

NEWS RELEASE

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DEAN OF THE SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT RETIRES AFTER NEARLY 40 YEARS

Judge Ronald Evans Quidachay Served as PJ of Muni and Superior Courts

SAN FRANCISCO -- After an enduring legacy of firsts, notable accomplishments and service to San Francisco, Judge Ronald Evans Quidachay is retiring after nearly 40 years on the bench, Presiding Judge Teri L. Jackson announced today.

"Judge Quidachay guided staff and fellow jurists through the turbulent transition that unified the Municipal and Superior courts, was the only Judge who served as Presiding Judge of both the Municipal and Superior courts, co-chaired the committee that oversaw the planning and building of the Civic Center Courthouse – a project that came in under-budget – and these are just some of his notable accomplishments," Judge Jackson said. "As the first Judge of Filipino descent to be appointed in Northern California, his contributions and dedication to the judicial branch and particularly the San Francisco courts are unparalleled."

Judge Quidachay looks forward to spending time with his family, especially his wife, who supported him during his demanding career, and his new grandchildren in Hawaii and Michigan.

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**JUDGE QUIDACHAY/SFSC
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After his June 27, 2018 retirement, Judge Quidachay is serving as a visiting judge.

"I could have retired 12 years ago, but I truly enjoy my judicial duties, supportive staff and colleagues on the San Francisco bench," Judge Quidachay said. "During my nearly 40 years of judicial service as a Traffic Court commissioner, Municipal Court Judge, and Superior Court Judge, I have been dedicated to finding solutions to the many challenges faced by the bench. I have endured two budget crises – including managing the first one in 2002 as Presiding Judge. I sought improvements to the administration of justice in San Francisco, which included replacement of a defunct case management system in 1986. As a reminder of the need for continuous progress, the hardware artifact remains in my chambers to this day. Whether it was overseeing the successful planning, construction and opening of the City's first courthouse building in 1998, leading the Court toward e-filing and online access to Civil records, launching the Housing Court amid escalating evictions in 2011, or serving as a mentor and faculty to judges in California and nationwide, I have endeavored to make a difference through leadership, collaboration and good humor."

He added, "I am proud to have served on a bench filled with diverse, brilliant and dedicated jurists. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve alongside my colleagues, and I look forward to continuing to help in any way I can as a visiting judge."

Known to many as Judge "Q," former Presiding Judge Cynthia Ming-mei Lee commended him for his immeasurable contributions – not only to the fair administration of justice in nearly every facet of the Court – but his decades-long mentorship of fellow Judges. As the longest serving member of the Court, Judge "Q" has been a role model for other Judges in his commitment to community service in the Filipino and Asian Pacific legal community.

"When Judge Katherine Feinstein was Presiding Judge, she turned to Judge Quidachay after deciding the Court needed a department dedicated to handling Unlawful

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JUDGE QUIDACHAY/SFSC
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Detainers and other housing issues,” Judge Lee said. “He eagerly took on this difficult task, and seven years later, he is known as the architect of the Housing Court, which also includes real estate cases. An able and talented administrator, experienced trial and settlement Judge, he was the perfect Judge to task with this much-needed court. I value him as a mentor, brilliant jurist and friend who has an unmatched work ethic and dedication to giving back to our City for these many years. I enjoy his wry sense of humor, and admire his appreciation of the human challenges presented daily in his courtroom.”

Appointed by Governor Edmund G. “Jerry” Brown Jr. in 1983, Judge Quidachay was elevated to the San Francisco Superior Court in 1998 where he was elected in 2000 as the second Presiding Judge after consolidation of the Municipal and Superior courts. He served as chair of the Courthouse Construction Committee, which oversaw the planning and building of the Civic Center Courthouse. During these many years, he served as a faculty member of the National Judges College and the California Judicial Education and Research Program.

While achieving numerous notable first-time accomplishments as a San Francisco jurist, his penchant for leadership and making a difference pre-dated his judicial career. As a graduate of the University of California School of Law and San Francisco State University, he was active in academic and extracurricular activities at both schools. At Boalt Hall, he co-founded the Filipino and Pacific Islander Student Association and worked in the school’s recruitment and admission program. At San Francisco State, he was the first chairperson of the Third World Minority student coalition who was one of the student leaders responsible for establishing the Educational Opportunity Program and the School of Ethnic Studies.

A national news reporter recently contacted Judge Quidachay to interview him about his role in a 1968 student-run strike to force the creation of the Ethnic Studies program. As head of a student group, he helped to lead the 5-month strike, which led to

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JUDGE QUIDACHAY/SFSC
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the program's launch.

Before his judicial career, Judge Quidachay represented tenants and then joined the San Francisco District Attorney's Office as a deputy district attorney, followed by a short time in private practice.

He is an advisory board member and cofounder of the Filipino Bar Association of NorCal (FBANC), and a member and past-president of the California Asian Pacific Islanders Judges Association.

Judge Quidachay's term expires in January 2023. His retirement leaves three vacancies on the 52-member San Francisco bench.

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