



NEWS RELEASE

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Superior Court Judge William J. Howatt, Jr. Retires

Superior Court Judge William J. Howatt, Jr. will retire on December 3, 2006, after nearly 28 years on the bench. In 1979, Governor Jerry Brown, Jr. appointed Judge Howatt, 64, to the Municipal Court. Six years later, Governor George Deukmejian elevated Judge Howatt to the Superior Court. During his judicial tenure, he has overseen more than 1,000 general and limited jurisdiction cases and, since 2003, has held the position of Supervising Judge of Family Law for the Superior Court. In addition, Judge Howatt served as Presiding Judge of the Superior Court in 1996 and 1997.

Prior to joining the Bench, Judge Howatt served as a San Diego County Deputy District Attorney from 1969 to 1979.

Active in the legal community and the statewide court system, Judge Howatt has served on numerous committees and boards including the Judicial Ethics Committee of the California Judges Association, the Board of Trustees of the San Diego County Public Law Library and the Board of Trustees of the Law Library Justice Foundation of San Diego County.

Judge Howatt has also received many awards for his work including the 2005 *Judicial Officer of the Year Award* from the Family Law Section of the State Bar of California. More recently, Judge Howatt received the *Bernard Witkin Award* from the Law Library Foundation. The award honors members of the San Diego legal community for civic leadership and excellence in the teaching, practice, enactment, or adjudication of the law.

Born in San Diego, Judge Howatt attended Fallbrook High School, graduated from UC Berkeley and received his law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law. Married with two children, Judge Howatt was admitted to the State Bar in 1969.

Presiding Superior Court Judge Janis Sammartino says, "Judge Howatt's leadership and dedication to our court will be missed. In every assignment, Judge Howatt was guided by his commitment to our community and his personal integrity. "

(More)

“I sincerely appreciate having had the opportunity to serve my community over the past 37 years as a Deputy District Attorney and as a Judge. I leave the Court in the stewardship of skilled and compassionate colleagues,” says Judge Howatt.

Judge Howatt says he plans to continue writing a history of the San Diego Bench and articles for San Diego Lawyer Magazine, carry out arbitration and mediation work, play a little golf and do some traveling.

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