

Local judge honored

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Photo Ellie Van Houtte/Town Crier

Judge Eugene Hyman, left, accepts the Santa Clara County Child Abuse Council's Angel Award from the council's Margaret Petros.

Los Altos resident and retired Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Eugene Hyman recently added something new to his trophy mantel.

At its 29th symposium April 5, the Santa Clara County Child Abuse Council honored Hyman with the Angel Award for his advocacy work on behalf of victims of domestic violence and child abuse.

Hyman, who served in the Criminal, Family, Juvenile and Probate divisions of the court during his 20-year career, retired in 2011. Hyman started the first juvenile domestic violence court in the U.S. with the county's probation department in 1999. He was previously honored with a United Nations Public Service Award in 2008 for his work.

“(The Angel Award) was a wonderful surprise,” said Hyman, who began his career as a police officer and taught Domestic Violence Law at the Santa Clara University School of Law for 21 years.

Margaret Petros, a 15-year Los Altos resident who served with Hyman as a commissioner on the council, nominated him for the award, noting the “many years he dedicated to serving families and children.”

“Judge Hyman has been an outspoken advocate in informing the public, both nationally and internationally, about the terrible effects of domestic violence upon children in the home,” wrote Petros in an email to the Town Crier. “Judge Hyman presided over the adult domestic violence court, where he vigorously held offenders accountable and instructed preferences for victims to seek state victim compensation for counseling benefits.”

Hyman is also known for his advocacy work internationally, lecturing on domestic violence in Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Germany.