



See photograph Owen Brewer
Susie Long, seated, never accepted second-class citizenship. Her children are her success. Elton, left, is a

'Miss Susie' set out to make her children successful. And she succeeded.

By Fahizah Alim
Bee Staff Writer

She's known simply as "Miss Susie," the doting mother of three lawyers — a Superior Court judge, a deputy attorney general and a university professor of criminal justice. She still bakes and delivers their favorite cookies.

It's the one identity that Miss Susie really cares about.

This is a story about a family, like so many families, who didn't come from money and privilege. They weren't powerful, except in their devotion to each other. It's the story of how the love and support of good parents can make all the difference in the world.

This is the story of Susie Long and her three children.

Susie Long grew up on the other side of the tracks in Florida. She completed the eighth grade in a poor, segregated school, and endured many of the indignities com-

monplace for poor African Americans during the first half of this century.

But from the day she gave birth to her first child more than 50 years ago, Susie Long, more than anyone else in the family, single-mindedly devoted her life to the development and education of her children.

"I had plans for my kids," says Long, sitting in the living room of her south Sacramento home. Her smooth, velvety-skin and almond-shaped eyes belie the age of a woman with three children over 50. Adhering to family tradition, she won't reveal her own age.

"I have never accepted second-class citizenship. They were mine and with help, I knew they could be what they wanted to be. I could see them being educated. And that came true. I have the proof.

“

*I could see them
being educated.
And that came
true. I have the
proof.*

”

— Susie Long

"I would tell them, 'You've got to study and get prepared because education will open the way.' I was a victim of a lack of education and I was determined that they would not be."

When her first child, June, was only 3 years old, Long put her in Miss Rosa's one-room schoolhouse in Wintergarden, Fla., where they were living at the

Great: Dreams come true

Continued from page 1

"Mother had taught me how to read and I think she was concerned that I knew the words to all of the songs on the juke box, and would tell my grandparents everything that was going on," June Long says. Her early entrance into school fostered a life-long passion for education. She taught for 17 years before entering law school. Now, June Long is a deputy attorney general in the civil division of the California Department of Justice.

June Long didn't attend law school until she had helped send her two young brothers - Sacramento Superior Court Judge James L. Long and Elton Long, a professor of criminal justice at California State University, Sacramento - to law school.

"I guess she felt if we could finish law school, anyone could," says James Long, laughing.

James J. and Susie Long moved to California from Florida in 1942. They had two children and another on the way. Their cross-continent trip began when an Air Force major, for whom James J. Long worked, was reassigned to McClellan Air Force Base and asked Long to drive his car for him to California.

"We had the whole back seat of that Buick to ourselves," said June. "The major flew a plane."

When the Longs arrived, June was at least two years ahead of her regular grade and the public schools would not enroll her in the grade she had been in in Florida. So her mother took her to a Catholic school.

June Long excelled in the Catholic schools, moving over to public school for high school. At 15, she graduated from McClatchy High. At 19, she got her degree from Sac State.

"Mother always taught us that we could succeed in whatever we wanted to do," says June. "The support was always there, mentally and physically. If there was ever any 'half-stepping' it would be on me."

my children, and I helped them in anyway I could. The Brothers and Sisters knew me like I was going to school," she says.

She taught her children to give back to the community; all three have served as president of the Junior NAACP. June is a member of the board of directors of the Children's Receiving Home of Sacramento and is active in the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Elton is currently writing the sexual harassment policy for the CSUS department of criminal justice, and is an academic adviser for Epsilon Sigma Rho. He also volunteers at Mark Hopkins Elementary School in south Sacramento. James Long is a trustee at Christian Brothers.

Those commitments have earned the respect of others. "My introduction to the Long family came when Jimmy was a young lawyer practicing in Oak Park," says Dorothy Enomoto, head of the Sacramento Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission. "I was a single mother with a terminally ill child and Jimmy helped me with some legal problems. When I asked him for the bill, he told me to just take care of my family."

"... I view Miss Susie as a beacon light to other women who have children. She did the impossible against all odds."

Sacramento attorney John Virga has known the family since he was 10. "Miss Susie gave her children moral and spiritual guidance and taught them to be respectable and responsible," he says. "She is the most unselfish mother I have ever seen. 'This is a true American success story.'"

Susie Long and her three children dote on each other - it's a mutual admiration society among a family of funny, bright and very candid people. When they say "Miss Susie," there is a sense of awe and respect in their voice. After all these years, her comments still seem to carry the weight of law, though not oppressively so.

"She had so many dreams for you, you didn't need to dream yourself," says June. "Mother is possessive, but in the best sense of trying to protect you."

"Let me tell you something," Susie Long says. "... They loved me and I showed them that I loved them, I guess that's why they have been so loyal to me."

Her sons received their law degrees from Howard University in Washington, D.C. "We didn't have any financial packages," says James Long, "but she did more than people with money. When she couldn't send money, she sent food. And when she couldn't send food, she sent love."

Says Elton: "She taught us to be dreamers and believe in yourself. And, of course, how to make your dreams come true."

"She always expected us to be the best," says Elton Long, who lives with his mother and one of his two sons. "She would tell people openly and publicly. 'No children are better than my children.' She really felt that."

That support required hard work. James Long worked from sunup to sunset - always two jobs - as a mechanic at McClellan while doing other jobs requiring mechanical skills throughout Sacramento. He died in 1978.

Susie Long worked at the Dol Monte cannery for 35 years. During the off-season, she did domestic work.

The Long children all went to Catholic schools, the two boys graduating from Christian Brothers High. "They educated



Robert Kochis

"Believe the one who has tried it all."

ROBERT KOCHIS

One of the more popular fellows in the Senior class. Bob spends his time working on his "bomb." After his graduation in June the "chung kid" will take up Civil Engineering at the Junior College and finally at Santa Clara.

"He was true to his word, his work, and his friends."

ROBERT KRAUSS ✓



A graduate of the Saint Francis Grammar School, Bob is secretary of the St. Francis CYO. During his four years he has played in all the interclass sports and as a frosh belonged to the Benilde Vocation Club. A sharp tennis player during his Junior and Senior years, Bob will continue his education at the Junior College with a Business course.

"I came, I saw, I conquered."

PAUL LAGOMARSINO

Paul came to us as a Freshman on a scholarship from Sacred Heart Grammar School. Since then, he has played 1 year of Bee team football and jayvee baseball and 2 years of varsity football. With 4 years of interclass Paul has also had time to be sergeant-at-arms in his Freshman and Junior years and vice-prexy as a Sophomore. A year of Speech and Glee Club, too, Paul has chosen a Chemistry major at Santa Clara next.



"The greatest men are the simplest."

GILBERT LINES

Gil came to Christian Brothers 6 years ago and has spent most of his time working toward a naval career. He will join the Navy full time immediately upon graduation.

"Fear nothing, Caesar is here."

JAMES LONG

Block CB member for 3 years, "Little Caesar" has played 2 years of Bee team basketball and 3 years of varsity baseball. Treasurer of his class as a Freshman, he will attend Sacramento State College in September pursuing his goal as an electrician.



"A cheerful countenance betokens a good heart and a good head."

DANIEL LORENZ

Gael news writer in his Freshman and Sophomore years, Danny has played 4 years of interclass football and basketball also. As a Sophomore he gained membership into the CSF, and Senior year found him in the Speech club and the Marion Society. He has made definite arrangements to attend the University of Notre Dame where he will study law.

"The best things come in small packages."

JAMES MANGAN

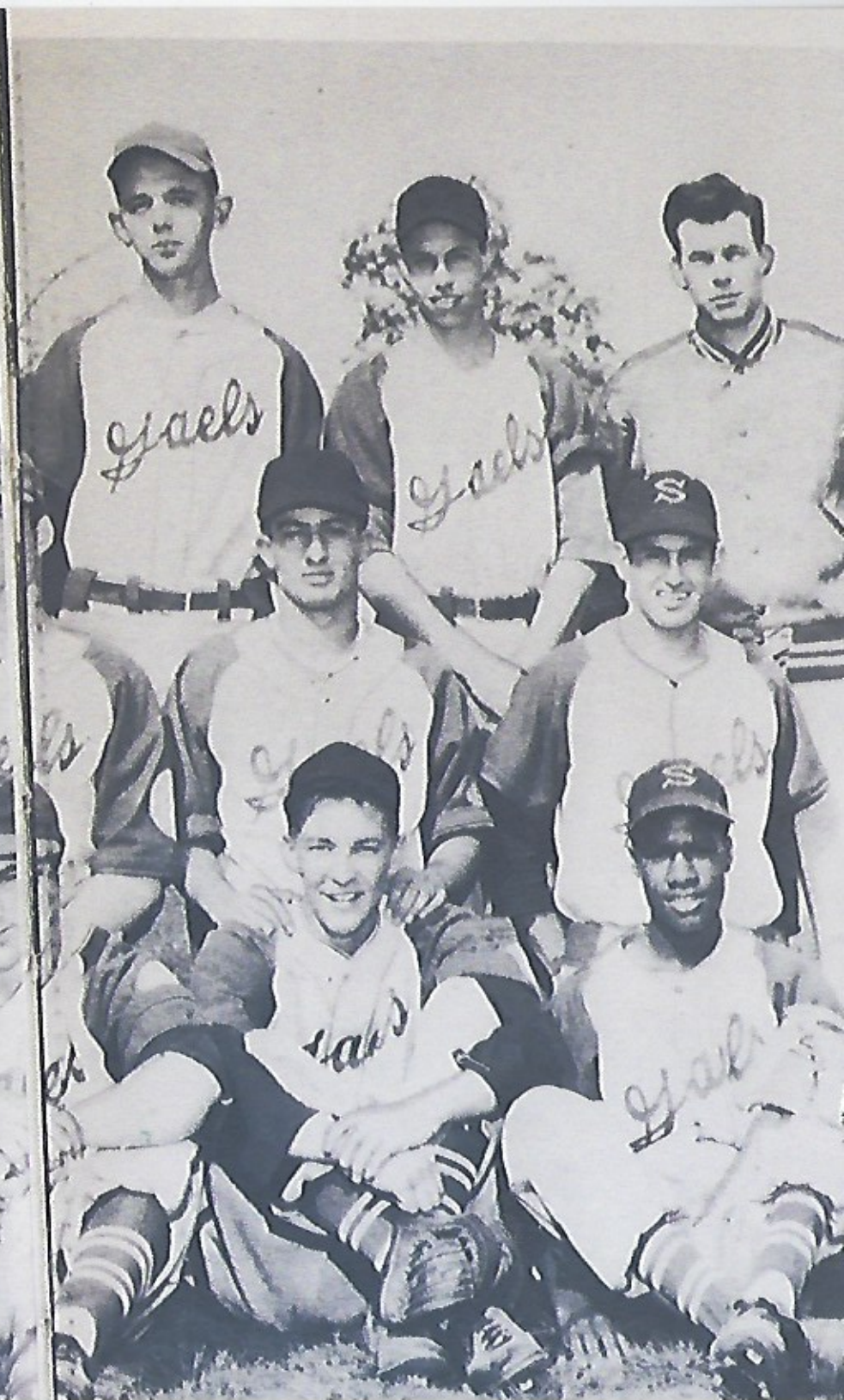
News writer for the Gael, "Little Ben" received the Best Acting Award for his leading role in "Stalag 17." Class secretary as a Freshman; Treasurer as Sophomore; vice-prexy as a Junior; and secretary-treasurer of the Senior class, Jim has also been Student Body Treasurer and Vice President. In the CSF for 2 semesters and recipient of the Bank of America Trophy for Mathematics, he intends to study at Santa Clara for his future as a mathematician.

"A good man is better than anything else."

JULIAN MARCERON

Four years at CBS, Marcy was elected class secretary in his Freshman year upon his arrival from St. Francis Grammar School. One year member of the Radio and Glee Clubs, he was also in the Benilde Vocation Club during his Frosh year. After graduation Julian will study law at a yet undetermined college.





FRONT ROW, left to right: L. Peterson, Al McIntyre, B. Krail, D. Christiansen, R. Roe, C. Mettler, Coach Sobczak.
SECOND ROW: J. Rostomily, V. Piper, B. Ulrey, J. Schmiedt, B. Leach, H. Haley. THIRD ROW: C. Larsen, J. Baker,
H. Johnson, G. Dudley, B. Harvey, D. Andrews. FOURTH ROW: J. Thompson, E. Lee, J. Seith, J. Thurman, M. Yeager,
L. Williams, J. Long.





PERSONAL HISTORY

Birthplace	: Wintergarden, FL	<u>Military</u>	
Sex	: M	Dates	: From 2/12/61 to 5/15/69
Race	: Black	Branch	: U.S. Army Reserve Corps
Marital Status	: Single	Unit	: Infantry
Religion	: Catholic	Rank	: Second Lieutenant
Recreation	: Gardening, reading, walking		

PUBLICATIONS

Co-author of book, American Minorities: The Justice Issue, published by Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1975

AWARDS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 2011: Judge of the Year, Wiley Manuel Bar Association
- 2008: Sacramento County Bar Association Distinguished Service Award – Indigent Defense Panel
- 2008: Acknowledgement for Career in Community Service, for Black History Month, presented by the Maloof Organization and the Sacramento Kings
- 2008: Robert T. Matsui Community Service Award
- 2007: Humanitarian Judge of the Year, Sacramento Valley Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, Sacramento
- 2007: Commencement Speaker, Lincoln Law School, Sacramento
- 2007: Honorary Doctorate, Lincoln Law School, Sacramento
- 2003: Gold Medallion Law & Justice Award, Sacramento Observer Newspaper
- 2001: Judge of the Year, Sacramento Consumer Attorneys
- 1998: Judge of the Year, Sacramento County Bar Association
- 1997: Distinguished Service Award from Wiley W. Manuel Bar Association, LaRaza Lawyers of Sacramento, and the Asian Bar Association
- 1996: Human Rights Award from Human Rights and Fair Housing Commission of the City and County of Sacramento
- 1995: Award from Sacramento Coalition for commitment and service in law to the African American Community
- 1989: Life Membership, Community Service Award, from the Sacramento Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- 1987: D.D. Mattox Award, for community service, from the Sacramento Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- 1986: "The Law and Justice Award" from the Sacramento Branch, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- 1984: Recipient of Resolution from the State Senate, Rules Committee
- 1984: Award from Black Advocates in State Service in appreciation of excellence
- 1982: Who's Who Among Black Americans
- 1981: Who's Who in California
- 1979: Nominated May 1979 by the California Federal Selection Commission for appointment to the Federal District Court for the Eastern District of California (Sacramento)
- 1977: Award from McGeorge School of Law for efforts to increase minority representation in legal field
- 1973: Award from National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Riverside Branch, for outstanding contributions to civil rights field
- 1970: Resolution, California State Legislature

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Name: : James L. Long
Title : Judge
Court : Superior Court, Sacramento County
Dates : From February 2, 1982 to March 10, 2011
Address : Courthouse, 720 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone : (916) 874-7001
Appointed by : Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Date : February 1, 1982

PREVIOUS JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

None: however, prior to pro tem assignments as follows:

Assigned Justice Pro Tem to the California Supreme Court on December 9, 1985 in the case of Daniel P. Murray v. The State of California (1985) 40 Cal.3d 575

Assigned Justice Pro Tem to the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, on February 17, 1987 to April 17, 1987

Member of Appellate Department, Superior Court, Sacramento County, 1987

Advisor to Sacramento County Grand Jury, 1992/1993

Chair, Personnel Committee, Sacramento Superior and Municipal Courts, 1994/1995

EDUCATION

High School	: Christian Brothers	Location	: Sacramento, CA
		Date	: 1955
Coll./University Degree	: San Jose State College	Location	: San Jose, CA
	: Bachelor of Arts, Psychology	Date	: February 1960
Athletics	: Member, Varsity Baseball Team for two years while attending San Jose State College		
Law School Degree	: Howard University	Location	: Washington, D.C.
	: Juris Doctor	Date	: May 1967
Honors	: Research Assistant for Professor Jeanus Parks, Jr., Howard University School of Law, 1965, 1966, until May 1967		

PRIVATE LAW PRACTICE

Firm	: James L. Long	From 2/70 to 1/31/82
Location	: Sacramento, CA	

INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, ACADEMIC

Company	: Sacramento County	From 4/1/60 to 5/1/61
Position	: Juvenile Hall Counselor	
Company	: Sacramento County	From 12/61 to 2/67
Position	: Deputy Probation Officer	
Company	: Legal Aid Society of Sacramento County	From 7/67 to 12/68
Position	: Graduate Legal Assistant	
Company	: California State Legislative Counsel Bureau	From 7/69 to 2/70
Position	: Graduate Legal Assistant	
Company	: California State Assembly	From 1/69 to 6/69
Position	: Assistant Clerk	
Company	: California State University, Sacramento	From 9/69 to 2/72
Position	: Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice Department	
Company	: National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Western Region	From 1972 to 1975
Position	: Special Legal Counsel	

BARS AND RELATED PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

(includes offices, committees, pro bono work)

California Bar – admitted 1970

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California – admitted 1970

U.S. Supreme Court – admitted 1975

California College of Trial Judges – graduated 1982

Wiley Manuel Law Society – honorary member

Women Lawyers of Sacramento – honorary member

Sacramento Asian Bar Association – honorary member

Sacramento Courts, Personnel Committee – Chair 1994-1995

California Association of Black Lawyers – former member

California Trial Lawyers Association – former member

Sacramento County Bar Association, Bar Council, Attorney-Client Relations
Committee, Liaison Committee with Sacramento Municipal Court Judges
(Chair) – former member

Sacramento County Bar Council – former member

National Bar Association – judicial section – former member

Sacramento Legal Aid Society – Board of Directors – former member

Federal Bar Association – former member

American Bar Association – former member

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (civic, charitable, social)

Oak Park Project Area Committee, Board of Directors – former member

Sacramento County Civil Service Commission, oral panel member – former member

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People,
Sacramento Chapter – present member

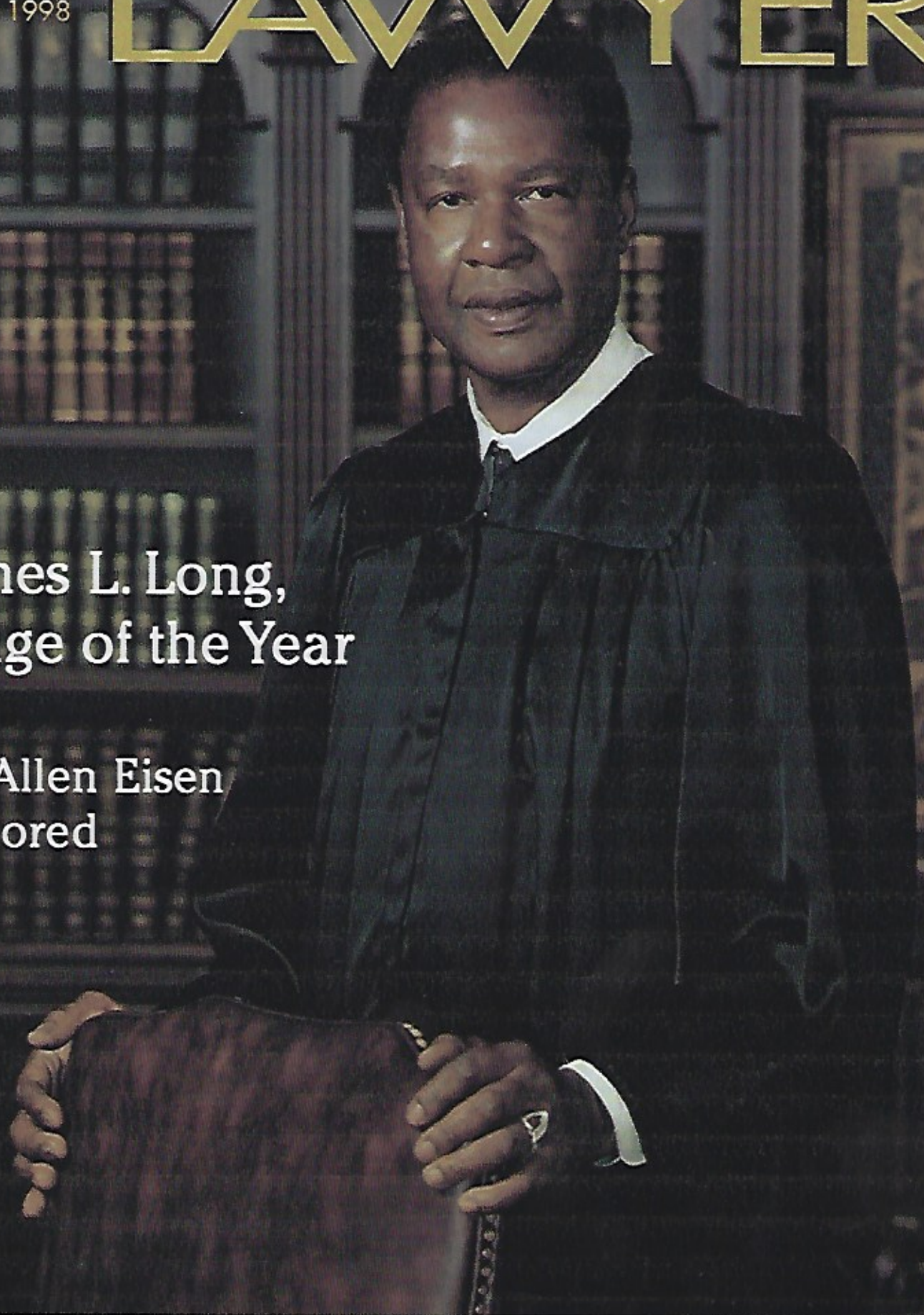
SACRAMENTO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

SACRAMENTO LAWYER

AUGUST 1998

**James L. Long,
Judge of the Year**

**Jay-Allen Eisen
Honored**

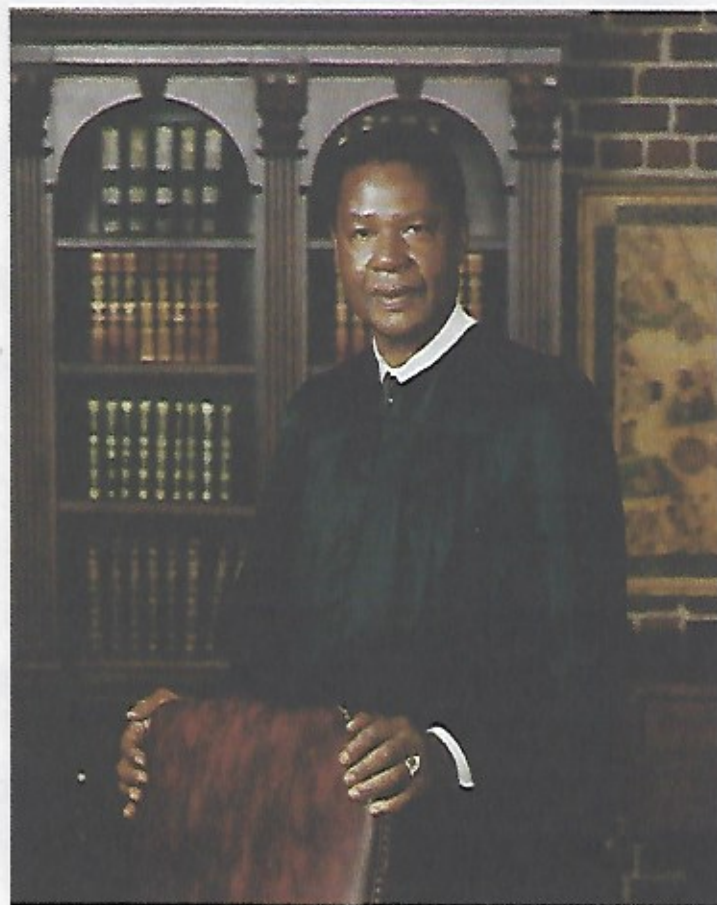


SACRAMENTO COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL BENCH-BAR RECEPTION

by Fritz Youngstedt

Judge of the Year James L. Long, a native of Florida, moved with his family to Sacramento at a young age and settled in Oak Park. A graduate of Christian Brothers High School, Judge Long went on to San Jose State, where he excelled as a shortstop for the Spartans. His later worked as a park director and group counselor. A stint in the US Army followed, during which he attended O.C.S. and was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

After leaving the armed forces, Judge Long graduated from Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C. and returned to Sacramento. After several years in practice he was appointed to



the bench in 1982 by Governor George Deukmejian, where he has served with great distinction ever since.

Judge Long remarks that dealing with every aspect and situation of existence keeps him mentally energized and stimulated. He adds that with the great onslaught of both criminal and civil trials there is a real need for compassion. He finds that even though society has seen many technological advances, juries must employ "common sense." Though he has had several cases raising moral concerns, he has agreed to follow the law as do all judges and is therefore

comfortable with himself.

Gardening is his choice for rest and relaxation — getting into the soil and watching things grow with his help.

Among the many who respect and admire him is his own sister, June Long, a Deputy Attorney General. Citing his "humanism" and wide range of friendships, she says "if more of us had his attitude it would be a great world!"

Presiding Judge Thomas Cecil of the Sacramento Superior Court declares Long "a dedicated and widely-respected jurist — one who is a favorite of both the criminal and civil bar because he is notoriously fair and extremely competent."

Local attorney Harold P. Machen recalls that Judge Long was one of the first lawyers he met in 1969. He especially appreciates how Long helped him get re-established in Sacramento by

"a dedicated and widely-respected jurist —"

introducing him to other lawyers. Both Machen and Long were sole practitioners at the time. He praises him for not having lost "the common touch" in dealing with people.

Judge James Ford says, "For me he is one of the premier judges. He's not only an admired judge but very well-liked as a person."

Echoing this thought was Judge Cecily Bond who adds that "Jimmy is a civil person, a real gentleman." She notes that he has always been willing to do whatever he was assigned, "handling just about every type of trial with distinction."

"He's a terrific judge," says Judge Ronald Robie of Long. "When I was Presiding Judge I sent him every conceivable kind of case and he handled them all very capably and efficiently. He's a P.J.'s dream."

Judge Michael Garcia reflects that Judge Long has had "pretty hard cases" assigned to him but has never heard him gripe.

Attorney C. Emmett Mahle describes Long as a "friendly guy with the look of a real gentleman." He is a "no-nonsense judge" who expects "civility and politeness with no interruptions or yelling in his court, [but] he is very fair."

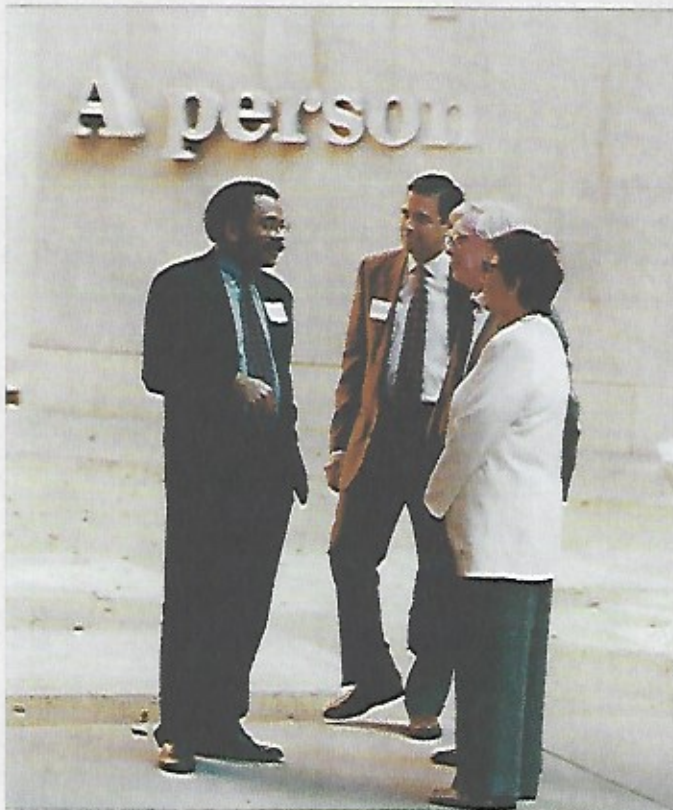
Recalling some of baseball's most famous players like Red Sox Rico Petrocelli, Lou Boudreau of the Indians, Burt Campaneris of the A's, and Orioles Cal Ripken we must acknowledge that shortstops have one of the most important positions in the game because they cover the whole area between 2nd and 3rd bases.

And as he did while at San Jose State playing shortstop, Judge Long continues to cover the whole area of criminal and civil cases assigned to his court with extraordinary skill.

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Over two hundred friends, family members and colleagues attended the Annual Bench & Bar Reception sponsored by the SCBA to congratulate Judge of the Year, the Honorable James L. Long and to recognize the following judges as well: The Honorable Dale Drozd, U.S. District Court; The Honorable Frank C. Damrell, Jr., U.S. District Court; The Honorable Harry Hull, Jr., Third District Court of Appeal; The Honorable Morrison C. England, Jr., Sacramento Superior Courts; The Honorable Craig Manson, Sacramento Superior Courts; The Honorable Patrick Marlette, Sacramento Superior Courts; and The Honorable Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye, Sacramento Superior Courts.



Judge Vance Raye, Bill Barnaby and Jeanie Barnaby



City Attorney Sam Jackson, Deputy City Attorney, Bruce Cline and Michael Sands



Judge Long and Clyde Rainwater



(Left) Judge Long, Joe Cooper, and Lisa Merritt, M.D.
(Right) Judge Long with admirer



Once again the magnificent Constitution Wall at the Secretary of State and Archives Complex served as a fitting and inspirational backdrop to the evening's event. A small combo with singer entertained the crowd who enjoyed beverages and hors d'oeuvres.

SCBA President James Greiner was pleased to present an autographed, framed photograph of the Third District Court of Appeal justices, which had appeared on the cover of this publication, to Justice Richard Sims of that court, appearing on behalf of Presiding Justice Robert K. Puglia.

Judge Long accepted his award from President Greiner with customary modesty, declaring that he "tries his best." He then introduced his proud mother "Miss Susie," Susan Long to the delighted guests.

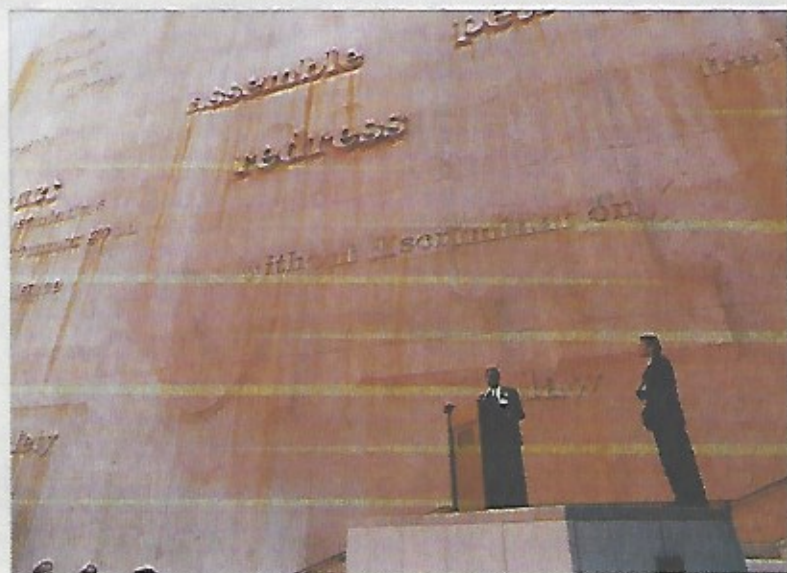
Many remained to offer good wishes to all the honorees. A good time was had by all.



Bennie Earl, Callie Carney, Judge Long and Justice Rodney Davis



Mary Jane Earl, Judge Long, Miss Susie Long and Charles Bell



Rosevelt O'Neal, Jr. and Keith Straten



Justice George Nicholson and President James R. Greiner



Bruce Cline, Richard Lorell, and Cora Readye



Councilmember Lauren Hammond, Brenda Jahns, and Justice Vance Raye



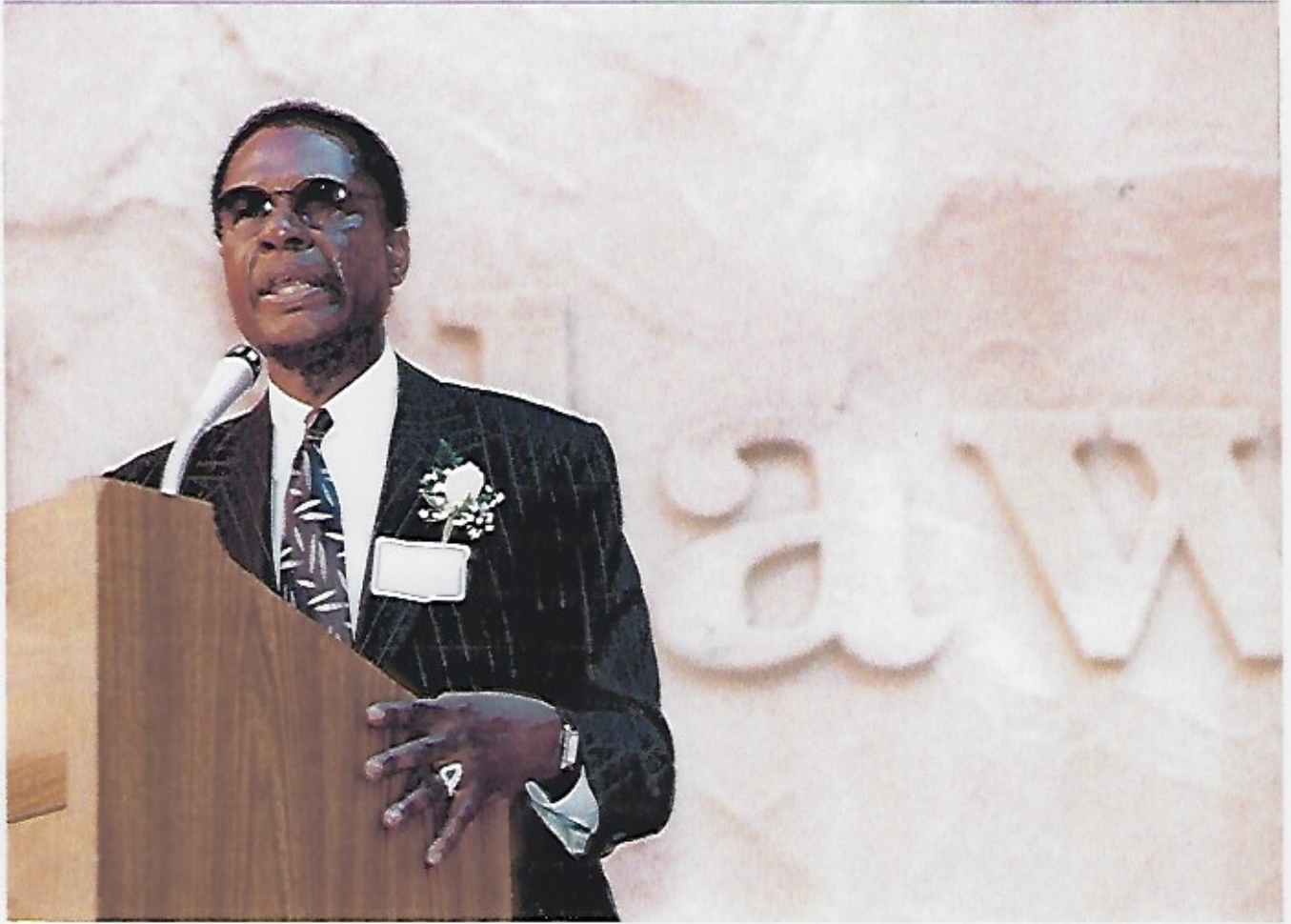
Sergeant Lee Smith and Kim Crews, baliff to Judge Long



Miss Susie Long, Judge Long and James R. Griener



Justice Richard Sims







James L. Long
Superior Court Judge
Sacramento

Career Path Leads Presiding Jurist Back to His Roots

Former NAACP Counsel
Has Overseen Numerous
High-Profile Prosecutions

By Hudson Sangree

Daily Journal Staff Writer

SACRAMENTO — The Oak Park neighborhood in Sacramento is one of the city's most blighted, plagued like many inner-city communities by drugs, gangs and fear.

Superior Court Judge James L. Long, 65, grew up there. But in the 1940s and 1950s it was a working-class neighborhood where many parents strove to give their children better lives.

Perhaps none was more successful than Long's family.

His mother was a cannery worker and a domestic servant. His father painted airplanes at McClellan Air Force Base.

All three of their children, two sons and a daughter, became lawyers.

Long's sister, June, is a retired deputy attorney general. His brother, Elton, is a retired professor of criminal justice at California State University, Sacramento.

"I was a victim of my lack of education, and I was determined that my children would not be," Long's mother told the Sacramento Bee in 1997. "Miss Susie," as her neighbors knew her, died in January at age 89.

Long attended the nearby Christian Brothers High School, one of Sacramento's most prestigious prep schools, on a scholarship.

"It assisted me in the realization that there was something better and broader than my own situation in Oak Park," he said.

He followed high school with college at San Jose State, where he earned his bachelor's degree in 1960.

Then, after working as a probation officer for several years, he led the way for

See Page 9 — CAREER

Iluloid Gold

ez and his colleague in corruption, for David Mack, now doing time for bank suspected by some of a role in the lace.

Career Brings Jurist Back Home

Continued from Page 1

his brother and sister by attending Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C., a school he chose for its strong emphasis on civil rights.

He graduated in 1967 and returned to Oak Park because he knew all along that was where he wanted to practice.

"We were guided by my parents to try to help others," Long said. "This is where I thought I could be of the most good."

After a few years of working for legal aid and teaching at Sacramento State, Long opened his own practice on Broadway, in the heart of Oak Park, just two blocks from his childhood home.

"One of the joys of practicing in Oak Park was I was right there in the neighborhood with my friends and supporters who'd known me all my life," he said.

He stayed in his storefront office for a dozen years, watching the neighborhood change around him. Race riots and street violence were among the new realities of the old neighborhood in the 1960s and 1970s. Long had a general practice doing criminal defense and civil work — "whatever I needed to make a living," he said.

He also served as special counsel to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, handling cases from nine Western states and heeding his parents' urging to create social change through "the rule of law rather than the law of throwing a brick."

For a few years, his older sister June even joined him in his practice.

"I was the rainmaker for the family," he said with a laugh.

Among Long's biggest cases was his defense of the "Oak Park Four," a group of young African-American men accused of killing a Caucasian police officer in the early 1970s. The case against the men eventually was dismissed because of police misconduct.

For the NAACP, he investigated claims of racial discrimination, including a case of one of the only African-American casino operators in Nevada, who lost his license. Long got it back for him.

In 1982, Gov. Jerry Brown appointed Long to the bench. Since then, he has developed a reputation as a tough-but-fair, no-nonsense jurist.

"I've been in front of him many times, and he's ruled against me more often than he's ruled for me," said Donald H. Heller, a Sacramento sole practitioner who has known Long for 30 years.

"The thing is [with Long], you really get a fair shot, and I think that's the highest compliment you can ever pay a judge."

Profile



James L. Long
Superior Court Judge
Sacramento

Career highlights: Appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the Sacramento Superior Court, 1982; solo practice, 1970-82; special legal counsel, NAACP, 1972-75

Law school: Howard University, 1967

Age: 65

be fair."

Other lawyers said he's one of the smartest and best-liked judges on the Sacramento trial bench.

Sacramento attorney Robert A. Buccola recently tried a complex product-liability case before Long that resulted in a record verdict. He said Long either knew the law cold or would go home at night and study it until he did.

"I couldn't be more impressed with anyone as a trial judge," Buccola said. "Jimmy Long is as sharp as they come."

A lifelong bachelor, Long is known among the Sacramento Bar for his love of gardening, his fondness for soul music and his dry sense of humor.

He's also had no end of high-profile cases. They range from a huge class action against General Motors to the trial of a machete killer.

Those of his cases spotlighted in the media also include the 1995 trial of state Superintendent of Public Instruction Bill Honig, who was convicted of four counts of conflict of interest for signing state contracts in which he had a financial interest.

And in 1996, Long presided over a multi-million-dollar class action against GMAC for engaging in unfair business practices by overcharging borrowers for car insurance.

But murder cases seem to be Long's specialty.

For instance, there was the case of Tamecus Reed, a 24-year-old college student convicted last year of killing an 81-year-old woman with a machete and raping her granddaughter. *People v. Reed*, 99F00172 (Sacramento Super. Ct., filed Jan. 8, 1999)

guilt and then imposing the death sentence in 2001. *People v. Daniels*, 99F10432 (Sacramento Super. Ct., filed Dec. 30, 1999).

Daniels was a young African-American man who had gone on a wild crime spree in the Sacramento area, robbing banks, jacking cars and killing two people along the way.

He waived his right to a jury trial, chose to represent himself, and then put on no defense. Some observers called it an act of suicide by law. "He wanted to plead guilty, but he couldn't in a capital case," Long said. "The only way to do it was to go through the process."

"I've never had to make that call on my own before," he said. "It was really hard. You see what positions jurors are put in."

Another difficult and emotional case was that of Dennis Jay Tison, a 37-year-old weight-loss doctor charged with killing his baby daughter, who fell from a second-story window. *People v. Tison*, 01F05294 (Sacramento Super. Ct., filed July 6, 2001).

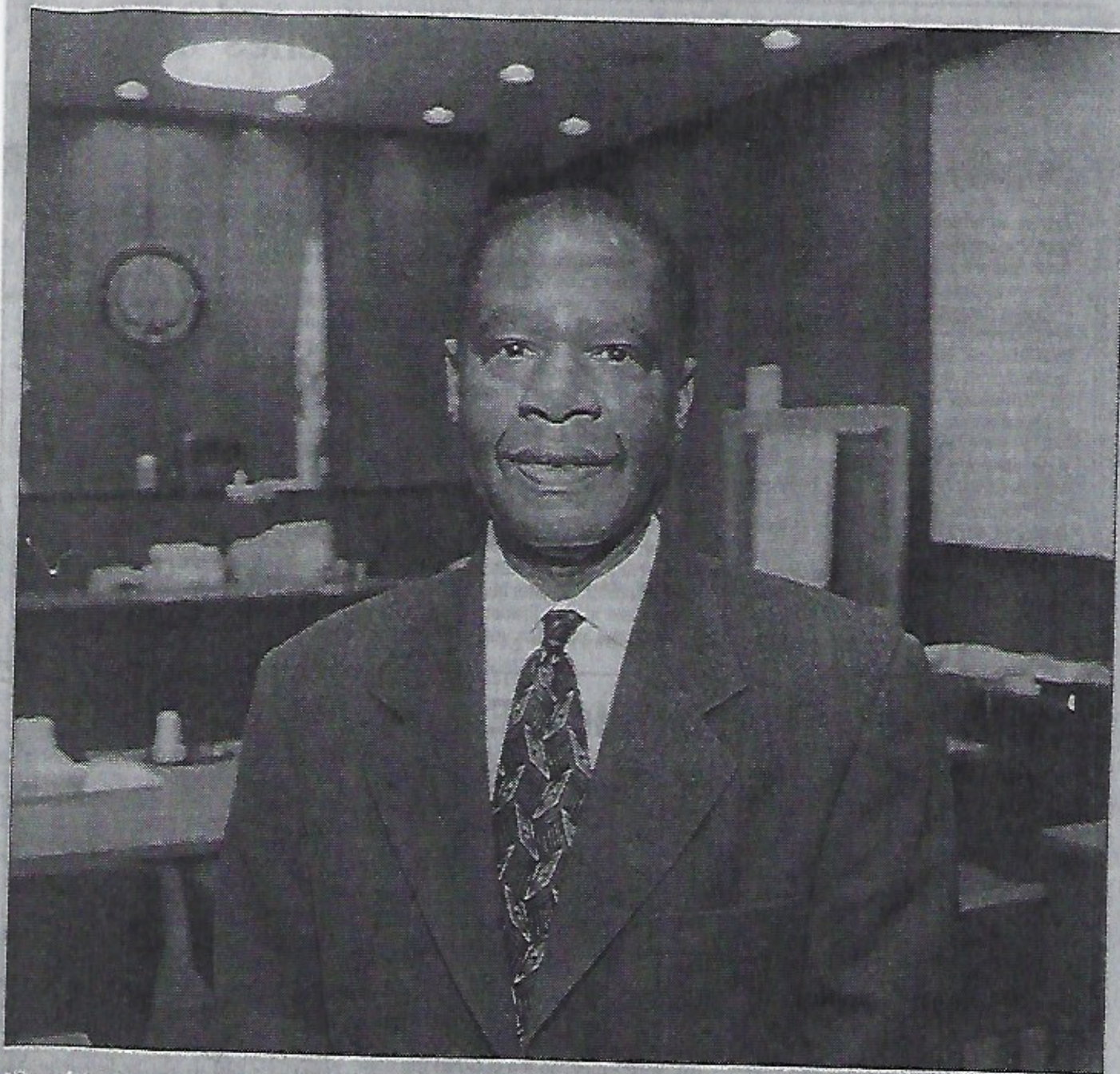
Tison was charged with child homicide but convicted of involuntary manslaughter.

The event was a tragic accident, in which Tison was drunk and allowed his daughter to play too close to an open window, said Heller, the doctor's defense lawyer.

Long sentenced Tison to six years in prison.

Heller said he thought his client should have received probation. But he said Long's sentence was consistent with the judge's strong belief that people should be held responsible for their actions.

"His view was that the father owed a



S. TODD ROGERS / Daily Journal

"One of the joys of practicing in Oak Park [after attending a Washington, D.C., law school] was I was right there in the neighborhood with [people] who'd known me all my life," Superior Court Judge James L. Long said.

nally negligent way."

Long said he wasn't immune to the powerful emotions of the case but felt he had to impose the sentence.

"It was a heartbreaking case," Long said. "You could just tell [the father] had nothing but love for this little girl. It was hard to sentence him to prison, but there were not many alternatives."

When Long sentenced Tison, he offered words meant both to console and instruct, perhaps a lesson from his own upbringing.

"I told him it's not where you start the race," Long said. "It's where you end up."

cases and the lawyers involved:

■ *People v. Baca*, 01F07786

For the prosecution: Kevin K. Greene, district attorney's office, Sacramento

For the defense: Dwight M. Samuel, Sacramento, and James M. Warden, Sacramento

■ *People v. Williams*, 01F08475

For the prosecution: Marjorie P. Koller, district attorney's office, Sacramento

For the defense: C. Emmett Mahle

For the prosecution: John R. Goldthorpe, district attorney's office, Sacramento

For the defense: Michael J. Aye, Sacramento

■ *People v. Kiehn*, 00F04628

For the prosecution: Andrew J. Smith, district attorney's office, Sacramento

For the defense: Daniel J. Russo, Morton & Russo, Vallejo

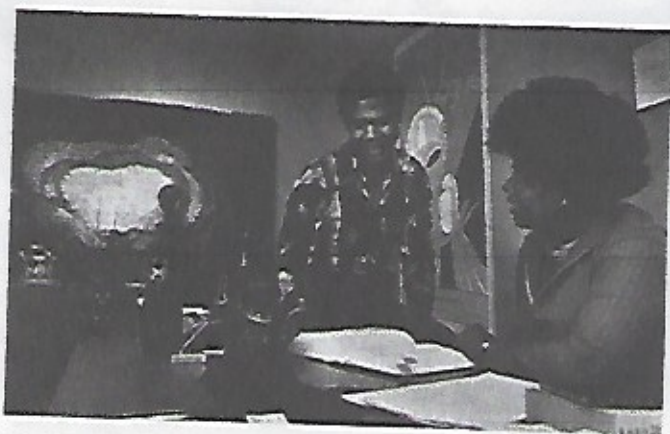
■ *People v. Reed*, 99F00172

For the prosecution: Robert H. G. M.



**Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson,
Judge James L. Long
Dr. Abe McIntosh**





19. FORMER HOME OF JUDGE JIMMY LONG. 3439 4TH AVENUE. This house combines Colonial Revival and Craftsman bungalow elements, typical of Oak Park housing of its time (c. 1913). In the 1920s, T. L. Fassett, who owned Fassett's Emporium on 35th Street, lived here. It was not unusual for a businessman to both live and work in Oak Park during that era. This pattern was replicated by a later resident of the house, James L. "Jimmy" Long, who graduated from Christian Brothers High School, San Jose State University, and Howard University Law School. He lived in this house and had his law office just around the corner at 2954 35th Street in the 1970s. Mr. Long was appointed a Superior Court judge in 1982.



20. FORMER STEEN HOUSE. 3445 4TH AVENUE. This cottage, built c. 1905, belonged to Fred Steen, who operated Steen's Corner saloon next door at 4th Avenue and 35th Street. Steen's Corner, established in 1892 by Fred's father John, was the first business located in Oak Park. And no wonder, given that Oak Park—the pleasure ground/amusement park—was "dry." Eventually, third- and fourth-generation Steens operated the business, which closed in June 1969.

◆ EIGHTEEN ◆



21. FORMER SACRAMENTO OBSERVER BUILDING, 3540 4TH AVENUE. This building was the Oak Park Post Office from 1940 until 1968. It is more well known today as a former home of The Sacramento Observer. Founded in 1962, the region's weekly African American newspaper later moved into this building and then out into larger purpose-built premises on Alhambra Blvd. Dr. William H. Lee was a successful real estate agent before he helped found the Observer. Dr. Lee has recalled that he became familiar with Oak Park by working in the 1950s with W. F. Gulley, owner of a real estate agency that handled property in the neighborhood. In reflecting on the Black Panthers in Oak Park, Dr. Lee has described how they challenged his paper's lack of militancy. He agreed to hire one of their own, Mel Assagi, who became one of the Observer's best writers and the first African American writer for The Sacramento Bee. He also described how the Panthers protested to White Front, a large discount store, about their treatment of black patrons. Shortly afterward, White Front became one of the Observer's major advertisers and started "giving back to the black community."



22. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. 3600 BROADWAY. This church was organized in 1895, making it one of the first in Oak Park. The building, dedicated in 1927, replaced one at 34th Street and 3rd Avenue. The congregation has served a variety of ethnic groups through the years, reflecting the changing demographics of the area. Currently, a Tongan service is offered. Nearby at 3598 4th Avenue was the Episcopal Church, sold to Kyle's Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church circa 1918 (and later moved to 2940 42nd Street). The founding minister of Kyle's Temple, the Rev. Thomas Allen Harvey, was an organizer and the first president of the Sacramento Branch of the NAACP (founded in 1918, just nine years after the organization's start on the east coast). Rev. Harvey won a lawsuit (awarding him \$50) in 1918 against the restaurant of W. L. Bigelons (on 35th Street), who had refused to serve him and had ordered him to leave due to his race.

◆ NINETEEN ◆