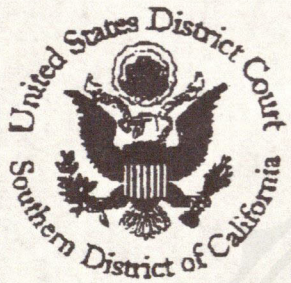
[MS-049H.014.006.005]

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



HONORABLE EARL B. GILLIAM

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California is deeply saddened by the loss of one of its most beloved jurists, the Honorable Earl B. Gilliam. He passed away on January 28, 2001 after a long illness.

Judge Gilliam was appointed to the federal bench by President Jimmy Carter on August 20, 1980, and took senior status on April 12, 1993. Prior to joining the federal bench, Judge Gilliam served as a municipal court judge in San Diego from 1963 to 1975, and as a superior court judge from 1975 to 1980. Judge Gilliam was the first African American in San Diego to be appointed as a judge to the municipal court, the superior court, and the district court.

Judge Gilliam was born on August 17, 1931, in Clovis, New Mexico and spent his early years in Oklahoma City. He moved to San Diego with his family in the fifth grade and attended Logan and Stockton Elementary Schools, Memorial Junior High and San Diego High School. His picture adorns the high school hallway in tribute to him. He graduated from San Diego State University in 1953 as a business major and received his law degree from Hastings College of Law in 1957. After receiving his law degree, and before joining the state bench, Judge Gilliam served as a deputy district attorney for three and a half years and then as a general private practitioner for another two and a half years.

01/28/01 17:07 ☎5576684 CLK US DIST CRT 001

Throughout his career, Judge Gilliam has been recognized for his many achievements. In 1965, the San Diego Junior Chamber of Commerce selected Judge Gilliam as the Young Man of the Year. In 1973 and 1994, he was chosen as the Citizen of the Year, and, in 1975, he received the Good Guy Award for San Diego. In 1981, the Boys' Club of San Diego chose Judge Gilliam as the Golden Man of the Year and, in that same year, the San Diego Trial Lawyers Association chose him as the Trial Judge of the Year. In 1994, the San Diego County Bar Association selected him as the Legal Professional of the Year. Judge Gilliam was also awarded the NAACP Civil Rights Pioneer Award and the Sharp Hospital Foundation's Eagle Spirit Award. Significantly, the San Diego Black Lawyers Organization chose to honor him by changing the organization's name to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association, the first living legend to be so honored by a bar association. Additionally, the Thomas Jefferson School of Law dedicated its moot courtroom as the Earl B. Gilliam Moot Courtroom.

Judge Gilliam presided over several noteworthy cases while on the federal bench. In the case of National Health Laboratories, the government recovered $110 million in criminal fines and civil penalties in 1992, the largest settlement at the time for health care billing fraud. In 1988, he presided over a lengthy trial for fraud and income tax evasion of the former Del Mar mayor Nancy Hoover Hunter arising out of a Ponzi scheme involving J. David Dominelli. He was the trial judge for the sixteen week Telink criminal trial in 1987 involving allegations of bribes and kickbacks to two county officials arising out of a Telink telecommunications contract. As a judicial officer, he had numerous drug cases, including the notorious Coronado Company marijuana conspiracy case against a local lawyer. On the civil side, he was the district judge for the leading case of Daubert v. Merrill Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc. that established a nationwide standard for the role of trial

01/28/01 17:07 ☎5576684 CLK US DIST CRT 002

courts to carefully screen scientific evidence. These are only a few of his legendary cases.

In civic activities, Judge Gilliam actively promoted the advancement of education for youth, young adults and lawyers. He taught several courses at Thomas Jefferson School of Law and was eventually named the director of trial practice at the law school.

Several years ago, Judge Gilliam had an opportunity to reflect on his life:

"Overall, San Diego's been a good town for me. I hope that I rose to the challenge to make things better for the whole city because there are blacks who can make a contribution. There are minorities who can make contributions. And I've always been loyal to the women's cause. I've enjoyed being part of it, and I hope that I've left some kind of a mark."

Speaking on behalf of the Court, Chief Judge Marilyn Huff commented, "The Court and the public will miss this great jurist, a beloved individual who left an indelible mark on our community and on the law." His close friend and colleague the Honorable Napoleon Jones remarked, "We've truly lost not only a legal giant, but also a beautiful person."

He is survived by his wife Rebecca Prater and his son Derrick James Gilliam. Services will be held on Tuesday, February 6, 2001 at 1:00 p.m. at the Bay View Baptist Church, 6134 Benson Avenue, San Diego. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Scholarship fund at P O. Box 125022 San Diego, CA 92112-5022 or the William J. Oakes Boys and Girls Club of San Diego at 2930 Marcy Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113.

For further information, contact Chief Judge Marilyn L. Huff (619) 557-6016.