

County DIGEST



August 15, 1994

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

MIKE JUDGE: NEW PUBLIC DEFENDER

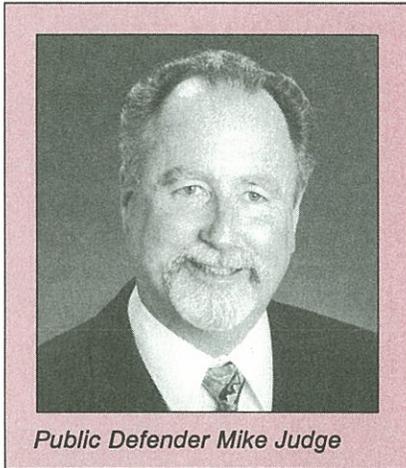
How does a new attorney focusing on a private practice as a criminal defense lawyer end up as Los Angeles County's Public Defender? Perhaps it was fate.

Faced with a long "rehab process" after a serious car accident, Mike Judge joined the Public Defender's Office in 1969 as a Deputy Public Defender II having already worked as a prosecutor for the City of Los Angeles. "Private practice was not a prudent idea for me," said Judge, "and once I joined the Public Defender's Office, I liked it immensely and I never really looked back."

Judge remembers his initial clear-cut goal was "to provide the best possible service to my clients so that even if they had money they couldn't go elsewhere and get any better service." Today, Judge, who oversees 550 trial attorneys, 30 managers and a budget of \$81 million, maintains those same high standards while vigorously recruiting a diverse pool of "highly talented people who want to do good things."

Now three months into his role as Public Defender, Judge has identified short term, medium term and long term goals. Immediate challenges include dealing with "strike legislation, both three and two," as

well as budget resource issues. Developing information systems and improved automation are interim goals while his long-view of his new role includes "playing a part in the design of the justice system for the future."



Public Defender Mike Judge

"I'm talking about community justice centers, alternative dispute resolution, recognition of problems that the justice system has to confront which require enormous expertise outside the legal field," Judge explains. In his position as

LA County's Public Defender and as a member of the Board of Directors of The National Association of Drug Court Professionals, Judge will have an opportunity to impact the future of the justice system locally and nationally.

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VOTER FRAUD HOTLINE AVAILABLE

The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk's Office has established an 800 Voter Fraud Hotline telephone number.

The Hotline is (800) 815-2666 and can be used by persons wishing to report registration or voter fraud such as the improper activities of individuals registering to vote, of persons registering others to vote, or an election irregularity. The Hotline is open 24-hours.

SHELLIE SAMUELS NAMED TOP EMPLOYEE

Shellie Samuels is lucky and she knows it. "I'm very lucky because I'm doing what I want to do," says Deputy District Attorney Samuels. In her third year of Law School at Loyola, Samuels was working as an

intern in the D.A.'s office on preliminary hearings. "I knew after one minute that I wanted to do this," she remembers.

Now, approximately 10 years later, Samuels again feels lucky being recognized as L.A. County's Top Employee.

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District Attorney Gil Garcetti and Shellie Samuels with Supervisor Burke

SHELLIE SAMUELS NAMED TOP EMPLOYEE

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Her skills were first publicly appreciated in November 1993 when she became the first woman and the first San Fernando Valley attorney honored as Prosecutor of the Year by her peers, the Association of Deputy District Attorneys.

The Association was keenly aware of her successes that year and the challenges she faced in the Hardcore Gang Division. Assigned to prosecute eight hardcore gang murder cases, half involving special circumstances, she delivered seven guilty verdicts and one deadlocked jury.

One of those cases held special interest for many Angelenos. Samuels obtained a first degree guilty verdict in the trial of a man accused of beating to death a Good Samaritan who attempted to rescue a North Hollywood robbery victim at the onset of the riots in Los Angeles. The murder victim, Elias Garcia, died eight months after the beating.

"What really motivates me is that I empathize with the victim," explains Samuels. "I often look at the photos in the victim book, sometimes just a photo from a driver's license, and realize this person was alive! I feel very strongly about crime and the victims of crime."

Before law school, Samuels taught history, government and English in high school, "everything that students hate," she laughs. Now, she maintains her interest in education by discussing gang problems and gang involvement at elementary and high schools in the San Fernando Valley, participating in Crime Prevention Fairs, and speaking to various chambers of commerce on gang-related issues.

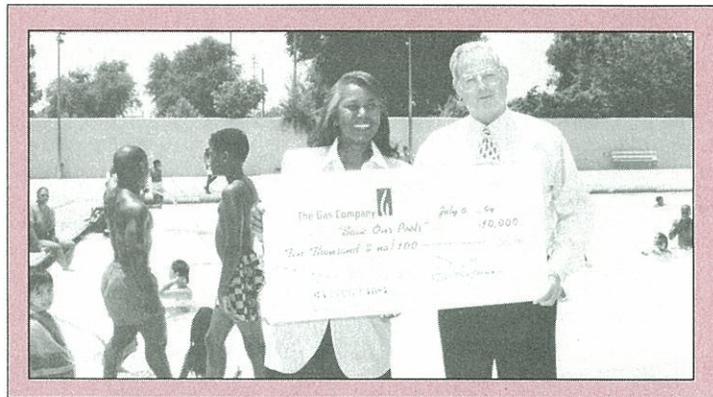
In one month, Samuels says she will make her final payment on law school loans. She feels pretty lucky about that, too.

CORPORATIONS PLUNGE INTO "SAVE OUR POOLS" CAMPAIGN

Southern California Gas Company and Shell Oil are taking leadership roles to fund the County's 27 swimming pools this summer and eliminate the \$1.00 per person fee activated this year to cover operational costs.

"With budget constraints facing the County, we deeply appreciate the business community's involvement in this important effort," said Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke at a July news conference at Will Rogers Community Pool in Watts.

"'Save our Pools' co-chairmen Dick Farman of the Gas Company and Sam Marasca of Shell Oil and their corporations and employees stand as shining examples of corporate community involvement in action," said Supervisor Burke. To launch the campaign, the Gas Company presented a \$10,000 check and Shell Oil Company pledged \$15,000 to boost the campaign.



Supervisor Burke happily accepts \$10,000 check from Gas Co. Chairman and CEO Richard Farman.

The campaign includes sending letters and making telephone calls to major Los Angeles area corporations and foundations. Donors have the option of making a lump-sum donation or "adopting" a specific pool.

"Donations from 50 to 100 area businesses can ensure free admission to all of the County's pools for the rest of the season. These pools are valuable to our community. They provide safe, accessible recreation for kids; and that's why we're trying to get other businesses involved," said Farman.

The Gas Company is also offering technical assistance on energy efficiency to the Department of Parks and Recreation to reduce pool heating costs. "These savings can be redirected to help with many of the County's youth programs," Farman said.

"'Save Our Pools' will ensure that the neediest patrons using our parks will be provided 'free-of-charge' access to our pools this summer to swim, take swimming lessons, or cool off on hot days," Burke said.

JOIN AIDS WALK LA

The 10th annual AIDS WALK LOS ANGELES is scheduled for Sunday, September 25. For additional information and to register for the walk, call (213) 466-WALK.



SMART TRAVELER KIOSKS PROVIDE TIMELY RIDESHARE INFO

CalTrans officials and County Supervisor Mike Antonovich welcomed California's First Lady, Mrs. Gayle Wilson as the County's Smart Traveler Kiosk system was premiered on August 5.

A "One Stop Transportation" planner for commuters, kiosks are located at: Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 2nd Floor; County Courthouse, 110 No. Grand, 2nd floor; LAC+USC Medical Center, Room 1601; Department of Public Works, Alhambra; and Olive View/UCLA Medical Center.

Supervisor Antonovich stated, "CalTrans commuter technology will help lead us into the 21st century." This user-friendly system provides:

- Carpool Info: Enter your desired travel time, location and destination to receive a carpool matchlist based on CTS commuter data.
- Freeway Condition Info: Just

touch screen guides to view freeway traffic speeds and flow on an easily read color coded map. Information is provided by CalTrans traffic flow monitors.

- Public Transit Info: MTA provides

complete route, schedule and fare information on all bus and transit lines serving L.A. County. For current information you can also call 1-800-COMMUTE.

Mrs. Gayle Wilson stated, "The Smart Traveler concept was designed to make life easier for commuters."



MTA Franklin White, CEO, Supervisor Mike Antonovich and First Lady Gayle Wilson preview the Kiosk system.

DESCANSO GARDENS OPENS NEW ROSARIUM

A new bench bower and plaque surrounded by yellow-blend hybrid tea roses named for the late actress, Helen Hayes, now provides a tranquil setting in the U.S. garden for visitors to the new International Rosarium at Descanso Gardens. Virginia Bortin, Executive Director of the Quality and Productivity Commission, donated the six-foot teak bench bower as a tribute to her longtime friend and leading lady of the American theater, Helen Hayes, who died last year at the age of 92.

"Helen loved roses and had a beautiful garden at her home in Nyack, New York," Bortin said. "I visited her a few months before her death and showed her sketches of the International Rosarium and

where the bench would be placed. She was delighted."

The Descanso Gardens International Rosarium is open daily from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 1418 Descanso Drive in La Canada-Flintridge. The phone number is (818) 952-4401.



Helen Hayes with the hybrid tea rose named for her. Photo by Brian Yarborough

NEW PUBLIC DEFENDER

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Much of his 25 years of extensive hands-on experience including recruiting and mentoring talented public defenders, developing strong interagency relationships, dealing with increased enforcement of certain laws such as DUI and operating under strict budget constraints will help shape a realistic view of what's needed as the 21st century approaches.

"Right now, we see the problems from the tail end and look back to where it began," says Judge who offers an analogy to explain his thinking. "It is just like a tree. When you start with a sapling you can do something about its growth. If you wait until its a tree, all bent and twisted, what are you going to do?"

PUT A LITTLE GREEN IN YOUR LABOR DAY WEEKEND

Searching for a perfect way to celebrate the Labor Day holiday weekend? Come smell the roses or count the ferns at the South Coast Botanic Garden or the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum!

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN

Labor Day Concert and Picnic, 4 p.m. to dusk.

The South Coast Botanic Garden Foundation extends a cordial invitation to attend this annual event. Come enjoy the garden, bring a picnic supper, relax on the lawn and listen to the Palos Verdes Symphonic Band. Donations: \$2.00 per person. Children free.

Free bird walks, 8 a.m., first Sunday of the month.

The Botanic Garden is located at 26300 Crenshaw Boulevard, Palos Verdes Peninsula. The phone number is (310) 544-6815.

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM

September Theme: Plant Lore and Legend

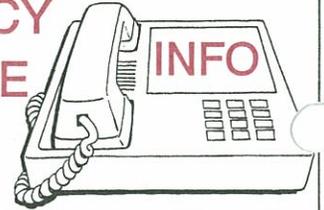
Fern and Exotic Plant Show and Sale, September 3 - 5, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Featuring displays of more than 300 ferns and exotic plants, including orchids, bromeliads, cacti and cycads. Anyone interested in entering plants for show and/or display, or wishing to know more about the show should call (818) 441-3148 or (310) 698-7696.

The third Tuesday of each month is free admission day.

The Arboretum is open 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. every day except December 25. Adults, \$5.00; Senior citizens and students, \$3.00; ages 5 through 12, \$1.00. The Arboretum is located at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia. The public phone number is (818) 821-3222.

VACANCY HOTLINE

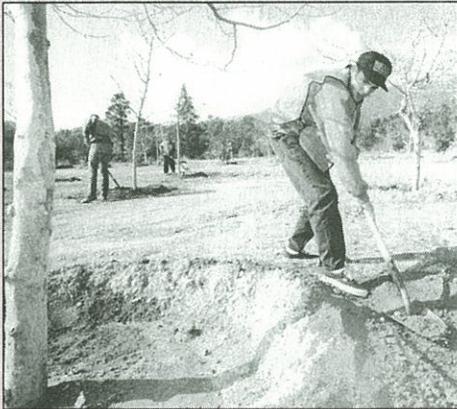


The Chief Administrative Office is pleased to announce the implementation of a 24-hour Countywide Vacancy Information Hotline. This taped telephone Hotline lists vacant positions, by department, to be filled immediately by permanent County employees. The Hotline will provide a useful resource for departments to identify and place County employees at risk of layoff or reduction and perhaps ease some of the anxiety that accompanies work force reductions. The Hotline will also assist employees who are interested in exploring a change in career paths or seeking different work locations.

The Vacancy Information Hotline is (213) 974-8335.

The Human Resources Division is also working on an ongoing Job Hotline to announce open competitive examinations which are open for filing by the public as well as County employees. This system will be available later during 1994-95.

JUDGES HELP IMPROVE PARKS



Judges from several municipal courts including Alhambra, Citrus, East Los Angeles, Pomona, Rio Hondo and Santa Anita working together with the Department of Parks and Recreation have created a program which allows adults who have committed traffic or misdemeanor offenses to substitute physical labor in parks for time in jail and fines. In 1993 alone, the Marshall Canyon Work Release Program saved Los Angeles County \$1.7 million besides improving park sites for all County residents.

SCIENTISTS SEEK FAMILIES WITH DIABETIC HISTORIES

In our July 15 issue, the article requesting families that have diabetic histories to volunteer for a nationwide study included a contact number which was incorrect. If you wish to participate in the study being conducted at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center to determine which genes cause diabetes and develop ways to prevent the disease, please contact **Jane Brown at (310) 855-6451.**

Researchers are looking for Caucasian families who have at least two brothers and/or sisters with non-insulin dependent (adult onset or type 2) diabetes and at least four other family members, preferably living in Southern California. Monetary compensation is included.

County DIGEST

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