



NEWS RELEASE

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Superior Court Judge Michael D. Wellington Retires

San Diego Superior Court Judge Michael D. Wellington will retire at the end of his judicial term on January 4, 2009 after nearly 20 years on the bench. Appointed by then-Governor George Deukmejian, Judge Wellington, 63, has spent most of his judicial career in the criminal courts, but also served in juvenile dependency and delinquency as well as the mental health department. He served two terms as the court's Supervising Criminal Judge. Prior to joining the court, Judge Wellington served as a Deputy Attorney General for the California State Department of Justice in San Diego (1971- 1989). While with the Attorney General, Judge Wellington argued on behalf of the state before the U.S. Supreme Court (*Pulley vs. Harris*, 465 U.S. 37, 1984).

A native San Diegan, Judge Wellington is a cum laude graduate of the University Of San Diego School Of Law (1971) where he served as Articles Editor and "Member of Merit" on the San Diego Law Review. He received his B.A. from San Diego State College (now University) (1968) and attended University of New Mexico (1963-1966).

Judge Wellington has been actively involved with numerous groups and committees during his career. He has served as Chair of the California Center for Judicial Education and Research (CJER), Judicial Technology Education Committee (Vice-Chair, 1999-2004); CJER Continuing Judicial Studies Committee (2008-2010); San Diego Superior Court Executive

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Committee, (1997-2000, 2004–2008); Board of Directors, San Diego Psych-Law Society, 1994–2008 (President, 2002-2003). He is also a former member of the California District Attorneys Association., Sacramento, California (1982-1989); Association of Government Attorneys in Capital Litigation (nationwide) (1986-1989)(Board of Directors, 1988-89); and the Association of Deputy Attorneys General, San Diego, (1972-1989).

In addition, Judge Wellington was a member of the Chief Justice’s Riverside Strike Force in 2007 in which judges from throughout the state traveled to Riverside County to help with a backlog of active criminal cases. Judge Wellington also taught courses on *Evidence*, *Law of Homicide*, *Death Penalty Trials*, and various computer courses through CJER and the California Judges’ Association.

“It has been consistently fascinating working in criminal law for the last 37 years. This was a surprise since I wanted nothing to do with criminal law when I graduated from law school. But a “temporary” job with the Attorney General became a completely compelling and satisfying career. I have been particularly fortunate to practice and preside during very interesting times, featuring historic changes to criminal law and to the structure and funding of the trial courts. It’s been an exciting ride,” says Judge Wellington.

Presiding Court Judge Kenneth K. So says, “Judge Wellington has successfully handled some of our most difficult and complicated cases. He is an acclaimed statewide judicial instructor and has been a wonderful mentor. We thank him for the leadership he has provided to our bench.”

Judge Wellington will continue working while retired. His plans include sitting as an assigned judge for the Superior Court.