on the Judges’ Executive Committee offering guidance to court staff.

A longtime resident of San Diego County, Judge Preckel graduated from St. Augustine High School and holds an undergraduate degree in economics from the University of Santa Clara and a law degree from the University of Chicago Law School.

After a long, fulfilling career, Judge Preckel says he is looking forward to relaxing, “My immediate plans for retirement are to decompress and imitate Snoopy atop his doghouse.”

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