



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

July 12, 2019

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Sacramento Attorney Norman C. Hile to Receive Ninth Circuit's John P. Frank Award

SAN FRANCISCO – Norman C. Hile, a Sacramento, California attorney, has been selected to receive the 2019 Ninth Circuit John P. Frank Award, which recognizes an outstanding lawyer practicing in the federal courts of the western United States. The award will be presented to Mr. Hile on July 22, 2019, during the opening session of the 2019 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Spokane, Washington.

Mr. Hile has been active for many years in professional activities in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and in the Eastern District of California. Currently he is senior counsel with the law firm of Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP. Previously Mr. Hile was a litigation partner in the firm for more than 30 years; he was the founding partner and partner in charge of the firm's Sacramento office for more than 20 years. His practice focused on complex commercial litigation including antitrust, securities, environmental and intellectual property disputes. He tried numerous cases in state and federal trial courts, and represented clients in appeals to the federal circuit courts of appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court, the California Courts of Appeal and the California Supreme Court.

Mr. Hile served as an Eastern District of California lawyer representative for three years, as a member of the Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference Executive Committee for three years, and as a member of the Ninth Circuit Advisory Board for four years.

In the Eastern District of California, Mr. Hile served as the first chair of the Eastern District's Judicial Advisory Board after serving as a member and chair of a committee formed to comply with the "Federal Courts Study Committee Implementation Act of 1990," which was passed as part of the Civil Justice Reform Act. The Sacramento County Bar Association named Mr. Hile its "Pro Bono Attorney of the Year" in 2018 for his 15-year representation of death row inmate Kevin Cooper.

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Mr. Hile received his law degree from Columbia Law School in 1973 and his B.A. in economics from Yale University in 1967. He served in the Army from 1968 to 1971, including a combat tour in Vietnam as an artillery forward observer. During his service, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star and 15 air medals for combat flying.

The John P. Frank Award recognizes a lawyer who has “demonstrated outstanding character and integrity; dedication to the rule of law; proficiency as a trial and appellate lawyer; success in promoting collegiality among members of the bench and bar; and a lifetime of service to the federal courts of the Ninth Circuit.”

The award, which was established in 2003 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, will be presented by District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California. Judge Mueller nominated Mr. Hile for the Frank Award.

The U.S. Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the federal trial and bankruptcy courts and related court units in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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