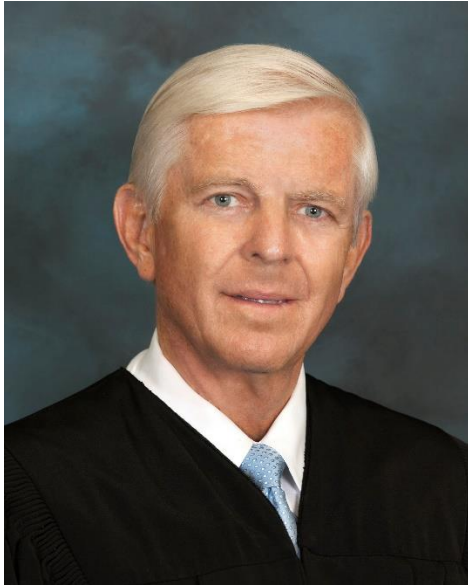


Orange County Legal Community Mourns passing of the Retired Judge Steven L. Perk

Hon. Steven L. Perk (Ret.) passed away on January 16, 2019. Judge Perk served as a judge on the Complex Civil Panel where he stepped down for health reasons in December 2016. He was 67 years old.

He leaves behind a loving family and the legal community of Orange County deeply mourning his passing.



“Those who have had the opportunity to know him and work with him will grieve his loss as he was an exemplary individual and a comrade,” said Kirk Nakamura, Orange County Superior Court Presiding Judge.

Throughout his career as a jurist, Judge Perk earned a reputation as a no-nonsense trial judge who valued promptness, preparedness and professionalism. For lawyers and non-lawyers alike, Judge Perk will stand as one of Orange County’s finest models of integrity, hard work, honesty and fairness.

A former quarterback at the University of South Dakota and college football coach, Judge Perk graduated from Pepperdine School of Law in 1980 and worked as a law clerk for Judge Ronald Kreber’s former firm. He served as a Deputy District Attorney in the Orange County District Attorney’s Office for almost 9 years, after which he worked in private practice with his good friend, Cliff Roberts.

He returned to the OCDA’s Office for another short stint when in 1995, Gov. Pete Wilson appointed him to the bench. In 2002, Judge Perk was assigned to the General Civil Panel and in 2011, only 9 years later, was appointed Supervising Judge of the General Civil Panel.

As Supervising Judge, he simultaneously tackled both a pending financial crisis and an unprecedented backlog of over 2,000 unassigned cases which, under Judge Perk’s leadership, was whittled down to 500 cases in just 2 years.

Judge Perk was the 2016 recipient of the PYOCBF Society of Fellows Distinguished Judicial Fellow Award.

A Funeral Mass for Judge Perk will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019 at 10:00 am. Flower for the funeral mass are to be sent to O’Connor Laguna Hills Mortuary, 25301 Alicia Pkwy, Laguna Hills, CA 92653.