How to Start a Veterans Treatment Court – ***Judge Mark Johnson, Judge Sam Lavorato, Justice Eileen Moore and Judge J. Perez***

Learning Objectives

1. Understanding why the atmosphere of a Veterans Treatment Court is substantially different from other criminal courts;
2. Knowing about the role and value of a mentor to a Veterans Treatment Court participant;
3. Understanding that sometimes the needs of male versus female veterans differ.

Faculty Bios

Judge Sam Lavorato, Jr.

Judge Lavorato was appointed to the Monterey County Superior Court bench in May of 2006. Prior to being appointed he was a prosecutor for Monterey and Shasta Counties. Thereafter he became partner in a local Monterey County firm and practiced Criminal Defense and also Civilly prosecuted elder abuse cases, wrongful death cases and personally injury cases.

Lavorato is the "Lead Collaborative Court Judge Assigned" in Monterey County Superior Court. He is presiding and has presided over specialty court cases for seven years handling: Drug Court , Criminal Mental Health, Criminal Competency, Civil Mental Health, Proposition 36, Deferred Entry of Judgement, and Domestic Violence calendars.

Lavorato and the Monterey County Superior Court has recently launched a DWI court (which commenced in November 2015) and a Veterans Treatment court (January 2016).

Lavorato and the Monterey County Superior Court has also participated in local Homeless Veteran Stand Downs -with the next Stand Down being scheduled for August of 2016.

Lavorato is currently and has taught classes at Hartnell College in Salinas for 11 years, specifically, Criminal Evidence, Corrections and Criminal Procedure. He has also taught at Brandman University in the past (Constitutional Law and Gangs and Society). He also teaches at Monterey College of Law and has taught this past summer, specifically, "Therapeutic Justice". He has also taught "Specialty Courts" and Administration of Justice in Domestic Violence Cases-Criminal and Civil at Monterey College of Law. Lastly, Lavorato was on the faculty at the Domestic Violence Judicial Institute in January 2010.

Lavorato is a member of the (1) Criminal Law Advisory Committee (2) Collaborative Justice Advisory Committee, and the (3) Violence Against Women's Educational Project.

Judge Joe Perez

Hon. Joe Perez, a graduate of UCLA, earned a Juris Doctorate degree from the Southwestern University School of Law. He served as a deputy public defender from 1995 until he was appointed a Commissioner of the Orange County (CA) Superior Court in 2007. He was elevated to Judge in 2010 by appointment from the Governor. Judge Perez presides over a variety of calendars at Orange County's Community Court -- including Drug Court, Veterans Treatment Court, DUI Court, four mental health courts, Homeless Outreach Court, and the PC 1001.80 military diversion calendar.

EILEEN C. MOORE, California Court of Appeal, Associate Justice

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Education:

Women's Medical College School of Nursing, Philadelphia, PA, 1965
University of California, Irvine, CA, B.A., 1975
Pepperdine University, School of Law, Malibu, CA.-JD, 1978
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, Master of Laws in Judicial Process, 2004

Experience:

Associate Justice, California Court of Appeal-2000 to present
Judge, Orange County Superior Court-1989 to 2000
Attorney, civil litigation-1978 to 1989
Registered Nurse-1965-present
2nd Lt., U.S. Army Nurse Corps, combat nurse-1966
-Vietnam Service Medal
-National Defense Service Medal
-Cross of Gallantry With Palm

Honors and Awards:

Cum laude, University of California, Irvine, 1975
American Jurisprudence Award for Civil Procedure, 1978
Distinguished Alumna Award, University of California, Irvine, 1992

Alumnus of the Year Award, Pepperdine Law School, 1993
Judge of the Year, Orange County Women Lawyers, 1993
Resolutions from Orange County Board of Supervisors for work in domestic violence, 1997, 1999
Award for work in preventing domestic violence by Laura's House Shelter, 1999
Army nominee for "Salute to Veteran's In Business" by Veterans Charities of Orange County, 1999
Trial Judge Civility Award, American Board of Trial Advocates, Orange County Chapter, 1999
Trial Judge of the Year, Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, 2000
Appellate Justice of the Year, Consumer Attorneys Association of California, 2002
Outstanding Service Award, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 785, 2005
Lifetime Achievement Award, Chapman University, 2005
Orange County Citizen of the Year, League of United Latin American Citizens, 2005
Judicial Council & AOC honor for chairing Court Interpreters Advisory Panel, 2005
Toastmasters International Communications & Leadership Award, 2005
Appellate Justice of the Year Award, Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles, 2006
California Women Lawyers' Joan Dempsey Klein Most Distinguished Jurist Award, 2009
Orange County Trial Lawyers Association's Judicial Excellence Award, 2010
Western State University Honorary Doctorate Degree, 2010
Gold "Book of the Year Award" from ForeWord for *Race Results*, 2010
Bronze medal "Book of the Year Award" from Independent Publisher [IPPYs] for *Race Results,* 2010
Orange County Dept of Education's "Outstanding Contributions to Education" award, 2010
National Indie Excellence Awards, African-American-Non-Fiction winner for *Race Results,* 2012
Arts & Entertainment Finalist at Book Expo America for *Race Results*, 2012
Orange County Dept of Education's "Collaborator of the Year, Fischer Region" award, 2014
Orange County Women Lawyers' Everyday Hero Award, 2014
Veterans Legal Institute, "Operation Justice Award," 2015
Silver medal Independent Book Publishers Assn. Benjamin Franklin award for *Gender Results,* 2015

Judicial Experience:

Appellate justice (2000-present)
Civil trials (1989-1994, 1999-2000)
Civil law and motion (1990-1991)
Complex civil litigation (1991-1994)
Criminal trials (1995-1999)
Family law (1996)
Superior Court Appellate Department (1993-1994)
Specially assigned to Court of Appeal, District Four, Division Three (1993)

Professional Activities:

California Judges Assn., Civil Law and Procedure Comm. (Chair 91-92)
Faculty, Center for Judicial Education and Research
Robert A. Banyard Inn of Court (President 92-94)
Lecturer, University of California, Irvine, School of Management (90)
California Judicial Council, Workforce on Certification for Interpreters for the Deaf (90)
Task Force on Violence to Women (95)
Orange County Family Violence Council (Chair, 95-00)
Trial Practice Inn of Court, Los Angeles County Bar Association (96)
California Judicial Council, Advisory Comm. on Civil & Small Claims (97-00); Court Interpreters, Chair (01-05)
Association of Business Trial Lawyers, member board of directors (02-05)
Chapman University's Center for Lawyering and Trial Advocacy (CLTA) (04-07)
Judicial Council of California member (05-08)
Rules and Projects Committee, RUPRO, (05-06-vice-chair; 06-07-chair) (Judicial Council internal committee) (05-08)
Litigation Management Committee (Judicial Council internal committee) (05-08)
Liaison for Judicial Council to Appellate Advisory Committee (05-08)
California Judges Association, Executive Board (08-11)
Judicial Council Task Force for Criminal Justice Collaboration on Mental Health Issues (08-13)
Veterans Working Group for California Courts, Chair (11-present)
State Bar of California, Litigation Section, Advisory Board Member (12-present)
Judicial Council's Collaborative Courts Advisory Comm., Veterans Subdivision, Chair (13-present)
American Bar Association, Member, Health Care Section, Military & Veterans Health Law (15-present)
Orange County Bar Association, Veterans & Military Committee (16-present)
Amer. Bar Assn. Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law, Advisory Committee, Advisor (16-present)

Community Activities:

Orange County Family Violence Council (Chair, 95-00)
Stay-in-school program volunteer (90-95)
Operation Jumpstart volunteer (95-96)
Constitutional Rights Foundation volunteer judge for peer court
Mock trial judge for numerous organizations
Member Board of Visitors at Pepperdine University
Member of Vietnam Veterans of America (98-present); Asst. vice president (01-present)
Freedom Committee of Orange County, honorary committee member (10-present)
Orange County Superior Court Veterans Court mentor (10-present)
Vietnam War Museum of America Foundation, honorary board member (11-15)