



# NEWS RELEASE

Release Number: 13

Release Date: March 25, 2008

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF  
CALIFORNIA  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE  
OF THE COURTS

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## **Memorial Service Tomorrow for Judge Darrell Stevens, National Drug Court Leader**

Chico—Judge Darrell W. Stevens, a nationally recognized leader in drug and collaborative justice courts who served 16 years on the Superior Court of Butte County, will be remembered at a memorial service on Wednesday, March 26, 2008, at 1 p.m., at the Neighborhood Church of Chico, 2801 Notre Dame Boulevard, Chico. Judge Stevens died suddenly on March 18.

“Darrell was a great innovator and a forward-thinking judge,” said Presiding Judge James F. Reilley of the Superior Court of Butte County. “He was highly respected and nationally known for his pioneering work in the development and support of treatment courts. He was also a very charming, incredibly pleasant person and was kind to everyone.”

Executive Officer Sharol Strickland said, “Judge Stevens was deeply committed to our community and to helping others create better lives for themselves. He was a creative problem solver who enjoyed bringing people together to remove barriers to getting things done. He was a kind and gifted man.”

In six different years, Judge Stevens’ court was awarded one of the Judicial Council’s highest honors—the Ralph N. Kleps Award for Improvement in the Administration of the Courts—for leadership in developing innovative court programs such as graffiti eradication, mediation, and alcohol treatment programs.

The Superior Court of Butte County’s drug court, founded by Judge Stevens, has been recognized since 1998 by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals as a mentor court that provides training for drug courts across the United States.

Judge Stevens was appointed to the bench in 1989 by Governor George Deukmejian and retired in 2005. He served as chair of the Judicial Council’s Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee from 2000 to  
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2003 and continued as a member after that time. He also chaired the Collaborative Courts Education Committee of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), Education Division/Center for Judicial Education and Research, as well as the AOC's Proposition 36 Implementation Workgroup. In addition, he was a member of the Judicial Council's Special Task Force on Court/Community Outreach and the Access and Fairness Advisory Committee.

Judge Stevens was a sole law practitioner in Oroville and Chico from 1969 to 1989; a partner at Corkin, Corkin & Stevens from 1966 to 1968; a manager at E. S. Merriam & Son in San Francisco from 1964 to 1966; and an assistant secretary and manager at United California Mortgage Company in San Francisco from 1963 to 1964. He received a J.D. degree with honors in 1965 from Golden Gate College, now known as Golden Gate University.

Judge Stevens is survived by Kay, his wife of 32 years; seven children, including Tamy Wilson, Karyn Stevens, Laura Nield, Matthew Stevens, Daniel Ovist, Colleen Arellano, and Sean Stevens; 11 grandchildren; and six siblings, Debra Hart, Jeffrey Brook, Mathew Brook, Michael Stevens, Vance Stevens, and Leslie MacLean.

Flowers may be sent to the Newton-Bracewell Chico Funeral Home or a donation may be made to any one of the charities that Judge Stevens worked with, including the Boys and Girls Club of Chico; Rotary Clubs of Oroville and Chico; Oroville Industrial Development Corporation; Butte County Salvation Army; Butte College Foundation; or Butte County United Way; Butte County Boy Scouts Campaign.

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