

Temporary Judges Honored at Special Event

The Judges of Orange County Superior Court celebrated all volunteer lawyers that gave their time to serve our community as temporary judges, during a small but warm and lively ceremony held on Friday, Nov. 2, 2018.

This event is a “recognition of your extraordinary gift of time and service to the Court and community throughout the year,” said by Judge Claudia Silbar, who chairs the Temporary Judge Committee. Presiding Judge Elect Kirk Nakamura delivered the keynote address stressing the importance of volunteers in the successful achievement of the Court’s mission.

Temporary Judge Patrick Flannery received the top service award for the 2017-2018 fiscal year in recognition of his gift of 254.50 hours of his time to the court, hearing more than 4000 cases. Last year’s top volunteer Michael Balmages gave the court 223.75 hours.

The two judges were among 40 honored on Friday, Nov. 2nd for their service to our community. The Orange County Superior Court utilizes over 250 volunteer attorneys trained as temporary judges to preside over hearings in all justice centers. Their service has contributed substantially to the efficient operation of the Orange County Superior Court and saved the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.



Judge Claudia Silbar and Presiding Judge Elect Kirk Nakamura (right) pose with Temporary Judge Patrick Flannery during the awards' ceremony.

Judge Silbar led the appreciation event, giving special recognition to each and sharing comments from judges and clerks on their performance. Among the judges in attendance were Presiding Judge Charles Margines, who welcomed everyone to the event, and Assistant Presiding Judge Elect Erick Larsh.

Temporary Judges play a vital role in our Courts and are primarily assigned to hear cases in the areas of Small Claims, Traffic Arraignments and Trials, and in the Collaborative Courts. They also serve as settlement officers for Civil, Family Law and Probate matters and have been very successful in assisting parties in the resolution of their cases, avoiding prolonged court trials.

The Temporary Judge Appreciation Event was organized to honor all Temporary Judges and make special note of those that exceeded 100 hours of service, referred to as the "100 Club" by Judge Silbar.