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Justice Louis H. Burke—A Salutation

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JUSTICE LOUIS H. BURKE—A SALUTATION

by Justice Robert Kingsley*

Mr. Justice Burke exemplifies everything that a judge is supposed to be. Not only is he a great scholar and a writer of clarity and style, but he is a leader in the field of judicial administration. During his ten years on the Superior Court for Los Angeles County, four of them as Presiding Judge, he, in effect, recreated and breathed life into the Conciliation Court and instituted numerous procedures that enabled that over-busy court to manage its work-load with reasonable dispatch.

Appointed, in 1961, as the first Presiding Justice of the newly created Division Four of the Court of Appeal for the Second District, he brought to that court his administrative skills. Managing the affairs of that court with humor, tact and persuasion, he made it start and continue as an efficient and effective body. It was my happy lot, when, in 1963, Governor Brown appointed me to succeed Justice Balthis on Division Four, to have Justice Burke to initiate me into the problems and the pleasures of an appellate judge. No better tutor can be imagined.

In addition to his official judicial duties, Justice Burke has served his state and nation in a host of civic duties. He was the chief architect of the Narcotic Rehabilitation Act; he helped to create the National College for State Judges and its California counterpart; he has served as chairman of the Section on Judicial Administration of the American Bar Association and of the Appellate Judges’ Conference; and has been an officer of the American Judicature Society.

A talented artist, both in oils and in mosaics, an understanding colleague, and a warm friend; on behalf of his profession, I salute him!

* Associate Justice, California Court of Appeal, Second District.