



NEWS RELEASE

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Superior Court Judge Rafael A. Arreola Retires

San Diego Superior Court Judge Rafael A. Arreola has retired after more than 25 years on the bench. Judge Arreola, 66, began his judicial career in the Municipal Court on September 16, 1981 and succeeded to the Superior Court in 1998.

Bringing a diverse background to the San Diego judicial community, Judge Arreola's experience included work as a Board Member of the California State Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board (1980-81), Supervising Attorney, South Bay office, Legal Aid Society of San Diego, Inc., (1975-80) and Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Alameda County Inc., Fremont, (1974-75). Prior to his legal career, Judge Arreola worked as an Assistant Civil Engineer for the Riverside County Flood Control District (1970) and as an Engineering Aide, Party Chief and Senior Land Records Engineer for the City of Riverside (1961-1967). In addition, he is a Licensed Land Surveyor, an inventor and the holder of two patents.

Born in Catarina, Jalisco, Mexico, Judge Arreola received his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from Stanford University Law School in 1974. He holds a Masters degree in Civil Engineering (1970) and a Bachelors degree in Civil Engineering (1969) from University of California, Berkeley.

Judge Arreola has been very active in the community. He has helped develop, build and manage over a dozen non-profit subsidized housing projects for senior citizens, low-income

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families, homeless and disabled persons. He has been a Faculty Member and Team Leader for the Continued Judicial Studies Programs and currently serves as a member and officer of several boards of directors including: the San Diego Foundation, Colonia Barrios Seniors, Inc. and CBS Property Management, Inc. He has served as president of the San Diego County Judges Association (1985-87), and as a member of the Executive Board of the California Judges Association (1997-2000). He is also co-founder of the San Diego and California La Raza Lawyers Associations (1975) and co-founder and first president of the California Latino Judges Association (1996).

Among many recognitions and awards, Judge Arreola received the *Shelter Award* from the San Diego Housing Commission in 1989 and last year was recognized and featured as a San Diego Leader and Visionary by the “Heart of San Diego” television program.

“Judge Arreola has enriched our bench in all the areas in which he has served. His positive outlook will be missed by all of the judges,” says Presiding Judge Janis Sammartino.

Judge Arreola says, “I am extremely proud to have served with so many outstanding and distinguished judges on the San Diego Municipal and Superior Court. I am very grateful for all the assistance and support I have received from my family and thousands of other people.”

Judge Arreola says he is pleased to be able to give back some of his time to the community and to award scholarships to deserving high school students through the Arreola/CBSPM Scholarship Fund at the San Diego Foundation. He will continue to serve as an assigned Superior Court Judge by appointment of the Chief Justice. He will also continue to work as a low- income housing developer and as a developer and builder of low-cost sewage treatment facilities in needy towns and communities such as Catarina, Jalisco.