



Leonard Edwards

Leonard Edwards is a retired judge working as a consultant, educator, and trainer. A graduate of Wesleyan University (1963) and The University of Chicago Law School (1966), Judge Edwards served as a Superior Court Judge in Santa Clara County for 26 years; in juvenile court for over 20 of those years, and then for six years as Judge-in-Residence at the Center for Families, Children & the Courts, a division of the California Administrative Office of the Courts.

Judge Edwards is a well-known teacher, trainer, and lecturer, having taught at the University of Santa Clara Law School, Stanford Law School, and the California Judicial College. He has conducted numerous trainings and presentations in the U.S. and 11 foreign countries. He has written widely and created teaching videos that have been used for training throughout the United States. His most recent book, *The Role of the Juvenile Court Judge: Practice and Ethics*, has been distributed to all California judges working in juvenile and family court and to all appellate justices in the state.

Judge Edwards has been given numerous awards from local, state, and national organizations. In 2004 he was awarded the William H. Rehnquist Award for Judicial Excellence, the only juvenile court judge ever to receive that award.

In his work as a consultant, Judge Edwards has assisted judges make significant changes in their court system, including starting mediation programs, family drug treatment courts, CASA programs, and other innovations. His primary focus is improving court practice in order to improve outcomes for children and families in the courts system.