



# News Release

## Superior Court of California

### County of San Francisco

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## **JUDGE DIANE ELAN WICK RETIRES FROM THE SAN FRANCISCO BENCH**

**SAN FRANCISCO** -- The San Francisco Superior Court has another judicial vacancy with the recent retirement of Judge Diane Elan Wick, a member of the San Francisco Bench since January 1989. Judge Wick's last day was June 5, 2009.

"Judge Wick has served this City and County well over the years," said Presiding Judge James J. McBride. "I thank her for her service and offer the Court's warmest congratulations on her much-deserved retirement."

Judge Wick, 70, was instrumental in planning for the construction and relocation of the Superior Court to the Civic Center Courthouse, the first dedicated Courthouse in San Francisco's history. The Court was forced to vacate City Hall and move to a temporary facility on Folsom Street in 1989 as the result of damage from the Loma Prieta earthquake.

From 1993 to 1998, Judge Wick served on the Courthouse Construction Committee, a 10-member judge committee responsible for the development and construction of the Civic Center Courthouse at 400 McAllister St. From 1998-2001, Judge Wick also served on the Task Force on Court Facilities, a statewide group that developed the master plan for court facilities and drafted legislation for transfer of court facilities from counties to state control.

"I will miss my fellow Judges and the staff of the San Francisco Superior Court," Judge Wick said. "Serving as a judge has left me with many memories from trials and cases

throughout the years, and I hope to continue my service on a part-time basis by serving in the Assigned Judges Program.”

In 1994 and 1995, Judge Wick served as Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court. During her first year as Presiding Judge, she was the recipient of the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association’s Municipal Court Trial Judge of the Year award.

From 1994-1998, Judge Wick was a mentor in the Adult Probation Department’s POWER program and was also active in development and operation of the Court’s childcare facilities.

Before her appointment to the Bench in 1989, Judge Wick was an attorney from 1985-1989 with Nielsen, Merksamer, Parinello, Mueller & Naylor. From 1981-1984, she was a deputy city attorney for the City and County of San Francisco. Before that, she served in 1980 and 1981 as an assistant district attorney, also for the City and County.

Judge Wick also had government and public affairs experience before her legal career. From 1969-1971, she served as an assistant to the Speaker of the California State Assembly. Between 1967 and 1975, she worked as a public affairs consultant to committees and candidates.

Judge Wick earned a Juris Doctorate degree in 1979 from Western State University College of Law in San Diego.

The San Francisco Superior Court is comprised of 51 judges and 13 commissioners. With Judge Wick’s retirement, the Court currently has two judicial vacancies. However, with a previously announced appointment and upcoming retirement, the Court will have four judicial vacancies by August. The Court currently has two commissioner vacancies.

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