



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Nevada Bar Awards Highest Honor to Chief Judge Emeritus Procter Hug, Jr.

RENO, NEVADA – The State Bar of Nevada has awarded its highest honor to Chief Judge Emeritus Procter Hug, Jr., of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The 2016 Presidential Award will be presented to Judge Hug on June 8, 2016, at the Washoe County Bar Association’s annual meeting here.

Judge Hug is completing his 39th year of service on the nation’s busiest federal appellate court. Nominated by President Carter, he came onto the Ninth Circuit bench on September 15, 1977. He served as chief judge of the circuit from 1996 to 2000 and assumed senior status in 2002. He currently ranks third in seniority among the court’s 44 judges.

In announcing the selection of Judge Hug for the prestigious award, the state bar noted his tireless efforts to preserve the geographic and organizational integrity of the Ninth Circuit. Throughout his tenure and particularly while serving as chief judge, Judge Hug worked closely with members of the U.S. Senate in heading off attempts to split the Ninth Circuit.

The state bar announcement quoted Senator Harry Reid of Nevada, who expressed his admiration of Judge Hug as a “a great Nevadan.”

“His impact upon the law in the western United States is unsurpassed by any other Nevada lawyer,” Senator Reid said. “He can truly be described as the man who saved the Ninth Circuit.”

Prior to coming onto the federal bench, Judge Hug had been in government service as a civilian aide to the secretary of the Army in 1977; as general counsel to the University of Nevada System, from 1972 to 1976; and as a deputy attorney general for the State of Nevada. He had practiced law in his native Reno from 1958 to 1977.

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Judge Hug received his B.S. from the University of Nevada, Reno, in 1953 and his LL.B. from Stanford Law School in 1958. He served in the Navy from the 1954 to 1955.

The State Bar of Nevada's Presidential Award is presented annually to a member practicing 20 years or more whose conduct, honesty and integrity represents the highest standards of the legal profession. Award recipients are those who inspire by example, advance the administration of justice, and bring honor and integrity to the profession.

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