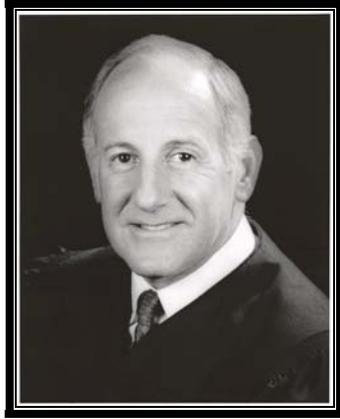


**A TREMENDOUS COMMITMENT
TO JUSTICE:
THE JUDICIAL SERVICE OF
HON. RONALD M. GEORGE**



CHIEF JUSTICE OF CALIFORNIA
1996-2011

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA
1991-1996

ASSOCIATE JUSTICE, COURT OF APPEAL
SECOND APPELLATE DISTRICT, DIVISION FOUR
1987-1991

JUDGE, SUPERIOR COURT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
1978-1987

JUDGE, MUNICIPAL COURT, LOS ANGELES COUNTY
1972-1977

A TREMENDOUS COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE

A simple phrase, but reflective of the highest aspirations of a society under the rule of law. Describing the service of Chief Justice Ronald M. George, the phrase mirrors his landmark accomplishments in improving access to justice for all Californians.

Ronald Marc George was born in California to immigrant parents – his father, from France and his mother, from Hungary. A 1957 graduate of Beverly Hills High School, he spent two of his high school years studying at the International School in Geneva. A predilection for languages and an interest in international relations led him to study at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. After graduation he returned to California to study at Stanford University's School of Law and following graduation, was admitted to the California Bar and the Bar of the United States District Court, Southern District of California.

His career as a public servant began in 1965 with his appointment to the staff of the California Attorney General. Assigned to the Los Angeles office, he represented the State in cases coming before state and federal courts. He appeared before the United States Supreme Court in six cases involving such issues as search and seizure, sentencing, and the constitutionality of California's death penalty statute. His leadership and managerial skills were recognized very early, and in 1971 he was appointed Administrative Assistant for the Los Angeles office, a position with management responsibility for 110 attorneys and more than 200 administrative staff.

Appointed to the Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1972, he was the Supervising Judge of the West Los Angeles Branch Court in 1973-1974 and Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division in 1977. He was appointed to the Superior Court in December 1977 and took his oath of office in January 1978. In 1983-1984, he was Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division and a member of the court's Executive Committee. The case, *State v. Buono*, commonly known as the "Hillside Stranglers" case, was heard in his courtroom. His pivotal - and unexpected - denial of the prosecution's motion to dismiss the case permitted the case to continue to a trial that resulted in conviction of the defendant on ten counts of murder.

Governor George A. Deukmejian appointed Judge George to the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Four in 1987 and he served there until his appointment to the California Supreme Court in 1991. In 1996, he was appointed Chief Justice of California, taking his oath of office on May 1. As Chief Justice he also serves as Chair of the Judicial Council.

Two weeks later he began his tradition of addressing the Governor and the Legislature and other state officers on "The State of the Judiciary." In that first address he introduced issues and challenges and proffered solutions for them, urging and encouraging the "sister branches" of government to collaborate with the judiciary in improving access to justice for all Californians.

Expressing the need for a strong and impartial judiciary, he also acknowledged that the courts must take responsibility for management and accountability in their conduct of business. He encouraged the enactment of laws that would enable the courts to implement efficiencies and service improvements for the benefit of litigants and bring stable, adequate funding to the trials courts. He spoke of his intention to visit courts in all 58 counties.

Described as the hardest-working man in the courts, he made all of the intended visits, traveling more than 12,000 miles. His proposals for meeting the challenges identified in that first address have been transformed into legislative proposals that, in turn, have been transformed into law: the Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act of 1997 (Stats. 1997, ch. 850), the Trial Court Facilities Act (Stats. 2001, ch. 1082), and Proposition 220. Passed by the voters in 1998, Proposition 220 authorized the voluntary unification of each county's Superior and Municipal courts into a single trial court system.

His commitment to the judiciary as a whole did not impede his commitment to judicial decision making. He participated in more than 1500 opinions of the Court and in reviewing and acting upon thousands of petitions, motions and requests.

In countless appearances and speeches, he has enlightened his listeners and drawn upon their support for access and fairness in the courts. One commentator has expressed the view that Ron George is one who goes out and builds relationships, and that serves the judiciary well.

The Chief Justice's confidence in the ability and goodwill of judicial officers and staff has been rewarded by award-winning improvements in the management of the courts and enhanced access and fairness in the courts for all who come before them. Commenting upon the Chief Justice's retirement announcement, Governor Schwarzenegger said:

Over the course of his career, he has shown tremendous commitment to justice with extraordinary dedication to upholding impartiality under the law.

His *tremendous commitment* has transformed the courts for the benefit of all Californians, and his tenure as Chief Justice will be studied, emulated and revered.

NOTEWORTHY CASES — Significant majority opinions authored as a Supreme Court Justice include:

People v. Kelly (2010) 47 Cal.4th 1008 (involving the Legislature’s authority to amend an initiative statute)

Strauss v. Horton (2009) 46 Cal.4th 364 (involving the constitutionality and retroactivity of Proposition 8, which amended the California Constitution to restrict marriage to same-sex couples)

Silverbrand v. County of Los Angeles (2009) 46 Cal.4th 106 (applying the “prison delivery” rule to an inmate’s filing of a notice of appeal in a civil case)

Vargas v. City of Salinas (2009) 46 Cal.4th 1 (setting standard for lawfulness of city’s expenditure of public funds on election campaigns)

In re Lawrence (2008) 44 Cal.4th 1181 and *In re Shaputis* (2008) 44 Cal.4th 1241 (both involving the standard by which courts review the Governor’s reversal of the Board of Parole Hearing’s grant of parole)

In re Marriage Cases (2008) 43 Cal.4th 757 (holding unconstitutional the California statutes limiting marriage to a union of a man and a woman)

Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training v. Superior Court (2007) 42 Cal.4th 278 and *Int’l Fed. of Prof. & Tech. Engineers v. Superior Court* (2007) 42 Cal.4th 319 (both holding that names and salaries of public employees are subject to disclosure under the Public Records Act)

Elkins v. Superior Court (2007) 41 Cal.4th 1337 (invalidating local court rules that eliminated direct testimony and limited other evidence in marital dissolution trials)

People v. Black (2007) 41 Cal.4th 799 and *People v. Sandoval* (2007) 41 Cal.4th 825 (both involving reformation of California’s determinate sentencing laws in the wake of U.S. Supreme Court holdings)

City of Santa Barbara v. Superior Court (2007) 41 Cal.4th 747 (invalidating release of liability for recreational activities as to gross negligence)

Kearney v. Salomon Smith Barney, Inc. (2006) 39 Cal.4th 95 (involving applicability of California privacy laws to telephone calls made to Californians from out of state)

Ind’t Energy Producers Assn. v. McPherson (2006) 38 Cal.4th 1020; *Californians for an Open Primary v. McPherson* (2006) 38 Cal.4th 735; *Costa v. Superior Court* (2006) 37 Cal.4th 986 (all three cases involving the propriety of various pre-election challenges to voter initiatives)

Frye v. Tenderloin Housing Clinic, Inc. (2006) 38 Cal.4th 23 (involving the authority of nonprofit legal services corporations to practice law)

Yanowitz v. L’Oreal USA, Inc. (2005) 36 Cal.4th 1028 (holding that sales manager suffered improper retaliation under F.E.H.A for her refusal to terminate the employment of a female employee who was considered by the manager’s male supervisor to be insufficiently attractive)

Miller v. Department of Corrections (2005) 36 Cal.4th 446 (holding that pervasive favoritism toward female employees engaged in sexual affairs with male supervisor created a hostile work environment and violated F.E.H.A.’s prohibition against sexual harassment)

Delgado v. Trax Bar and Grill (2005) 36 Cal.4th 224 and *Morris v. De La Torre* (2005) 36 Cal. 4th 260 (both allowing liability to be imposed upon business proprietors for failure to take reasonable action in response to ongoing criminal conduct on the premises)

Marine Forests Society v. California Coastal Comm. (2005) 36 Cal.4th 1 (holding that Legislature’s appointment of some of the members of this executive agency does not violate state constitution’s separation-of-powers clause)

Lockyer v. City and County of San Francisco (2004) 33 Cal. 4th 1055 (holding that local officials acted outside of their authority in issuing marriage licenses to single-sex couples in violation of state statutes)

Bronco Wine Co. v. Jolly (2004) 33 Cal.4th 943 (holding that federal law does not preempt state statute regulating “Napa” designation on wine labels)

Dept. of Finance v. Comm. on State Mandates (2003) 30 Cal.4th 727 (interpreting constitutional requirement that local entities be reimbursed for state-mandated costs)

White v. Davis (2003) 30 Cal.4th 528 (determining authority of State Controller to disburse funds during a budget impasse)

In re Rosenkrantz (2002) 29 Cal.4th 616 (setting forth the standard for judicial review of Governor’s reversal of parole board decisions)

People v. Mar (2002) 28 Cal.4th 1201 (establishing the limited circumstances under which a defendant may be compelled to wear an electronic stun belt during a criminal trial)

People v. Mower (2002) 28 Cal.4th 457 (interpreting Proposition 215, the medical use of marijuana initiative, to grant qualified patients and primary caregivers a limited immunity from prosecution for possession and cultivation of marijuana)

Zelig v. County of Los Angeles (2002) 27 Cal.4th 1112 (holding that county and sheriff have immunity from liability for failure to protect litigant from shooting committed by other litigant inside courthouse)

Manduley v. Superior Court (2002) 27 Cal.4th 537 (upholding constitutionality of Proposition 21, the Gang Violence and Juvenile Crime Prevention Initiative, which confers upon the prosecutor the discretion to file specified charges against certain minors directly in criminal rather than juvenile court)

Lugtu v. Calif. Highway Patrol (2001) 26 Cal.4th 703 (holding that a law enforcement officer owes a motorist a duty of reasonable care in pulling over a vehicle during a traffic stop)

People v. Williams (2001) 25 Cal.4th 441 (holding that there is no right of jury nullification)

In re Marriage of Bonds (2000) 24 Cal.4th 1 (holding that in determining whether a premarital agreement was entered into voluntarily, the circumstance that one of the parties was not represented by independent counsel is only one of several factors to be considered)

Alvarado v. Superior Court (2000) 23 Cal.4th 1121 (holding that the defendants’ rights of confrontation and cross-examination were violated by a trial court order permitting the crucial witnesses against them to testify anonymously at trial)

Senate v. Jones (1999) 21 Cal.4th 1142 (removing from the statewide ballot an initiative measure that violated the state constitution’s single-subject requirement by encompassing both a transfer of the power of reapportionment from the Legislature to the Supreme Court, and a reduction of the compensation of state legislators and officers)

Warden v. State Bar (1999) 21 Cal.4th 628 (upholding the constitutionality of Calif.’s mandatory continuing legal education program)

Aguilar v. Avis Rent A Car System, Inc. (1999) 21 Cal.4th 121 (holding that a remedial injunction prohibiting the continued use of racial epithets in the workplace does not violate the right of freedom of speech if there has been a judicial determination that the use of such epithets will contribute to the continuation of a hostile work environment)

NBC Subsidiary (KNBC-TV), Inc. v. Superior Court (1999) 20 Cal.4th 1178 (holding that the right of the media and the public to attend court proceedings extends to civil as well as criminal proceedings)

Calif Teachers Assn. v. State of Calif. (1999) 20 Cal.4th 327 (holding unconstitutional an Education Code provision requiring that whenever a teacher exercises his or her constitutional right to request a hearing regarding a threatened suspension or dismissal, but ultimately does not prevail, the teacher must reimburse the state for one-half the cost of the administrative law judge)

In re Attorney Discipline System (1998) 19 Cal.4th 582 (imposing a special regulatory assessment on attorneys actively engaged in the practice of law, to be used exclusively for attorney disciplinary purposes, in the absence of such provision by the executive and legislative branches)

Curran v. Mount Diablo Council of the Boy Scouts (1998) 17 Cal.4th 670 (holding that the Boy Scouts of America, as a “business establishment” within the meaning of the Unruh Civil Rights Act, is excluded from the application of Calif.’s public accommodation law)

American Academy of Pediatrics v. Lungren (1997) 16 Cal.4th 307 (holding that a statute requiring a pregnant minor to obtain parental consent or judicial authorization before she may secure a medically safe abortion, violates the minor’s right to privacy guaranteed by the Calif. Constitution)

Loder v. City of Glendale (1997) 14 Cal.4th 846 (holding that a city’s across-the-board drug testing program is valid as applied to job applicants but invalid as to current employees who had been conditionally approved for promotion)

Peterson v. Superior Court (1995) 10 Cal.4th 1185 (holding that hotel operators and landlords are not strictly liable, under the doctrine of products liability, for injuries to their tenants and guests caused by latent defects in the premises, but are liable only if the hotel operator or landlord is negligent)

Warfield v. Peninsula Golf and Country Club (1995) 10 Cal.4th 594 (holding that private country clubs that engage in numerous regular business transactions with nonmembers violate the Unruh Civil Rights Act by excluding women from proprietary membership)

Adams v. Commission on Judicial Performance (1994) 8 Cal.4th 630 (upholding the constitutionality of the provisions for open hearings before the Commission on Judicial Performance)

People v. Ewoldt (1994) 7 Cal.4th 380 (holding that evidence of a defendant’s prior uncharged sexual acts is admissible at a subsequent trial for sexual offenses, in order to show a common design or plan on the part of the defendant)

People v. Cahill (1993) 5 Cal.4th 478 (holding that the erroneous admission in evidence of an involuntary confession does not automatically require reversal of the judgment of conviction, but rather that such error is subject to the standard of whether or not the error was prejudicial to the defendant)

Knight v. Jewett (1992) 3 Cal.4th 296 (holding that the doctrine of implied assumption of risk bars a lawsuit by a participant in a sport activity against a co-participant for injuries suffered as the result of negligent conduct)

OBJECTS EXHIBITED

VITRINE TWO:

- Class photo from *The Watchtower*, Beverly Hills High School Year Book, 1957
- Group photo, International Statesmen, *The Watchtower*, 1957
- The Nassau Herald*, Senior Class Yearbook, Princeton University, 1961
- Ronald Marc George, *The Nassau Herald*, 1961
- "Senior Bluffs Way to Missouri with Kennedy Group," *The Daily Princetonian* (October 24, 1960), p. 1, 4
- "George Views Campaign (Parts I and II)" *The Daily Princetonian* (Oct. 25-26, 1960)
- Photo of Barbara Schneiderman, from *The Watchtower*, Beverly Hills High School Year Book, 1961
- Photo of Barbara Schneiderman, Spring Senior Class Council, 1961
- Photo of Barbara Schneiderman, Quill and Scroll, 1961
- Photo of Stanford University, School of Law, Class of 1964
- Stanford University, School of Law *Bulletin*, 1964-1965

VITRINE THREE:

- Admission to the State Bar of California, June 7, 1965
- Admission to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of California, June 7, 1965
- Admission to the U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit, Jan. 6, 1966
- Photo, birth of Eric Marc George, 1968
- Admission to the U.S. Supreme Court, March 26, 1969
- Petition for Rehearing, *Chimel v. California* (1969) 395 U.S. 752
- "The 'Warren Era' Ends with Curb on Searches," *New York Times* (June 24, 1969), p. 1
- California Department of Justice *Bulletin* (Oct. 30, 1969) Vol. 2, No. 4
- "Court Gets Plea on Death Penalty," *New York Times* (Nov. 10, 1970), p. 40
- Respondent's Brief, *McGautha v. California* (1971) 402 U.S. 183
- Respondent's Brief, *Hill v. California* (1971) 401 U.S. 797
- "Death Penalties Argued in Court: Justices, for First Time, Weigh View of Execution as 'Cruel' Punishment," *New York Times* (January 18, 1972), p. 15.
- People v. Sirhan* (June 16, 1972) 7 Cal. 3d. 710

VITRINE FOUR:

- Municipal Court Appointment, April 20, 1972
- Photo of oath-taking with Los Angeles Municipal Court Presiding Judge Alan Campbell, 1972

VITRINE FOUR (CONTINUED):

- Photo of "class of 1972" Los Angeles Municipal Court Judges Superior Court Appointment, Dec. 23, 1977
- Photograph with family members, Superior Court induction, 1978
- Photo of Superior Court Judge Ronald M. George, Angelo Buono trial Gavel and medal, President, California Judges Association, 1982-1983
- Photo of Hon. Ronald M. George, Barbara George, and sons, 1984
- Darcy O'Brien, *Two of a Kind: The Hillside Stranglers* (New York, N.Y. : New American Library, 1985)
- Appointment, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Aug. 27, 1987
- People v. Simmons* (1989) 213 Cal. App. 3d
- Two photos of publications by the Hon. Ronald M. George

VITRINE FIVE:

- Supreme Court of California, Oath of Office
- Photo with Governor Pete Wilson, May 1, 1996
- 1996 State of the Judiciary, May 15, 1996, Chief Justice Ronald M. George
- Clock memorializing visit to Ventura County Courts, Oct. 10, 1996
- Chief Justice's Outreach Program*, schedule of trial court visits, 1996 - 1997
- Photo of visit to Amador County Municipal Court, June 4, 1997
- Photo of swearing in ceremony, court unification, San Diego, 1998

VITRINE SIX:

- Portrait; *By George! : Five Years and Much to Celebrate*, 2001
- Lockyer-Isenberg Trial Court Funding Act (Stats. 1997, ch. 850)
- California Ballot Pamphlet*, Proposition 220, 1998
- Photo, Adoption Saturday, 1999
- Senate Bill No. 1732
- Photo of sons Eric, Andrew and Christopher George, 2005
- Photo, State of the Judiciary address, 2005
- Photo with Barbara George, State of the Judiciary address, 2005

VITRINE SEVEN:

- Photo, Conference of Chief Justices, January 2005
- Photo of current and former Justices of the California Supreme Court, 2009
- "Justice Takes a Day Off," *Los Angeles Times* (Sept. 14, 2009) p. A19
- Photo with Barbara George
- Photo with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and Chief Justice Nominee Hon. Tani Cantil-Sakauye, July 22, 2010



HON. RONALD M. GEORGE

Chief Justice of California

HON. WILLIAM R. MCGUINNESS

*Administrative Presiding Justice, Court of Appeal,
First Appellate District*

WILLIAM C. VICKREY

Administrative Director of the Courts

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