1957–69 (general practice).

In a 1980 bench trial, found Mafia figure Joseph Bonanno guilty of conspiring to interfere with a federal grand jury's investigation of the business operations of his two sons and imposed the maximum sentence of five years.

Known for tough criminal sentences.

EUGENE LYNCH

APPOINTED BY REAGAN in 1982. Born in San Francisco in 1931; received law degree from Hastings law school. San Francisco superior court judge, 1974–82. San Francisco municipal court judge, 1971–74. Partner at San Francisco's O'Connor, Moran, Cohn & Lynch, 1964–74 (civil trial practice).

Ruled in 1982 that the state of California could enforce more stringent health standards without prior federal OSHA approval.

WILLIAM ORRICK, JR.

APPOINTED BY NIXON in 1974. Born in San Francisco in 1914; received law degree from Boalt Hall. Partner at San Francisco's Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, 1965–74 (antitrust litigation). Assistant U.S. attorney general in charge of the antitrust division, Justice Department, 1963–65. Deputy undersecretary of state for administration, State Department, 1962–63. Assistant U.S. attorney general in charge of the civil division, Justice Department, 1961–62.

Denied a 1981 motion to dismiss racketeering charges against 11 Hells Angels when a key prosecution witness testified that he was paid $30,000 by the federal Drug Enforcement Agency after testifying about the Hells Angels' drug manufacturing and smuggling activities. In 1976 sentenced newspaper heiress Patty Hearst to seven years in prison for armed robbery and use of firearms to commit a felony. (The maximum sentence was 35 years.)

Known for hot temper and uneven courtroom demeanor.

MARILYN PATEL

APPOINTED BY CARTER in 1980. Born in Amsterdam, N.Y., in 1938; received law degree from Fordham. Alameda municipal court judge, 1976-80. Solo practitioner in San Francisco, 1971-76 (immigration and naturalization practice).

Rapidly establishing a reputation as smart and hardworking.

ROBERT SCHNACKE

APPOINTED BY NIXON in 1970. Born in San Francisco in 1913; received law degree from Hastings law school. San Francisco superior court judge, 1968–70. Associate at a small firm in San Francisco, 1959–68 (general practice).

In 1975 imposed the maximum fine of $10,000 on financier and former Westgate-California chairman C. Arnholt Smith for making illegal corporate campaign contributions. Also imposed a two-year suspended sentence and $30,000 fine on Smith, who pleaded no contest to reduced charges of criminal conspiracy and misapplication of funds of the now-defunct U.S. National Bank.

Generally regarded as conservative and progovernment.

WILLIAM SCHWARZER

APPOINTED BY FORD in 1976. Born in Berlin, Germany, 1925; received law degree from Harvard. Partner at San Francisco's McCutcheon, Doyle, Brown & Enerson, 1953–76 (civil litigation).

Ruled in 1982 that U.S. accounts in Mexican banks could be treated as securities and held the Banco Nacional de Mexico liable for losses incurred by a depositor when the peso was devalued (on appeal).

Conservative. Evenhanded.

STANLEY WEIGEL

SENIOR STATUS

SPENCER WILLIAMS

APPOINTED BY NIXON in 1971. Born in Reading, Mass., in 1922; received law degree from Boalt Hall. Secretary to California Human Relations Agency, 1968–70. Administrator of the California Health and Welfare Agency, 1967–68. Santa Clara County counsel, 1955–67.

In 1982 fined Hitachi Ltd. $10,000 for conspiring to steal trade secrets from IBM; also unsealed FBI transcripts and videotapes which revealed that two Hitachi executives knew they were dealing in stolen goods. Trial judge in more than 150 Dalkon Shield cases; William's efforts to certify a statewide class action to determine liability and a nationwide class action to determine punitive damages were overturned by the Ninth Circuit.

Praised for practical, common-sense approach.

ALFONSO ZIRPOLI

SENIOR STATUS

CALIFORNIA

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

HOWARD TURRENTINE

CHIEF JUDGE SINCE 1982

APPOINTED BY NIXON in 1970. Born in Escondido, Calif., in 1914; received law degree from University of Southern California. San Diego County superior court judge, 1968–70. Solo practitioner in San Diego, 1945–70 (general practice). Deputy city attorney for San Diego, 1940–41.

In 1971 overturned previous federal laws and ruled that Imperial County farmers whose land holdings exceeded 160 acres were entitled to use water from the Colorado River (reversed by the Ninth Circuit but upheld by Supreme Court). Since 1974 has presided over the U.S. Financial litigation, one of the largest securities-fraud class actions ever filed.

Said to be the most conservative judge in the Southern District, and the toughest sentencer. Rarely grants defense motions in criminal cases. Can be patient and charming.

WILLIAM ENRIGHT

APPOINTED BY NIXON in 1972. Born in New York City in 1925; received law degree from Loyola University. Founding partner of San Diego's Enright, Levitt, Knutson & Tobin, 1954-72 (criminal defense).

Presided over the 1979 jury trial in which a $31-million judgment was entered against financier C. Arnholt Smith and other majority shareholders of U.S. National Bank in a securities-fraud suit stemming from the collapse of the bank in 1973 (affirmed by Ninth Circuit). In 1978 dismissed a $750,000 suit against the government brought on behalf of ten Ku Klux Klan members and others at Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Base who were prohibited from wearing KKK emblems and were discharged.

Known as serious, hard working, and capable. Conservative.

EARL GILLIAM

APPOINTED BY CARTER in 1980. Born in Clovis, N. Mex., in 1931; received law degree from Hastings law school. San Diego County superior court judge, 1975–80. San Diego municipal court judge, 1963–75.

In 1981 awarded $1 million in damages to the plaintiff in a swine flu inoculation case against the federal government (affirmed by the Ninth Circuit).

First and only black federal judge in the Southern District. Known as a lenient sentencer, particularly for first offenders. Criticized for sometimes being unprepared.

J. LAWRENCE IRVING

APPOINTED BY REAGAN in 1982. Born in San Diego in 1935; received law degree from University of Southern California. Partner at San Diego's Irving & Butz, 1969–82 (personal injury defense and medical malpractice litigation).

Presiding over the trial of a suit brought by an allegedly lesbian sailor protesting her discharge by the U.S. Navy. Denied the woman's request for injunctive relief pending the resolution of the action.

Quick, fair, and objective.

JUDITH KEEP

APPOINTED BY CARTER in 1980. Born in Omaha in 1944; received law degree from University of San Diego. San Diego municipal court judge, 1976–80.

Ruled in 1982 that the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists could be sued for antitrust damages in an action brought by Tuesday Productions. Jury returned a $10-million verdict against AFTRA, forcing a chapter of the union to declare bankruptcy (on appeal).

First and only female federal judge in the Southern District. Intelligent. Controls courtroom well. A stiff sentencer.

LELAND NIELSEN

APPOINTED BY NIXON in 1971. Born in Vesper, Kans., in 1919; received law degree from University of Southern California. San Diego County superior court judge, 1968–71. Partner at San Diego's Schall, Nielsen & Boudreau, 1958–68 (general practice).

In 1980 dismissed a race discrimination case brought against officers of the U.S. Navy by several black servicemen and ruled that the plaintiffs could not review internal military records (on appeal to the Supreme Court).

Can be hot-tempered and will not tolerate shoddy work from attorneys. Impatient and likes to settle both criminal and civil cases.

EDWARD SCHWARTZ

SENIOR JUDGE. APPOINTED BY JOHNSON in 1968. Born in Seattle in 1912; received law degree from San Francisco School of Law. San Diego County superior court judge, 1964–68. Partner at San Diego's Procopio, Price, Cory & Schwartz, 1946–64 (general business practice).

Presided over a six-month restraint of trade case involving the process for converting salt water to fresh water in which the jury awarded the plaintiff, Ajax International Corporation, $1 million in damages. In 1981 sentenced three defendants, convicted of conspiring to bomb the National Steel shipyard in San Diego, to six months in jail (upheld).

A liberal Democrat with a reputation as an easy sentencer.

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