News Release

Superior Court of California

County of San Francisco

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Release Date:
May 15, 2009

SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT'S IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDING JUDGE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

SAN FRANCISCO -- San Francisco Superior Court Judge David L. Ballati announced today that he will retire from the Bench at the end of July 2009.

A member of the San Francisco Superior Court Bench for 14 years, Judge Ballati served as the Court's former Presiding Judge in 2007 and 2008. Since January 2009, Judge Ballati has presided in the Probate Court.

"The title of Judge of the Superior Court of the State of California carries with it great responsibilities," Judge Ballati, 59, said. "These responsibilities include giving all litigants a full and fair opportunity to be heard; making fair and correct decisions; and being guided by the highest ethical standards. I am very fortunate that I was entrusted with these responsibilities."

Former Gov. Pete Wilson appointed Judge Ballati to the Municipal Court in 1995. Four years later, Judge Ballati was elevated to the Superior Court as the result of court unification.

In 2005 and 2006, Judge Ballati served as the Assistant Presiding Judge of the Court. Members of the Bench then elected him to serve as Presiding Judge in 2007 and 2008. His leadership as Presiding Judge was instrumental in the Court's jury reform efforts, which have cut in half the burden of jury service on the citizens living in San Francisco. Under

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Judge Ballati's leadership, the Court in the past two years successfully reduced its inventory of pending felony cases by one-third and misdemeanor cases by two-thirds. He also oversaw the planning for the Community Justice Center (CJC) at 575 Polk St., which opened in early March. The CJC offers on-site services for persons facing non-violent felony and misdemeanor charges in the Tenderloin, South of Market, Union Square and Civic Center neighborhoods.

In 2006, Judge Ballati received the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association Jurist of the Year Award. In 2008, he was the recipient of the Bar Association of San Francisco Barristers Choice Award.

The San Francisco Bench is comprised of 51 judges and 13 commissioners. Upon Judge Ballati's retirement, the San Francisco Superior Court will have five judicial officer vacancies.

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