



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Mourns Passing of Judge Raymond C. Fisher**

SAN FRANCISCO — Judges and staff of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit are mourning the loss of a distinguished jurist, Senior Circuit Judge Raymond C. Fisher, who died Saturday (February 29). He was 80.

“Judge Fisher had a truly extraordinary career, as an attorney, a judge, and a contributor to his community,” said Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Sidney R. Thomas. “He was a model of judicial temperament and collegiality. He was a close friend and colleague, who will be greatly missed.”

“Ray was a wonderful friend, who served his country in many ways and was courageous to the end,” said Chief Judge Emeritus Mary M. Schroeder.

“As a colleague and friend, he was kind and generous with his time. We will miss his extraordinary talents and genuine collegiality,” said Circuit Judge Richard A. Paez.

Nominated by President William J. Clinton, Judge Fisher was confirmed by the Senate on October 5, 1999, and received his judicial commission a week later. He maintained chambers in Pasadena, California, and assumed senior status on March 31, 2013.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Fisher was an associate attorney general for the U.S. Department of Justice. Previously, he was president of the Los Angeles Police Commission from 1995 to 1997. Judge Fisher was deputy general counsel for the Independent Commission on the L.A. Police Department—the Christopher Commission—in the early 1990’s. He served as a member of the L.A. City Civil Service Commission from 1984 to 1989 and served as special assistant to Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr., in 1975. He engaged in private practice in L.A. for three decades specializing in complex litigation, first at Tuttle & Taylor, and later at Heller Ehrman White & McAuliffe.

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Judge Fisher was a member of the Judicial Conference of the U.S. Committee on Judicial Branch and was co-chair of its Subcommittee on Civic Engagement and Education. He was a member of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, governing body for the federal district and bankruptcy courts in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions. He served on a number of Ninth Circuit committees, including the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee, the Criminal Justice Act Committee, the Ninth Circuit Education Committee, the Conference Executive Committee, and the Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee. As a lawyer, Judge Fisher assisted in the reorganization of the Ninth Circuit Conference under Chief Judge Emeritus James R. Browning. As a circuit judge, he chaired the Conference in 2004 in Monterey, California.

Judge Fisher was a member of the American Law Institute and a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He was a board member and former chair of the Western Justice Center, which offers programs to empower teachers, students and members of the community to resolve conflict peacefully. Judge Fisher was a board member and former president of the Constitutional Rights Foundation and a former board member of the Brennan Center Justice, which awarded him the Bill of Rights in 1994 and the Joseph A. Ball Award for Outstanding Advocacy in 2000, respectively. He was on the board of the Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and was a member of the Judicial Council of California Power of Democracy Steering Committee.

Born in Oakland, California, Judge Fisher received his bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1961 after serving in the military and his LL.B. from Stanford Law School in 1966. Following law school, he clerked for Judge J. Skelly Wright of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit from 1966 to 1967 and for Justice William J. Brennan, Jr., of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1967 to 1968.

Judge Fisher is survived by his wife of 59 years, Nancy; his son, Jeff; his daughter, Amy; and his four grandchildren.

The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals will convene a special session to honor Judge Fisher at a later date.

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