



# Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA  
Hall of Justice  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

*Michael D. Planet*  
*Executive Officer/Clerk*  
*and Jury Commissioner*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: November 5, 2019

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## **VETERANS COURT TO BE NAMED AFTER RETIRED JUDGE COLLEEN TOY WHITE**

A special dedication ceremony to rename the Ventura County Veterans Intervention Court to the "Judge Colleen Toy White Veterans Treatment Court" will take place on Thursday, November 14, 2019, at 4:00 p.m. in Courtroom 22 of the Hall of Justice in Ventura.

The event is open to the public and the media. All current participants and past graduates of the program are invited to attend.

Judge White was a key member of the team that created a Veterans Court in Ventura County. She went on to hear the weekly court calendar from the program's inception in November 2010 until her retirement in October 2017.

"Judge White used her personal courage, compassion and heart to make our Veterans Court into the success it is today," stated Gold Coast Veterans Foundation Co-Founder Ronald Greenwood. "Judge White is the soul and conscience of the Veterans Court. Every Veterans Court graduate is the beneficiary of her service and commitment."

Veterans Court hears criminal cases involving veterans who may be suffering physical and/or psychological trauma such as post-traumatic stress disorders or substance issues, as a result of his or her military service. Depending on the nature of the criminal case, participants found to be eligible and suitable may be entitled to being placed on a diversion program that can result in the case being dismissed, or may be eligible for a reduction in incarceration and/or other sanctions. Participants are subject to supervision by the probation department,

must participate and complete a treatment plan, along with periodic court reviews.

Services include medically supervised care, counseling, drug and alcohol treatment, and veteran peer group support. An assigned Veterans Administration staff member is present in court to assist every participant with accessing appropriate treatment programs and finding housing and job placement.

At the time it was established, Ventura County's Veterans Court was the 42nd such program in the nation. There are now over 460 Veterans Courts throughout the United States, including 36 in California.

Judge White was elected to the Ventura County Superior Court in June 1994. She retired on October 28, 2017, after 23 years on the bench. She is a former Presiding Judge, Assistant Presiding Judge and Family Law Supervising Judge.

Judge White initiated many of the Ventura Superior Court's specialty court programs, including Veterans Court, Community Intervention Court, Dependency Drug Court, Elder Law Court and Mental Health Court. She also created the Pro Per Clinic, the forerunner of the court's Family Law Self-Help Center.

Judge White received many awards for outstanding public service, leadership, and contributions to the legal system during her career. Most notably, she received the prestigious Aranda Access to Justice Award from the California Judicial Council in 2016. The award honors a judge who demonstrated a long-term commitment to improving access to the courts, and who significantly improved access for low and moderate income Californians.

The Veterans Court calendar is heard every Thursday at 1:35 p.m. in Courtroom 37 of the Hall of Justice in Ventura. Eligible veterans can request that their case be assigned to Veterans Court at any stage of their criminal proceedings to determine if the case is eligible and/or suitable for the program.

Veterans Court was created and continues as a collaborative effort of the Ventura Superior Court, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Ventura County Military Collaborative and the County of Ventura Offices of the District Attorney, Public Defender, and Probation Agency. The effort to establish a Veterans Court in Ventura County was initiated by the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation in 2010.

The court wishes to acknowledge the Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Foundation, the Ventura County Community Foundation, and the Gold Coast Veterans Foundation for their generous funding and support of this program.

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