

Will Brown pension reform lead to more reform? -- Gov. Brown's pension reform legislation five years ago, sold in part as a way to assure voters a proposed tax increase would not be eaten up by rising pension costs, got little love from pension critics. **Ed Mendel**
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Judge's dying words lamented he could no longer help people

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Judge Harry Pregerson

LOS ANGELES — As he prepared to die, Judge Harry Pregerson's last words were, "I'm no longer physically able to help people," his daughter told a memorial service on Friday.

Those who gathered to remember his life recounted that Pregerson, a Los Angeles native, crusaded tirelessly on behalf of the homeless and other disenfranchised communities both on and off the bench.

Mayor Eric Garcetti, one of the speakers at the memorial in the Shrine Auditorium, described Pregerson as "the greatest angel we have known in the City of Angels."

Fellow judges, lawyers, former clerks and volunteers with the Salvation Army remembered the judge's 50-year career on the bench and what he accomplished in the community.

Those who spoke noted that the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals judge had an infectiously optimistic spirit and an unwaveringly disciplined drive, characteristics reminiscent of his service as a Marine in the Pacific Theater during World War II.