



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Karen Dalton
Phone: (619) 450-5353

Superior Court Judge Thomas P. Nugent Retires

Judge Thomas P. Nugent, well respected for both his legal acumen and as a model of courtroom professionalism, is retiring after serving 17 years on the Superior Court bench. Judge Nugent's initial assignment to an Independent Calendar Department in the North County typically requiring the administration of in excess of 800 civil cases was followed by assuming exclusive responsibility for a dedicated settlement court department in the downtown Hall of Justice. Governor Pete Wilson appointed Judge Nugent to the bench in on January 8, 1998. His last official day with the Court is January 11, 2015.

Prior to his appointment, Judge Nugent spent 35 years mastering a number of fields as a litigator and Senior Partner/Director of Nugent & Newnham. As an attorney he was often retained to engage in a wide variety of significant civil and criminal matters requiring appearances before administrative agency's including Securities & Exchange Commission, the New Mexico State Racing Commission, the Board of Medical Quality Assurance as well as the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Judge Nugent developed a practice in white-collar criminal matters and established quite a reputation in tort litigation, representing both plaintiffs and defendants.

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Presiding Judge David J. Danielsen remembers meeting Judge Nugent many years ago when both were in the litigation arena. “He was a formidable adversary, a man of style and substance, and an honorable man. The San Diego Superior Court will miss him – he’s a class act.”

“I consider the time I served in the capacity of a Superior Court Judge to be the most significant and rewarding time of my legal career. To be trusted by the Bar and the community to conduct oneself with commitment and integrity has been an experience I will always treasure. I will miss the many good friends many of my colleagues have become. I am proud to have been associated with individuals of such intellect and integrity,” says Judge Nugent.

A U.S. Marine Corps Veteran, Judge Nugent is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School (Economics), Judge Nugent also received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He joined the California Bar in 1963 having served as a Law Clerk for U.S. District Judge Fred Kunzel (1962-63). Judge Nugent played an active part, as an attorney, in the San Diego County Bar Association, at one time leading the San Diego County Bar Association’s Indigent Criminal Defense Program. He also chaired the Bar’s Ethics Committee.

Judge Nugent says, “I look forward to continuing in my present capacity as a Settlement Conference Judge and intend to conduct a private practice dedicated to dispute resolution.”

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