



PRESS RELEASE

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California is deeply saddened by the loss of one of its jurists, the Honorable John S. Rhoades, Sr. He passed away on September 3, 2007, while recuperating from heart surgery.

Judge Rhoades was appointed to the federal bench by President Ronald Reagan on October 28, 1985. He assumed senior status on November 4, 1995.

Prior to joining the federal bench, Judge Rhoades served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1946. He served in the U.S. Naval Reserve until 1966. Judge Rhoades was a Deputy City Attorney from 1952 to 1957. He was a sole practitioner from 1957 to 1960. In 1960, he became a partner with the law firm of Rhoades, Hollywood and Neil, where he practiced law until assuming the federal bench in 1985.

Judge Rhoades was born on March 18, 1925, in Harve, Montana, and was raised in Southern California. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Stanford University in 1948, and a Juris Doctorate from Hastings College of Law, University of California, San Francisco in 1951.

Shortly after Judge Rhoades was appointed to the federal bench, he agreed to help Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Richard Chambers with the restoration of the historic Weinberger U.S. Courthouse building. At the time they began their efforts in 1986, much of the courthouse was in disrepair. Judge Rhoades rallied support from the press, civic leaders and Members of Congress. Congress allocated \$5.4 million for the restoration. The building was later renamed the Jacob Weinberger U.S. Courthouse in honor of San Diego's first resident federal judge. Judge Rhoades remarked, "There are so few old buildings in San Diego. I thought it was important the court have a history, and this building has a connection with the past."

Judge Rhoades' interest in courthouse construction continued throughout his career as he led the effort for a new federal courthouse in San Diego on Broadway. On April 15, 2006, Judge Rhoades was chosen by General Services Administration officials to push the detonation button clearing away the Hotel San Diego for the new courthouse.

Even though Judge Rhoades was a senior judge, he handled almost a full load of civil and criminal cases. He served on several Ninth Circuit Committees through his career and sat by designation on the Circuit Court several times a year.

Judge Rhoades was predeceased by his wife, Carmel Cole Rhoades, and is survived by their five sons.

The court, the bar, and the public will mourn his passing. Chief Judge Irma E. Gonzalez said, “I will miss my good friend who, throughout his judicial career, dedicated himself to making sure that all who appeared before him were treated fairly and with respect.”