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Santa Clara Judge Receives Chief Justice's Leadership Award

Judge Stephen Manley Honored for Pioneering Drug and Mental Health Courts in California

San Francisco—Judge Stephen V. Manley, of the Superior Court of Santa Clara County, this week received the Chief Justice's Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership for his outstanding contributions in developing drug and mental health courts in California. The award was presented by Chief Justice Ronald M. George at a judicial conference.

A jurist for almost 30 years, Judge Manley is supervising judge for all felony drug cases and mental health cases in the Superior Court of Santa Clara County. He founded the Santa Clara County Drug Court in 1996 and the Mental Health Court in 1997, one of the largest mental health treatment courts in the United States which provides treatment and supervision for 1,500 defendants.

Judge Manley also developed the Santa Clara court's implementation plan for Proposition 36 and supervises that implementation, involving nine judges who supervise over 5,000 defendants in treatment through a court-managed collaborative system.

Judge Manley has spoken and made many presentations throughout the state and nation on the importance of mental health courts and has testified before the Legislature on the urgent need to provide treatment to the mentally ill.

A graduate of Stanford Law School, Judge Manley is president of the California Association of Drug Court Professionals, which has grown into the largest collaborative courts organization in the state. He is a member and officer on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Drug Court Professionals.

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