

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
County of Marin



Press Release

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Passing of Honorable Faye D’Opal

SAN RAFAEL – It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of the Honorable Faye D’Opal of the Marin County Superior Court, who passed away on March 31, 2026. She will be deeply missed by the entire Court, the legal community, and all those whose lives she touched through her service, leadership, and commitment to justice.

Judge D’Opal earned a bachelor’s degree from Hendrix College in Arkansas and a Doctorate in Jurisprudence from New College of California, San Francisco. She was first elected to the Marin County Superior Court in 2004 and served with grace, fairness, and intelligence until her retirement from the court in 2016 at the age of 76 years old.

Judge D’Opal was widely respected for her integrity, independence, and commitment to justice. During her tenure, she presided over a broad range of cases and was known for her thoughtful and principled decision-making. She gained statewide recognition for a 2011 ruling that halted the administration of the death penalty in California, reflecting her steadfast commitment to the rule of law.

Before joining the bench, Judge D’Opal dedicated her career to public service, including service in the Peace Corps and years of legal work expanding access to justice for underserved communities. She also held leadership roles and contributed her time and expertise to numerous organizations, including the Marin Community Foundation, Legal Aid of Marin, Marin Abused Women’s Services, the Marin National Women’s Political Caucus, and the San Francisco YWCA, among others.

The Marin County Superior Court extends its deepest condolences to Judge D’Opal’s family, friends, and colleagues. Her legacy of service and commitment to justice will not be forgotten.

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