



Superior Court of California, County of Alameda
René C. Davidson Alameda County Courthouse
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, California 94612

PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release

JUDGES C. DON CLAY AND JOHN M. TRUE TAKE OATHS OF OFFICE IN ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT

Oakland – The Superior Court in Alameda County announces that First Assistant United States Attorney C. Don Clay and private attorney John M. True have this week taken office as judges of the court.

Judge Clay, 48, of San Francisco, has worked in the office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of California since September 2002. As the number two person in the office, he oversaw all of the criminal and civil work of the office and served as the Acting United States Attorney in the absence of the United States Attorney.

Before joining the United States Attorney's office, Judge Clay practiced both criminal and civil law in Alameda County from 1981 to 2002. He has handled a broad range of criminal cases, from minor misdemeanors to serious felonies and white-collar crime. His civil litigation practice included business disputes, entertainment litigation, and personal injury cases on behalf of both plaintiffs and defendants. He had a solo practice in Oakland from 1998 to 2002. Earlier, he was a partner of retired Justice Clinton W. White from 1995 to 1998 and a partner in the firms of Dubois, Hove & Clay from 1985 to 1987 and Clay, Hall & Hove from 1989 to 1992.

Judge Clay served on the Board of the Wiley Manuel Law Foundation and has been a member of the Alameda County Bar Association, Charles Houston Bar Association, National Bar Association, San Francisco Bar Association and California Attorneys for Criminal Justice. He served on the San Francisco Juvenile Justice Commission from 1989 to 1993; on the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission from 1993 to 1995; and on the San Francisco Fire Commission from 1995 to 1996. He also served as president of the boards of directors of Dunsmuir Historical House and Gardens in Oakland, the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, the Crossroads Mentoring Program, and Schools of the Sacred Heart. In addition, he has served as a member of the Advisory Board, College of Letters and Science, University of California at Berkeley and as a member of the Board of Directors of Huckleberry Youth Organization, Inc.

Judge Clay earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and a juris doctorate degree from Hastings Law School. He fills the vacancy

created by the death of Judge Richard Iglehart last June. On September 30, Judge Larry Goodman administered the oath of office to Judge Clay, who has been assigned by Presiding Judge Harry Sheppard to Department 136 at the Wiley W. Manuel Courthouse in Oakland.

Judge True, 59, of Berkeley, has been a partner at Leonard Carder LLP since 2000. He practiced employment law on behalf of plaintiffs and has done so for most of his career. For the past 10 years, he has been representing individual plaintiffs in lawsuits with their employers for wrongful termination, discrimination and sexual harassment. From 1994 to 2000, he was a partner with the firm of Rudy, Exelrod, Zieff & True. From 1985 to 1993, he was a senior staff lawyer with the Employment Law Center of the San Francisco Legal Aid Society, where he specialized in class action impact litigation on behalf of low-income employees. Earlier in his career, he practiced labor relations law, first as an attorney at the National Labor Relations Board from 1975 to 1979, and then in private practice with the firm of True, Wetzel, Colton & Fouts from 1979 to 1985.

Judge True has extensive experience as an arbitrator and mediator both for the Superior Court and for private parties. He also has served as a mediator and an Early Neutral Evaluation Program Evaluator for the federal court. He has taught in the field of labor and employment law at Boalt Hall, University of San Francisco, and Santa Clara University Law Schools. He is frequently asked to lecture at legal education programs on labor and employment law issues and he regularly writes for the Civil Litigation Reporter and the California Employment Law Reporter.

Judge True is a past Chair of the California State Bar Labor and Employment Law Section and a past Chair of the Northern District of California's Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group. He has served as a Lawyer Representative to the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference. He is a co-author of California Employment Litigation: Strategy and Tactics. He is also a member of the Alameda County Bar Association, National Employment Lawyers Association, and Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society. He was recently elected a Fellow in the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers. He has been listed in The Best Lawyers in America since 1997.

Judge True earned a bachelor of arts from Trinity College and a juris doctorate degree from Boalt Hall. Between college and law school, he served in the Peace Corps in Nepal and Afghanistan. He is married to United States District Court Judge Claudia Wilken, who administered the oath of office to Judge True on October 3, filling the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge David Lee last January. Judge True has been assigned by the Presiding Judge to Department 522 at the Hayward Hall of Justice.

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