



SUPERIOR COURT OF  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF NAPA  
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Scott R.L. Young  
Presiding Judge

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Court Executive Officer

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NAPA HISTORIC COURTHOUSE JURY ROOM DEDICATED AS “TISHER HALL” TO HONOR GROUNDBREAKING JUDGE**

NAPA, CA – On Friday, December 19, a wide range of community leaders gathered at the Napa County Superior Court to recognize Judge Francisca P. Tisher for thirty years of service on the bench and for her ground-breaking achievements as the first woman appointed as a judge in Napa. The ceremony concluded with the naming of the court’s jury assembly room in her honor as the Francisca P. Tisher Jury Assembly Hall.

### **Background and Accolades**

Born in the Netherlands, Judge Tisher came to the United States at the age of three with her family. She attended the University of California at Davis, achieving a BA in Economics and later earning her JD from Empire College School of Law in Santa Rosa. Admitted into the bar in 1980, she went on to focus on family law, serving the Napa and Sonoma areas.

Judge Tisher was appointed to the Napa bench in 1995 by Governor Pete Wilson and served the community for 22 years before retiring in June of 2017. Since then, she has continued to serve as an assigned judge, helping the court fill key juridical resource gaps. During her thirty years on the Napa bench, Judge Tisher made history multiple times: As the first woman appointed to the Napa court, as the first female judge to win election in Napa, running unopposed, and as the first woman to serve as presiding judge.

Presiding Judge Scott R. L. Young stated in his remarks: “Judge Tisher has worked with compassion to make sure a just result is reached. She cares deeply about the court, the courtroom staff, and those appearing before the court. She sits in multiple courtrooms during any given day, hearing every case type. She is regularly answering emails, covering the on-call duty, volunteering for assignments, and within the last few weeks—had an appellate case published.” Judge Young went on to say, “She is certainly worthy of this historic moment.”

Judge Raymond Guadagni (retired), spoke and added these words: “We want you to know that history should be made by a person who fulfills their oath. And you have fulfilled your oath in every way—you have been a person irreproachable, fair, and looked up to universally. You are the perfect person to have made history. You broke the glass ceiling for the women that followed you—you led the way.”

Annie Tisher, Judge Tisher’s daughter and a teacher at Silverado Middle School in Napa spoke: “It is fitting that this jury assembly room is named after her. Juries are the backbone of our system, essential, yet often overlooked. She has always respected the time commitment it takes for everyday people to serve, and she made thoughtful changes to help our system in Napa work more fairly and efficiently.” (Historical note: Tisher Hall represents the west side of the historic courthouse, which was first commissioned as by the Napa County Board of Supervisors 1916 as the county’s Hall of Records. In 1978, a third building was erected to connect with the 1878 historic courthouse with the building that you see today.)

As part of the dedication, Judge Tisher received recognition from numerous local, state, and federally elected officials. This included:

- **Congressman Mike Thompson**, who’s office presented a Congressional Certificate recognizing Judge Tisher’s incredible career.
- **State Senator Christopher Cabaldon and Assembly Member Cecilia Aguiar-Curry**, who sponsored a joint legislative resolution honoring Judge Tisher’s work.
- **Napa County Board of Supervisors**, the all-female governing board of the county, represented by Supervisor Board Chair Anne Cottrell, and Supervisor Belia Ramos, presented a board proclamation detailing Judge Tisher’s extensive community accomplishments and recognition of service to Napa County.

Judge Tisher, always humble, closed the ceremony with her own remarks: “This honor belongs to everyone. There were so many women and men who helped me attain this appointment as the first female judge. It had been a long time coming and I was extremely honored to receive the appointment as there were many very well qualified candidates vying for the judicial opening.” She later noted about the newly minted Tisher Hall: “This jury room is a bit like a garden from which the flower of our judicial system grows.”

The Francisa P. Tisher Jury Assembly Hall was dedicated on Friday, December 19, 2025.

For questions, Questions directed to the Napa County Superior Court Executive Office at 707-299-1110 or by email at [court.administration@napa.courts.ca.gov](mailto:court.administration@napa.courts.ca.gov).