
CELEBRATING THE SERVICE OF
JUDGE OLIVER W. WANGER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outstanding service and dedication of the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger on the occasion of his retirement from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. For the past 20 years, Judge Wanger has served the people of California admirably—maintaining a commitment to justice, fairness, and the law. Moreover, he has been fair-minded and knowledgeable when hearing cases related to the San Joaquin Valley's water and environmental issues.

Judge Wanger received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of Southern California in 1963 and his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law in 1966. Upon graduation, he served our great nation in the United States Marine Corps from 1960 to 1967. Judge Wanger established his roots in Fresno, California in 1967, where he served as deputy district attorney until 1969. For the next two decades, Judge Wanger worked as a first-rate attorney and always maintained a keen passion for justice.

He exhibited foresight and leadership when he joined Mr. John Loomis and Mr. Dan Eymann in founding San Joaquin College of Law (SJCL) in 1969. SJCL is a community treasure—it has given capable individuals in the Valley access to a quality legal education. He served as an adjunct professor at SJCL from 1970 until 1991 and as Dean from 1980 until 1983. His tenacity and enthusiasm have made him a mentor and leader in the Fresno legal community. For years, he has been admired for his steadfast adherence to the rule of law and indisputable commitment to our community.

Judge Wanger has not only been recognized as a scholar of the law, but he has also been revered as a man of principle and integrity. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated him to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. He was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate. The Eastern District of California extends from the Oregon border to the Tehachapi Mountains. Many of the cases Judge Wanger has presided over have involved the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and his most notable rulings have been deeply relevant to the San Joaquin Valley's water and environmental issues.

Judge Wanger and his wife Lorrie Anthony-Wanger have five sons and seven grandchildren. Following his retirement, Judge Wanger will return to private practice as partner in the new firm of Wanger, Jones & Helsley PC.

It is a great honor to commend my friend, Oliver W. Wanger, for his years of service to the people of California. We have been lucky to have a hard-working legal scholar serve our great state for the past two decades.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the service and career of the Honorable Oliver W. Wanger. His passion for the justice and fervent adherence to the law has not only made him a fair and effective judge, but also a vibrant asset for our community.
