

Pauline Maxwell
Presiding Judge



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JUDGE BRUCE DODDS AND JUDGE JAMES E. HERMAN

Santa Barbara, California, September 6, 2023 –

Presiding Judge Pauline Maxwell, on behalf of the entire Santa Barbara Superior Court, expresses sympathy and condolences to the families of recently deceased Judges Bruce Dodds and James E. Herman.

Judge Bruce Dodds took the bench as a superior court judge following a contested election in 1976. He began his term of office in January of 1977. During his time on the bench, he served as the Presiding Judge of the Court for two terms. He handled a range of cases including felony criminal matters, civil, family and probate. He retired from the bench in 1998. He was a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles school of law. Prior to becoming a judge of the superior court, he worked for several years in the County Counsel office for Santa Barbara County. Memorial services are being planned.

Judge James E. Herman was appointed to the bench in 2005 and retired in 2022. During his time on the bench, he served as Presiding Judge of the Court, Juvenile Presiding Judge, and Supervising Civil Judge. His assignments included criminal, juvenile, probate, family law, and the Appellate Division. He received his B.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1971. He completed a J.D. at California Western Law School in 1975 and an LL.M. from the New York University School of Law in 1976. His practice focused on complex commercial litigation and prior to his appointment he was a partner in Reicker, Pfau, Pyle, McRoy & Herman in Santa Barbara. He previously served as President of the Board of Trustees of the State Bar of California from 2002-2003. Private family services are planned.

Judge Pauline Maxwell remarked, *“Both of these gentlemen made significant contributions to the Santa Barbara Superior Court and the Santa Barbara legal community. They will be remembered fondly and greatly missed.”*