



Public Information Office
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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Judge Harry Pregerson to Receive University of California Award

SAN FRANCISCO – Judge Harry Pregerson of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has spent much of his life helping the less fortunate, sometimes from the bench, but more often out on the streets of his native Los Angeles, working with community groups of every stripe.

Over the years, the veteran jurist and ex-Marine has been an important part of successful efforts to build homeless shelters, transitional housing, child care centers and job training facilities in some of the neediest areas of Los Angeles County. His contributions have not gone unnoticed at the University of California, which will honor Judge Pregerson during a ceremony to be held Friday, April 30, on the Berkeley campus.

Judge Pregerson will be presented with the Peter E. Haas Public Service Award, which recognizes Cal alumni who have made significant voluntary contributions to the public good. UC Chancellor Robert Birgeneau and his wife will host the event. The award was established by the wife of the late Peter E. Haas. It recognizes activity at the grassroots level that “illustrates the impact that an individual can have on society through creative social change.” Prior recipients include volunteers working on environmental issues, engaging at-risk youth, and providing greater access to health and social services.

Judge Pregerson has served on the state and federal bench for the past 45 years. Beginning in 1965, Judge Pregerson served on the Los Angeles Municipal and Superior Courts. In 1967, President Johnson appointed him to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. President Carter appointed him to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in 1979.

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Judge Pregerson received his B.A. from the UCLA in 1947 and his LL.B. from the UC Berkeley Boalt Hall School of Law in 1950. He served as a first lieutenant in the Marines from 1944 to 1946.

From the bench, Judge Pregerson played an important role in resolving a long running legal dispute over community impacts from a major Southern California highway project. As a district judge, he presided over a lawsuit challenging construction of the I-105 Century Freeway, continuing with the case even after being elevated to an appellate judge.

Judge Pregerson structured a consent decree that created thousands of affordable housing units for those displaced by the project. The Century Housing program also created training and employment programs for women and minorities, and established child care centers. In recognition of his service, the I-105/110 freeway interchange was officially named after Judge Pregerson. A child care center also bears his name.

Judge Pregerson continues to work closely with various community groups, including the Salvation Army, Century Housing, and U.S. Vets and often visits the facilities he helped to build in Los Angeles County.

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