

NEWS RELEASE
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO



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JUDGE ROSS C. MOODY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT AFTER 11 YEARS ON THE SF BENCH AND MORE THAN THREE DECADES IN PUBLIC SERVICE TO CALIFORNIANS

Judge Ross C. Moody, who until recently served as the Court’s Supervising Probate Judge, is retiring from the San Francisco bench after 11 years on the bench and a long public service career with the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General.

“It has been a privilege to sit on the San Francisco Superior Court,” Judge Moody said. “Serving the vibrant, soulful, and beautifully diverse community of San Francisco has been my great honor. I leave this bench with a heart full of gratitude for the people who make this City—and this Court—truly remarkable.”

Presiding Judge Rochelle C. East thanked Judge Moody for his judicial service to San Franciscans, which followed 21 years as a California deputy attorney general.

“It has been my good fortune to call Judge Moody a friend and colleague for over 20 years, both as a judge and as a deputy attorney general,” Presiding Judge East said. “He has been an exceptional leader, with an unmatched intellect combined with emotional insight and an innate sense of justice. He has served our Court and City well for more than a decade. And while we will miss his legal

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expertise, camaraderie, and wise counsel, we offer our congratulations and gratitude to him and his family for his many years of public service.”

Judge Moody was appointed to the San Francisco Superior Court in 2015 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Before being assigned to the Probate and Mental Health Division, Judge Moody presided over Criminal and Civil Trials, the Misdemeanor Master Calendar, and Preliminary Hearings. He joined the Probate and Mental Health Division in June 2020, and served as Supervising Probate Judge from January 2023 to January 2026. Judge Moody also served as Presiding Judge of the Court’s Appellate Division, reviewing judgments from traffic, misdemeanor, and limited-jurisdiction civil proceedings.

Immediately prior to his judicial appointment, Judge Moody served as a deputy attorney general at the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. From 2007 to 2015, Judge Moody was assigned to the Government Law Section, where he litigated some of the most high-profile cases in California; this included cases in which he defended the constitutionality of California statutes, and defended the governor when he was named in lawsuits. From 1994 to 2007, he was assigned to the Appeals, Writs and Trials Section where he defended state criminal judgments in both state and federal courts. In private practice, Judge Moody was a litigation associate at Pillsbury, Madison and Sutro from 1989 to 1994.

Before joining the bench, Judge Moody was a certified appellate specialist, who briefed and argued cases in the California Supreme Court and United States Supreme Court during his career with the Attorney General.

Judge Moody earned his B.A. from UCLA and his J.D. from UC Davis.

The San Francisco bench is comprised of 52 judges and one commissioner.

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