



NEWS RELEASE

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Superior Court Judge Richard G. Cline Retires

A North County Judge who, in addition to his regular duties, has dedicated his career to enlightening teachers and students about the judicial system, is retiring after serving nearly 15 years on the bench. San Diego Superior Court Judge Richard G. Cline's last day at the court will be Friday, August 2, 2013. Appointed to the Municipal Court in September 1998 by then-Governor Pete Wilson, Judge Cline joined the Superior Court three months later.

Judge Cline is well known in the North County, having spent his legal career in that region before joining the bench. Prior to his judicial career, Judge Cline was an associate at the Law Offices of Richard D. Ring and then partner at Ring and Cline Law Firm in Vista. He also served as the president of the North County Bar Association. While Judge Cline has spent the majority of his judicial career in Probate court, he has presided over criminal and civil cases as well.

During his tenure on the bench, Judge Cline has spearheaded such community outreach projects as Youth in Court Day and the On My Honor programs; both designed to expose students to courtroom procedure. In addition, he has worked with Cal State San Marcos to develop the On My Honor Teachers Institute. The Institute provides training statewide to elementary and high teachers in an effort to enhance understanding of the state judicial system.

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“During the first three months of my tenure as a judge, I presided over ten jury trials. This put me into direct contact with several hundred citizens, who had been called to jury service. It quickly became apparent that many of the citizens throughout our community had an inaccurate and grossly incomplete understanding of the role and operation of the court and the third branch of government. Much of this problem is traceable to the skewed information presented by the media, especially television. Many of my colleagues share this view. I decided I could do my part in educating the public through youth outreach programs. So, over the years, I have developed, coordinated, and participated in several outreach programs that have been presented to thousands of students and hundreds of teachers throughout San Diego County. It has been a thoroughly enjoyable endeavor as well as one that has been widely recognized as worthwhile,” said Judge Cline.

“Judge Cline’s outstanding community service work demonstrated his commitment to educating the public about the justice system. It will be a fitting tribute to Judge Cline’s legacy for our court to continue this important outreach,” says Presiding Judge Robert J. Trentacosta.

A 1965 graduate of Claremont Men’s College (now Claremont McKenna College), Judge Cline served from Ensign to Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy from 1965 to 1972. He received his law degree from University of San Diego School of Law in 1973.

During his judicial career, Judge Cline has both chaired and served on numerous committees for the Center for Judicial Education and Research where he also served as faculty. In addition, he received a statewide “Ralph N. Kleps Award” for his work on the On My Honor program.

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Judge Cline says he will miss his association with the North County legal community but looks forward to retired life: "I will shortly be 70 years of age, an event I personally have set as a prerequisite to learning the game of golf. I also hope to spend some time sailing and hiking, events that will enable me to explore my other hobby of photography. Of course, my wife Anne and I will spend time with our daughter and two granddaughters. All of these will occur in the state of Maine, our new home."

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