



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
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Avenue Ventura, CA 93009

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWO VENTURA SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES NAMED JUDGE OF THE YEAR FOR YEARS 2021 AND 2022

The Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association (VCTLA) have named Judge JoAnn Johnson Judge of the Year for 2021 and Judge Roger L. Lund Judge of the Year for 2022. The honors were bestowed at the Association's annual Judges' Night dinner on March 28, 2023, at the Courtyard Marriott in Oxnard. The 2021 Judge of the Year event had been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Judge JoAnn Johnson – VCTLA Judge of the Year – 2021

Judge JoAnn Johnson was appointed Superior Court Judge by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. in November 2017. Judge Johnson currently serves as the Supervising Family Law Judge.

In January 2010, Judge Johnson was selected as a Superior Court Commissioner and served on the bench in that capacity until her appointment as Superior Court Judge. As a commissioner, she heard family law, child support, and domestic violence matters. Prior to her selection as a commissioner, she served as the Supervising Court Attorney for the Family Law Self-Help Center beginning in 2002. From 1993 to 2002, she was a sole practitioner in the Law Offices of JoAnn Johnson. Her primary areas of practice included civil law, as well as bankruptcy and worker's compensation.

Judge Johnson is a former director of the Family Law Facilitator's Association and a member of Center for Judicial Education and Research Family Law Curriculum Committee developing judicial branch education programs and products. She has

served on several statewide committees associated with the California Judicial Council, including the Domestic Violence Task Force. She is a frequent presenter at various Judicial Council sponsored trainings, including the annual case law update video and associated podcasts.

She previously taught the family law and community property courses as an adjunct professor at the Ventura and Santa Barbara Colleges of Law.

Judge Johnson earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Ventura College of Law and a certificate in mediation from the Straus Institute at Pepperdine University.

Judge Roger L. Lund – VCTLA Judge of the Year - 2022

Judge Roger L. Lund was appointed Superior Court Judge by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in December 2009. He has handled all aspects of family law matters, elder abuse, domestic violence and civil harassment restraining orders, criminal trial and arraignment courts, traffic trials, small claims, and unlawful detainer cases, and served on the court's appellate panel. Judge Lund currently serves as the Presiding Probate Judge handling all probate, trust, conservatorship, and guardianship of the person and estate cases in Ventura County in Courtroom J6 at the Juvenile Courthouse in Oxnard.

In June 2008, Judge Lund was selected as a Superior Court Commissioner and served on the bench in that capacity until his appointment as Superior Court Judge. As a commissioner, he primarily handled child support, child custody and visitation, domestic violence and civil harassment restraining order cases.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Lund was in private practice for 13 years, handling wills, trusts, probates, conservatorships and guardianships, small business formation and advisement, real property transactions, and estate and income tax matters. During this time, he also served as a Probate Referee Assistant to Gregory R. Gose, California Probate Referee, assisting in the valuation of many types of probate estate assets.

Judge Lund earned his Juris Doctor degree from Pepperdine University School of Law and received his undergraduate Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Brigham Young University.

VCTLA Portrait Honorees

Also honored at the event were former judges, Judge Colleen Toy White, *in memoriam*, and Judge Steven Hintz, Ret., who were selected as VCTLA's Portrait Honorees for 2021 and 2022. Formal portraits of Judge White and Judge Hintz were unveiled and presented to the court during the ceremony.

Judge Colleen Toy White, *in memoriam*, was elected to the Ventura County Superior Court in June 1994 and then subsequently appointed to Superior Court Judge by Governor Pete Wilson on October 28, 1994. During her judicial career, she had also served as the 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 including 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. Other past honors include being selected as Judge of the Year by the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association in 2014 and the renaming of Veterans Court as the Judge Colleen Toy White Veterans Treatment Court in 2019.

Prior to joining to the bench, Judge White was a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office for 18 years; ten of which were served in the position of Chief Assistant District Attorney, the agency's second highest position.

Judge Steven Hintz was appointed by former Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. on May 26, 1982 and then subsequently elevated to the Superior Court by unification of the Municipal and Superior Courts on June 10, 1998.

Prior to joining to the bench, Judge Hintz was a member of the Ventura County District Attorney's Office from 1975 to 1982 where he served as a District Deputy Attorney handling the prosecution of criminal cases, including one year supervising the juvenile court unit and one year of supervising the misdemeanor units. From 1971 to 1975, Judge Hintz spent 4 years serving as a lawyer in the Navy's Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Judge Hintz received many awards for outstanding public service including Judge of the Year for 1984 and 1988 by VCTLA and he was also honored as Ventura College of Law's Teacher of the Year for 1987, 1988, and 1998.

Judge Hintz educated generations of future lawyers, police officers and judges during the many courses he taught at the McGeorge College of Law, California Lutheran University, Saddleback College, Moorpark College, Ventura College, the Ventura County Sheriff's Academy and the Center for Judicial Education and Research. He also served as a faculty member of the Ventura College of Law from 1985 to 2004, where he taught Constitutional Law and Criminal Procedure, as well as the History of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Subsequent to retiring from the Ventura Superior Court bench, Judge Hintz, Retired, was elected and served as the Treasurer-Tax Collector for the County of Ventura from January 2011, until he retired in January 2023.

Judge Hintz graduated from San Diego State College with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management in 1968 and earned his Juris Doctorate degree from Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California Berkeley in 1971.

The portraits of Judge White and Judge Hintz, and those of previous honorees, may be viewed in Courtroom 22 on the second floor of the Hall of Justice in Ventura.

VCTLA has annually selected one or more judges for the portrait honor since 1978. The VCTLA Judge of the Year award recognizes exceptional judicial performance balanced with courtesy and compassion toward litigants and attorneys. Honorees are selected by a committee comprised of a diverse group of trial lawyers from the civil and criminal arenas.

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