

Judge May won't run again candidate already in wings

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SANTA CRUZ — Superior Court Judge Donald O. May, plagued by ill health for several months, said today he won't run for re-election this year.

Municipal Court Judge Richard McAdams, who had held off announcing his candidacy in deference to May, said he will run for the Superior Court post.

District Attorney Art Danner also is reported to be considering running for the Superior Court judgeship, but has made no announcement.

May, whose term expires Dec. 31, was appointed to the Municipal Court bench in 1966 by Gov. Edmund

Brown. He ran for Superior Court in 1974, winning against then-District Attorney Peter Chang.

May, 63, entered the hospital in May after suffering a mild heart attack and underwent bypass surgery in August.

McAdams has served on the Municipal Court bench in Santa Cruz since 1977 when he was appointed by then-Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. He was re-elected without opposition in 1982.

McAdams, in making his announcement, said "I believe that I have a reputation among lawyers, law enforcement agencies and the general public as a judge who is

decisive, responsible and firm, yet fair." He added that despite "staggering caseload demands," he has succeeded in "controlling courtroom proceedings and in resolving disputes without sacrificing justice."

McAdams, 42, received his degree as doctor of jurisprudence from Hastings College of the Law in 1968 after graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1965.

McAdams lives in Aptos with his wife, Claire, and two daughters who attend local public schools. He coaches a youth soccer team, composes and performs music in his church and has both gardening and photography as hobbies.