

REP COURTS RP P. 1

# Judge Kessell plans retirement in June

## Marlo may also be leaving

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JAN 1 1993

One Santa Cruz Superior Court judge will retire this year, and another may also be leaving.

Richard Kessell said he intends to retire in June, and John Marlo said, "I'm not going to say anything official until I have my letter in."

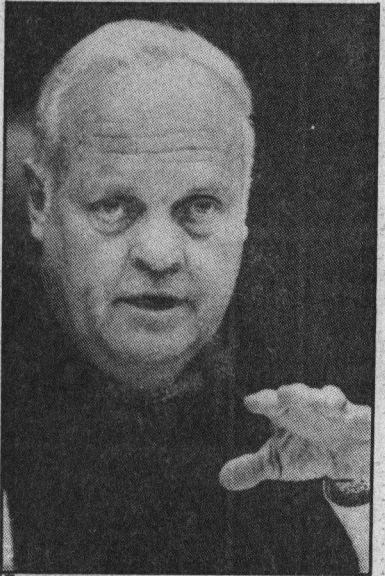
Marlo, 58, will have 20 years on the bench in February. Rumors circulating around the courthouse say he will officially retire in February, then continue as a "visiting judge" in his own courtroom until a replacement is appointed.

Marlo was a Municipal Court judge from 1973 until his election to Superior Court in 1986. He was elected in June to a new six-year term that began yesterday.

Kessell said, "I'll have 20 years in and I'll be 62." Kessell said he won't be retiring entirely — he still plans to take occasional assignments as a visiting judge.

Kessell moved from Santa Cruz Municipal Court to the Watsonville court after Marlo was elected to Superior Court. Kessell served in Watsonville until his appointment to Superior Court in early 1990.

Although he was happy to be elevated to Superior Court, Kessell said he preferred Municipal Court, where judges spend a



**Richard Kessell**

short time on a long list of cases.

"I enjoyed being with the people," he said.

Kessell said he intends to do some traveling, including a trip to Philadelphia next fall for UC-Berkeley's football game against Temple University.

Kessell, a Cal graduate, said he has missed only five Cal home football games since 1945, not counting his two years in the Army.

The judges' replacements will be appointed by Gov. Pete Wilson. Santa Cruz County has five Superior Court judges: Kessell, Marlo, Sam Stevens, Bill Kelsay and Tom Black.