



## JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on October 27, 2015

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Title	Agenda Item Type
Court Facilities: Naming Request for the Existing, Unnamed Courthouse in Roseville	Action Required
Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected	Effective Date
None	October 27, 2015
Recommended by	Date of Report
Court Facilities Advisory Committee	October 13, 2015
Hon. Brad R. Hill, Chair	Contact
Hon. Patricia M. Lucas, Vice-Chair	William J. Guerin, 415-865-7510
Hon. Keith D. Davis, Chair of the Subcommittee on Courthouse Names	<a href="mailto:william.guerin@jud.ca.gov">william.guerin@jud.ca.gov</a>
	Chris Magnusson, 415-865-4041
	<a href="mailto:chris.magnusson@jud.ca.gov">chris.magnusson@jud.ca.gov</a>

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### Executive Summary

The Court Facilities Advisory Committee and its Subcommittee on Courthouse Names recommends approving the request to name the existing, unnamed courthouse in the Bill Santucci Justice Center in the City of Roseville as the *Howard G. Gibson Courthouse*. This approval provides a name for the existing courthouse that was constructed in 2008 and honors a former member of the bench of the Superior Court of Placer County.

### Recommendation

The Court Facilities Advisory Committee and its Subcommittee on Courthouse Names recommends that the Judicial Council, effective October 27, 2015, approve the request to name the existing, unnamed courthouse in the Bill Santucci Justice Center in the City of Roseville as the *Howard G. Gibson Courthouse*.

## **Previous Council Action**

The council has taken no previous action on this courthouse naming request. In April 2014, the council adopted its revised *Courthouse Naming Policy*, available at [www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20140425-itemJ.pdf](http://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/jc-20140425-itemJ.pdf).

## **Rationale for Recommendation**

Currently, the Superior Court of California, County of Placer, has an existing courthouse in the City of Roseville that is part of the Bill Santucci Justice Center, a complex containing three buildings: the existing courthouse, the jail, and the building that houses the offices of the probation department and the district attorney. This justice center has been named after former Mayor of Roseville and Board of Supervisors Member Bill Santucci, although none of its buildings have been officially named to date. Therefore, the superior court requests that the existing courthouse be named after Judge Howard G. Gibson—a former member of their bench who passed away in 1986 (see Attachment A).

Judge Gibson was a World War II veteran and a very well-respected community leader. He had been in private practice in the City of Roseville prior to becoming a justice court judge for the majority of his career there and then a superior court judge for the last several years. He was also raised in the City of Roseville and was friends with Bill Santucci. The superior court has reached out to the Santucci family, speaking with a surviving relative of the former mayor, in order to explain the naming request, and no objection was raised. There is also local community support for this request, as expressed by the City of Roseville as well as by Placer County's Office of the Sheriff, Bar Association, Board of Supervisors, and District Attorney (see Attachments B and F).

The advisory committee and its Subcommittee on Courthouse Names reviewed the naming request against section III.B.b of the council's *Courthouse Naming Policy* and found that it complies with all requirements.

## **Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications**

Per the council's naming policy, requests involving names of persons for court facilities require evaluation by the advisory committee's Subcommittee on Courthouse Names, with a recommendation to the full advisory committee. On August 10, 2015, the advisory committee's Subcommittee on Courthouse Names evaluated the naming request, voting unanimously that the full advisory committee make a recommendation to the council to approve the request. In advance of that meeting, this naming request was posted for public comment on August 5, 2015, and no public comments were received. Also, and in advance of the full advisory committee's meeting on September 16, 2015, this naming request was posted for public comment on September 4, 2015, and no public comments were received.

In light of the strong community support reflected in the attachments to this proposal, no alternatives to the recommended action were considered.

## **Implementation Requirements, Costs, and Operational Impacts**

The costs of designing and fabricating the signage for the existing courthouse in the City of Roseville would be paid from the operating budget of the Superior Court of Placer County. Because the superior court initiated this naming request, it is aware of these expenditures.

## **Relevant Strategic Plan Goals and Operational Plan Objectives**

The recommended council action supports Goal III, Modernization of Management and Administration, and Goal VI, Branchwide Infrastructure for Service Excellence.

## **Attachments**

1. Attachment A: Courthouse naming request from Presiding Judge Alan V. Pineschi, Superior Court of California, County of Placer, July 27, 2015
2. Attachment B: Letter supporting the naming request from Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal Edward N. Bonner, Placer County, August 4, 2015
3. Attachment C: Letter supporting the naming request from President Daniel S. Wesp, Placer County Bar Association, August 3, 2015
4. Attachment D: Resolution supporting the naming request from the Placer County Board of Supervisors, August 4, 2015
5. Attachment E: Resolution supporting the naming request from the City of Roseville, August 5, 2015
6. Attachment F: Letter supporting the naming request from District Attorney R. Scott Owens, Office of the Placer County District Attorney, August 7, 2015



Superior Court of the State of California  
 In and For the County of Placer  
 Roseville, California

10820 JUSTICE CENTER DRIVE, ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95678  
 P. O. BOX 619072, ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95661

2015 JUL 30 P 3:32

In Chambers of  
**HONORABLE ALAN V. PINESCHI**  
 PRESIDING JUDGE  
 OF THE SUPERIOR COURT  
 DEPARTMENT 33  
 (916) 408-6230 Fax (916) 408-6236

JUDICIAL BRANCH  
 CAPITAL PROGRAM  
 SAN FRANCISCO  
 2015 JUL 30 P 3:32

July 27, 2015

Hon. Brad R. Hill,  
 Chair of the Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
 Judicial Council of California  
 455 Golden Gate Avenue  
 San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Naming of Courthouse – Placer Superior Court

Dear Justice Hill:

Please consider this letter as our court's request to name the courthouse building located at 10820 Justice Center Drive in Roseville, California as the Howard G. Gibson Courthouse. The Judges of our bench voted unanimously, on June 24, 2015, to submit this application to your committee. We will submit, when appropriate, resolutions and letters of support for this naming from the local Bar Association, the Sheriff, the District Attorney, the Roseville City Council and the Placer County Board of Supervisors.

Judge Howard G. Gibson served as a Judge in Placer County for over twenty-five years. He was first elected to the Roseville Justice Court in 1958 and then later appointed to the Placer Superior Court by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in 1982. He was the first Roseville attorney to have been appointed or elected to the Superior Court in Placer County's history. He retired from the Superior Court in 1984. Unfortunately, he passed in November of 1986 at the age of 65.

Accessibility, fairness, integrity and kindness are the characteristics which best describe Judge Howard Gibson. By publishing his home telephone number and home address in local telephone directories, he made himself accessible not only to law enforcement officers seeking the issuance of arrest/search warrants, but also for relatives of incarcerated persons seeking release from jail or couples needing a Judge to perform at a wedding ceremony. Judge Gibson was humble and respectful toward all persons appearing before him and was well known for his special efforts to help persons appearing in his courtroom feel comfortable no matter what type of matter brought them before the court. Notably, he took time to mentor and guide dozens of young lawyers who

went on to distinguished legal careers of their own. Judge Gibson exemplified public service from the moment he took the bench in 1958 until his retirement twenty-six years later.

Before becoming a Judge and during his legal career, Judge Gibson served his community and his country in a myriad of ways. After attending local schools, he joined the United States Army in July of 1942 and served in Europe and North Africa during World War II. After his return from the war, and upon his completion of the University of California's Hastings School of Law, he opened a small general law practice in Roseville, California. He was active in and generously contributed to many community and charitable organizations.

In 1978, he was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the National Highway Transportation Safety Advisory Committee.

The Courthouse Naming Policy, adopted by the Judicial Council, sets out certain standards and criteria for the naming of courthouse facilities. Section III (B)(2)(b) of that policy sets out the particular criteria for the naming of a courthouse after a deceased person. We believe that the naming of the Placer Superior Court courthouse at 10820 Justice Center Drive in Roseville, California after Judge Howard G. Gibson meets all of the criteria set forth. While having passed away in 1986, Judge Gibson is still fondly remembered by many lawyers and Judges in the community. He made significant contributions to his country, state and community during his lifetime, there are no issues of conflict of interest and this naming is consistent with the California Code of Judicial Ethics.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this application to your committee. We are, of course, available to you or the committee staff to answer any additional questions or provide more information to you if necessary.

Sincerely,



Alan V. Pineschi  
Presiding Judge



PLACER COUNTY  
**SHERIFF**  
 CORONER-MARSHAL



MAIN OFFICE  
 2929 RICHARDSON DR.  
 AUBURN, CA 95603  
 PH: (530) 889-7800 FAX: (530) 889-7899

TAHOE SUBSTATION  
 DRAWER 1710  
 TAHOE CITY, CA 96145  
 PH: (530) 581-6300 FAX: (530) 581-6377

**EDWARD N. BONNER**  
 SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

**DEVON BELL**  
 UNDERSHERIFF

August 4, 2015

Honorable Brad Hill, Chair  
 Judicial Council – Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
 455 Golden Gate Avenue  
 San Francisco, California 94102

Re: Courthouse Naming-Placer County Superior Court

Honorable Justice Hill:

This letter is to express my full enthusiastic support for the Placer County Superior Court's application to name the Courthouse located in Roseville, California at the Santucci Justice Center after Judge Howard G. Gibson.

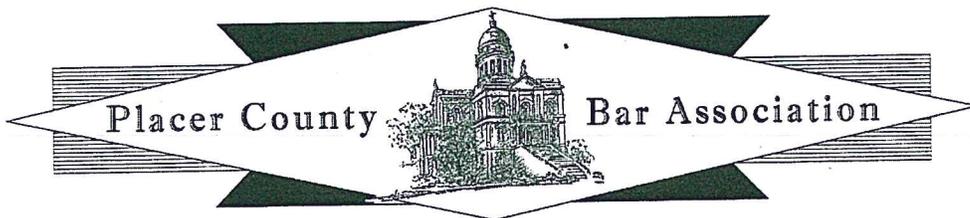
Judge Gibson was a well-respected jurist in Placer County for over twenty five years having served as a Justice Court Judge in the Roseville Justice Court from 1958 until his appointment to the Superior Court in 1982 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. He was the first lawyer from the City of Roseville to have ever been appointed and serve on the Superior Court of Placer County. I remember Judge Gibson as a young deputy and he was held in high regard by law enforcement and the defense community. Throughout his judicial career he was known for his accessibility, fairness, wisdom and humility and kindness.

I join the Judges of the Superior Court, the Placer County District Attorney Scott Owens, the Placer County Board of Supervisors, the Roseville City Council and Placer County Bar Association in asking your committee to approve this application and recommend to the Judicial Council of California that the Courthouse in Roseville be named in honor of Judge Howard G. Gibson.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Edward N. Bonner  
 Sheriff-Coroner-Marshal

*2015 Board of Directors*

Daniel Wesp

*President*

David Frank

*Vice President*

M. Scott Shuttleworth

*Treasurer*

Kristen Goodwin Alexander

*Secretary*

Sam Frazier

*Director*

Joseph Maloney

*Director*

Lant Barney

*Past President*

August 3, 2015

Honorable Brad Hill, Chair  
 Judicial Council – Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
 455 Golden Gate Avenue  
 San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: Courthouse Naming – Placer County Superior Court

Honorable Justice Hill:

This letter serves to express our full support for the Placer County Superior Court's application to the Court Facility Advisory Committee to name the Courthouse located in Roseville, California, at the Santucci Justice Center, after Judge Howard G. Gibson.

The Placer County Bar Association recognizes Judge Gibson as a respected jurist serving Placer County for over twenty five years. Judge Gibson was the first lawyer from the City of Roseville to have ever been appointed and serve on the Superior Court of Placer County. Throughout his judicial career Judge Gibson was known for his accessibility, fairness, wisdom, humility and kindness.

The Placer County Bar Association join the Judges of the Superior Court, the Sheriff of Placer County, the Placer County Board of Supervisors and the Roseville City Council in asking your committee to approve this application and recommend to the judicial council of California that the Courthouse in Roseville be named in honor of Judge Howard G. Gibson.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel S. Wesp  
 PCBA President

# Before the Board of Supervisors County of Placer, State of California

IN THE MATTER OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF Resolution No: 2015-156  
THE PLACER COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT'S APPLICATION TO THE  
"COURT FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE" OF THE JUDICIAL  
COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA TO NAME THE COURTHOUSE BUILDING AT  
THE SANTUCCI JUSTICE CENTER, IN ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA, IN  
PLACER COUNTY — THE "JUDGE HOWARD G. GIBSON COURTHOUSE."

The following RESOLUTION was duly passed by the Board of Supervisors of the  
County of Placer at a regular meeting held, 8/04/2015 by the following vote on roll  
call:

**Ayes:** DURAN, WEYGANDT, HOLMES, MONTGOMERY, UHLER  
**Noes:** NONE  
**Absent:** NONE

THE FOREGOING INSTRUMENT IS A CORRECT  
COPY OF THE ORIGINAL ON FILE IN THIS OFFICE  
ATTEST

ANN HOLMAN  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, County  
of Placer, State of California  
*Ann Holman*  
Deputy Clerk

Signed and approved by me after its passage.

*Kirk Uhler*  
Kirk Uhler 2015 Chairman,  
Board of Supervisors

Attest:  
Clerk of said Board

*Melinda L. Dwyer*

**WHEREAS**, the Judges of the Placer County Superior Court Bench have voted unanimously to submit an application to the "Court Facilities Advisory Committee" of the Judicial Council of California to name the Courthouse building, at the Santucci Justice Center, after the late Judge Howard G. Gibson; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard Gibson served the State of California and the County of Placer as a Roseville Justice Court Judge and then as a Placer County Superior Court Judge from the late 1950's to the early 1980's; and

**WHEREAS**, as a lifelong resident of Roseville, Howard Gibson was born February 5, 1921 at the County Hospital in Auburn, California, graduated from Roseville High School in 1939 and began college until his education was interrupted when he was drafted into the United States Army in 1942; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard served in the United States Army for over four years in the campaigns in North Africa, Italy, France and Germany and after the war, he continued his college education, married

Marnell Eich, and went on to the University of California, Hastings School of Law. Upon completion of law school, he returned to Roseville to open his law practice in 1953; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard reluctantly ran for the Roseville Justice Court judge in 1958 and upon winning the election, set about restoring confidence and credibility to the court; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard made sure that he was always accessible to his constituents listing his home address and phone number in the Roseville telephone directory throughout his judicial career; and

**WHEREAS**, as a Justice Court Judge, he frequently left his judicial robes in chambers and appeared in court at the counsel table rather than the Judge's bench, in order to make people feel more comfortable in court, treating everyone who appeared in his court with respect, kindness, and compassion; and

**WHEREAS**, to the young lawyers in his court Howard was affectionately known as "The Dean of the Roseville School of Law." With a keen sense of fairness, sharp intellect and gentle sense of humor, he enhanced many new lawyers' continuing legal education--always making every effort to help counsel reach a just and reasonable resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1978, Howard received a presidential appointment from President Jimmy Carter to the National Highway Safety Advisory Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1981, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed him to the Placer County Superior Court, Howard Gibson became the first Roseville resident in the 130 year history of Placer County to be named to the Superior Court bench. Howard enjoyed his years on the Superior Court bench, providing valuable experience to the bench and creating a professional camaraderie and friendship with his fellow Judges; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard retired from the Superior Court bench at the end of 1983, ready after his years of service for a quiet retirement. With friends wanting to acknowledge and celebrate his 25 years on the bench and his accomplishments, he reluctantly agreed to a retirement celebration, but only on the condition that the event be a fundraiser for the restoration of the Placer County Historic Courthouse. After retiring, Howard continued to practice law part-time and enjoyed spending time with his many friends and family in Roseville; and

**WHEREAS**, Placer County Board of Supervisors stated it best with a simple plaque on his retirement, "The Honorable Howard G. Gibson, a matchless Judge and a great man".

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT SO RESOLVED** that the Placer County Board of Supervisors on behalf of the citizens of Placer County support the Placer County Superior Court's application to the "Court Facilities Advisory Committee" of the Judicial Council of California to name the Courthouse building at the Santucci Justice Center, in Roseville, California, in Placer County — the "JUDGE HOWARD G. GIBSON COURTHOUSE."

# City of Roseville RESOLUTION

## of COMMENDATION AND SUPPORT

**WHEREAS**, The Judges of the Placer County Superior Court Bench have voted unanimously to submit an application to the "Court Facilities Advisory Committee" of the Judicial Council of California to name the Santucci Justice Center courthouse building after the late Judge Howard G. Gibson; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard served the State of California and the County of Placer as a Roseville Justice Court Judge and as a Placer County Superior Court Judge from the late 1950s to the early 1980s; and

**WHEREAS**, a lifelong resident of Roseville, Howard was born February 5, 1921 at the County Hospital in Auburn, California, graduated from Roseville High School in 1939, began college, and was drafted into the United States Army in 1942; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard served in US Army for over four years in North Africa, Italy, France, and Germany, and after the war, he continued his college education, married Marnell Eich, went onto the University of California, Hastings School of Law, and upon completion of law school, he returned to Roseville to open his law practice in 1953; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard ran for Roseville Justice Court Judge in 1958 and upon winning the election, set about strengthening confidence and credibility to the court, always ensuring his accessibility to constituents by listing his home address and phone number in the Roseville telephone directory throughout his judicial career; and

**WHEREAS**, known as "The Dean of the Roseville School of Law," Howard had a keen sense of fairness, sharp intellect, and gentle sense of humor that displayed his respect, kindness, and compassion to those who appeared in his court; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard received appointments from President Jimmy Carter to the National Highway Safety Advisory Committee in 1978, and Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. to the Placer County Superior Court in 1981; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard enjoyed his years on the Superior Court bench, providing valuable experience to the bench and creating a professional camaraderie and friendship with his fellow Judges; and

**WHEREAS**, Howard retired from the Superior Court bench at the end of 1983, and after retiring, continued to practice law part-time and enjoyed spending time with his many friends and family in Roseville; and

**WHEREAS**, Placer County Board of Supervisors stated it best with the inscription on his retirement plaque, "The Honorable Howard G. Gibson, a matchless Judge and a great man".

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ROSEVILLE CALIFORNIA**, to support the Placer County Superior Court's application to the "Court Facilities Advisory Committee" of the Judicial Council of California to name the Santucci Justice Center Courthouse building, the "JUDGE HOWARD G. GIBSON COURTHOUSE".

**SIGNED AND APPROVED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015.

*Carol Garcia*

CAROL GARCIA, MAYOR

ATTEST:

*Sonia Orozco*

SONIA OROZCO, CITY CLERK  
CITY OF ROSEVILLE, CALIFORNIA





**R. SCOTT OWENS**  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**PLACER COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

10810 Justice Center Drive • Suite 240  
Roseville, CA 95678-6231  
916 543-8000 • FAX 916 543-2550  
www.placer.ca.gov

August 7, 2015

Honorable Brad Hill, Chair  
Judicial Council – Court Facilities Advisory Committee  
455 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Courthouse Naming-Placer County Superior Court

Honorable Justice Hill:

This letter is to express my full support for the Placer County Superior Court's application to the Court Facility Advisory Committee to name the Courthouse located in Roseville, California, at the Santucci Justice Center, after Judge Howard G. Gibson.

Judge Gibson was a well respected jurist in Placer County for over twenty five years having served as a Justice Court Judge in the Roseville Justice Court from 1958 until his appointment to the Superior Court in 1982 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. He was the first lawyer from the City of Roseville to have ever been appointed and serve on the Superior Court of Placer County. Throughout his judicial career he was known for his accessibility, fairness, wisdom and humility and kindness.

I join the Judges of the Superior Court, the Sheriff of Placer County, the Placer County Board of Supervisors, the Roseville City Council and Placer County Bar Association in asking your committee to approve this application and recommend to the Judicial Council of California that the Courthouse in Roseville be named in honor of Judge Howard G. Gibson.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "R. Scott Owens".

R. Scott Owens  
Placer County District Attorney