



SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO

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Sacramento Superior Court Judges to Retire from the Bench

Sacramento, CA – Judge James M. Mize and Judge Allen H. Sumner will soon retire from the Sacramento Superior Court bench.

“It’s been an honor to working alongside these esteemed colleagues,” Presiding Court Judge Michael G. Bowman said. “Their presence on the bench will surely be missed.”

Judge Mize earned a Juris Doctor from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1984. After graduating law school, Judge Mize entered solo practice where he remained until his appointment to the bench in 2000 by former Gov. Gray Davis.

While on the bench, Judge Mize has served as an assistant presiding judge and a presiding judge. He has also served as the supervising judge for the Family Law and Probate Courts. During his time as a judge, he spearheaded the court’s one-day divorce program which seeks to help parties dissolve their marriage.

Judge Mize was named Judicial Officer of the Year by the Family Law Section of the State Bar of California in 2013 and Judge of the Year by the Sacramento Bar Association in 2009.

Judge Sumner received his Juris Doctor from the University of Santa Clara School of Law in 1976. After graduating from law school, he worked as a deputy legal affairs secretary for then-Gov. Jerry Brown. Seven years later, he went on to join the Department of Justice’s Office of the Attorney General.

In 1998, Judge Sumner became general counsel for then-Gov. Gray Davis' State and Consumer Services Agency. Two years later, he was named chief deputy of the governor's legal affairs office where he served until his appointment to the bench in 2003 by Gov. Davis.

Judge Sumner is currently on a general trial assignment and one of four civil writ judges. His prior assignments have included general trial assignment, primarily criminal trials, civil writ team, misdemeanor home court (arraignments & sentencing), habeas writs, appellate panel, master calendar and family law.

In 2021, Judge Sumner was recognized as Judge of the Year by the American Board of Trial Advocate Attorneys.