A Tribute to

Judge Bruce W. Sumner, Retired



Bruce Sumner is a retired Superior Court Judge who introduced Mosier & Company to Court-appointed projects. He also helped orient a non-lawyer turnaround professional to the unique requirements to serve as a court appointed fiduciary.

Shortly after leaving the bench in 1985 Judge Sumner was involved in private judging and was appointed the Trustee for a failing bank's trust department. He subsequently appointed Mosier & Company as the administrator to recover \$10 million for 64 pension plans belonging to 32 doctors. The effort was called the 1985 Sumner Trust. This was the first quasi-judicial appointment for Mr. Mosier who, up to that point, had thirteen years of tenure in corporate turnarounds. After a two year administration of the Sumner Trust, the effort produced a 110% recovery of the lost pension plan monies -- enough to pay off the investors in full with interest plus cover all administrative costs.

The combination of the introduction plus notable results led to additional assignments where Mr. Mosier began accepting direct court appointments in State, Federal and Federal Bankruptcy Court. Since this beginning, Mr. Mosier has served as a Court-appointed fiduciary in more than 550 subsequent appointments. To acknowledge Judge Sumner's contribution, the following is a tribute to his rich career as a US Marine, lawyer, legislator, Judge, statesman and his distinguished career as a global citizen.

Judge Sumner's global journey starts as a United States Marine. He served at the very end of WW II and was later in the Korean conflict where he received six Battle Stars, three Presidential Unit Citations and a Letter of Commendation with the Combat Letter "V." He retired from the Marine reserve as a Lt. Colonel and continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the November 10th Association. As a lawyer he was a Deputy Public Defender, and later a partner at Kindel & Anderson. Judge Sumner also put in three impressive terms in the California State Legislature as an Assemblyman where he served as Chair of the Judiciary Committee. As an Assemblyman, he carried the enabling legislation for projects such as Dana Point Harbor, the University of California at Irvine and California State University at Fullerton -- all milestones in the development of Orange County that make a material contribution to the quality and substance of today's unique and enviable quality of life.

As a distinguished member of the judiciary, Judge Sumner served as the Presiding Judge ("PJ") for the Orange County Superior Court. He also served as PJ in the Probate and Juvenile departments. He was a faculty member at the Judges' College, and a frequent lecturer on trial tactics. He was selected as Judge of the Year by the Trial Lawyers' Association. Perhaps his highest honor as a judge was having received the Franklin G. West award -- the top award for Orange County's most outstanding jurist.

Notwithstanding all of the above, Judge Sumner's greatest accomplishments were in a category as a Statesman. He headed the Constitutional Revision Commission that redrafted the entire California State Constitution. Judge Sumner was also active in Human Rights as a member of Amnesty International where he presided over alleged human rights violations in Chile and Rhodesia. He also edited the Courts Martial procedures for the military justice system for the US Defense Department as special counsel for Secretary of Defense Casper Weinberger. A lifelong swimmer, Judge Sumner has won 5 gold medals in the Senior Olympics. As an expression of his enthusiasm for swimming, he served as Chair of the swimming division of the Modern Pentathlon during the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. Now in his 80's and following a stroke in 2000, he remarkably continues to swim every day.

Judge Sumner is retired and lives in Orange County with his wife Susan.