



Superior Court of the State of California
COUNTY OF STANISLAUS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Passing of Judge Shawn Delayne Bessey

MODESTO, CA — It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Judge Shawn Delayne Bessey, a respected member of the Superior Court of Stanislaus County. Judge Bessey passed away on Thursday, May 1, 2025, at Doctors Medical Center in Modesto, California, at the age of 61.

Diagnosed with kidney cancer in 2017, Judge Bessey faced his illness with remarkable strength and fortitude. He was surrounded by his beloved family and friends at the time of his peaceful passing.

Judge Bessey was elected to the Superior Court of Stanislaus County in 2010 and served with dedication, intelligence, and fairness until his death. He began his legal career at the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office, where he rose to the position of Senior Deputy District Attorney before joining the bench.

Presiding Judge Sonny Sandhu reflected on Judge Bessey's legacy: "Judge Bessey exemplified the highest standards of justice with his unwavering commitment to fairness, integrity, and compassion. His dedication to the law and his sharp intellect were matched only by his deep love for his family, especially his son, Rowan. His presence will be profoundly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him."

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, May 15, at 11:00 a.m. at CrossPoint Community Church, 1309 12th Street, Modesto, CA. A reception will follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Modesto Gospel Mission or UCSF Foundation.

Judge Bessey is survived by his son, Rowan; his brothers Randy, Lance, Bradly, and Brandon; and many loved ones and friends.