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Public Information Office
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

415-865-7740

Lynn Holton
Public Information Officer

MEDIA ADVISORY

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United Nations Awards Santa Clara Superior Court for Public Service

San Francisco—Santa Clara Judge Eugene M. Hyman and the Superior Court of Santa Clara County have been honored with the United Nations Public Service Award for the court's Juvenile Delinquency Domestic Violence and Family Violence Court.

The first of its kind in the country, the court is a specialized problem-solving court that seeks to address juvenile domestic and family violence at the earliest stage, to provide appropriate assistance to victims, and to break the cycle of violence within the family. Established in 1999 under the leadership of Judge Hyman, it represents a collaborative effort involving the superior court, the Office of the District Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, the Juvenile Probation Department, and victim services.

The UN award is the most prestigious international recognition of excellent public service. It rewards the creative achievements and contributions of public service institutions that lead to a more effective and responsive public administration in countries worldwide.

In an award letter to Judge Hyman, Mr. Guido Bertucci, director of the Division for Public Economics and Public Administration, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations, wrote, "Your outstanding achievement has demonstrated excellence in serving the public interest and I am sure it has made a significant contribution to the improvement of public administration in your country. It should be an inspiration and encouragement for others working for the public service."

In 2004, the Juvenile Delinquency Domestic Violence and Family Violence Court was chosen as one of the "Top 50" programs in Governance and Innovations by Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government. In 2001, the Judicial Council selected the court to receive a Ralph N. Kleps Award for Improvement in the Administration of the Courts.

Since his appointment to the Santa Clara bench in 1990, Judge Hyman has presided over criminal, civil, probate, family, and delinquency cases. In

addition to establishing the Juvenile Delinquency Domestic Violence and Family Violence Court, Judge Hyman has served the community as a member of the Santa Clara County Domestic Violence Council and has chaired the council's Court Systems Committee.

Judge Hyman was a recipient of the Women's Fund "Man of the Year 1998" in recognition of his work in domestic violence prevention. In 2000, he was awarded a Legal Advocates for Children and Youth (LACY) Honor for his work with families and children. In 2004, he received the Alumni Special Achievement Award from Santa Clara University School of Law. Judge Hyman has been an adjunct professor at Santa Clara University for more than 20 years, teaching five different courses.

He earned his bachelor's degree from Claremont Men's College and in 1977 his law degree from Santa Clara University School of Law. For more information on the UN award, see www.unpan.org/Events/PublicServiceDayAwards/tabid/92/Default.aspx.

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