

NEWS RELEASE

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

400 McAllister Street, Room 205
San Francisco, CA 94102-4512
Phone: 415-551-5737
FAX: 415-551-5701



T. MICHAEL YUEN
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Contact:

Ken Garcia
(415) 551-5957
kgarcia@sftc.org

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<https://twitter.com/SFSuperiorCourt>

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SAN FRANCISCO SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE ANGELA M. BRADSTREET, PIONEERING ADVOCATE FOR ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN AND DIVERSITY, ANNOUNCES HER RETIREMENT

SAN FRANCISCO - The Hon. Angela M. Bradstreet, a much-decorated jurist for her work as a pioneering force in the advancement of women and gays and lesbians on the bench and in private practice, is retiring as a judge on the San Francisco Superior Court this month.

Judge Bradstreet, who served in private practice for 25 years, three years as California Labor Commissioner and 11 years on the bench, was also President of the Bar Association of San Francisco. In that post, she created the No Glass Ceiling Initiative to create more women in leadership positions in law firms and private companies, and more than 100 firms signed on. The success of that program became a national model.

“Not only has Judge Bradstreet been a trailblazer throughout her varied and remarkable career, she’s also been a trusted mentor and inspiration to countless women lawyers and judges who have benefitted from her sage advice and friendship,” said Justice Tracie L. Brown of the First District Court of Appeal. “Judge Bradstreet is a universally respected trial judge who can deftly handle any type of case – from employment class actions to mass torts.”

Justice Brown, who was on the San Francisco Superior Court bench before being elevated in 2018, added: “The judicial gods were looking down on me when I was lucky enough to be placed in the office next to Judge Bradstreet when I first came to the court. She was so encouraging and giving of her time when I had questions. She’s a role model for all of us.”

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For the past six years Judge Bradstreet has presided over Civil Trials and Settlements, spearheading the court's highly successful judicial settlements program. In addition to presiding over every type of civil trial, she has successfully settled/mediated hundreds of cases ranging from one of the largest ever wage and hour class actions, to complex commercial, personal injury, products liability and sexual harassment and discrimination cases.

The latter role fit her well. As an openly gay judge in California, she worked to make the bench more diverse and transparent.

"She has taken care to create opportunities for those coming up behind her, especially for women and LGBTQ folks," said her colleague, Judge Joseph M. Quinn, one of several gay and lesbian jurists at the court. "We benefitted from her work and leadership. And many – including myself – owe her a great debt of gratitude."

Bradstreet's trailblazing path was paved with difficult and deeply personal decisions. Growing up in London, she had a terrible "coming out" incident with her parents, one that ultimately led her to leave England.

"I left with only my backpack and \$1,000 and did not know a soul here" she said.

She moved to Berkeley after getting accepted to the Master's Program at Berkeley Law. She clerked for a year in San Mateo Superior Court before joining the law firm that was then Carroll, Burdick and McDonough. She stayed there for 25 years, rising to become the first woman managing partner and one of the first LGBTQ managing partners in the Bay Area. She was tapped by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to become the California Labor Commissioner before becoming a judge three years later.

Bradstreet has accumulated a host of prestigious honors. In 2005, she was selected as one of the top 75 female litigators in California. She is a former President of the Bar Association of San Francisco, California Women Lawyers, and the Queen's Bench Association. She is the recipient of the Barristers Club Judge Award, California State Bar's Diversity Award, the Minority Bar Coalition's Unity Award, the Anti-Defamation League's Jurisprudence Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from Queen's Bench Bar Association.

She also was honored with the Margaret Brent Women of Achievement Award, the highest award given by the American Bar Association in recognition of women lawyers who have excelled in their field and been leaders in advancing women in the legal profession. In 2017, the San Francisco Trial Lawyers named her as Judge of the Year.

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“Judge Bradstreet has been a trailblazer for women and LGBTQ attorneys and judges, and we are extremely grateful for all she has done for BASF and the community at large,” said Yolanda Jackson, executive director and general counsel, the Bar Association of San Francisco and the Justice and Diversity Center.

Remarkably, in the past two years, Judge Bradstreet has settled numerous cases that have resulted in a savings of more than seven years of trial time.

“Her ability to settle difficult cases is extraordinary,” said Samuel K. Feng, Presiding Judge of the San Francisco Superior Court. “Judge Bradstreet has settled many of the largest and most complex, emotional cases at the court, which has been of enormous benefit to the court and to the litigants during this unprecedented time. We will miss her greatly.”

Judge Bradstreet practiced law as a solicitor in her hometown of London before circumstances propelled her to move to the Bay Area at the age of 24. She said she fell in love with the Bay Area.

“I saw public service as a chance to give back for all the great things this country has given me,” she said. “Being a judge on one of the most diverse trial courts in the nation has been a privilege and a hugely rewarding experience which will always remain in my heart.”

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