

# Ex-court of appeal justice joins Werksman Jackson

By Douglas Saunders

Daily Journal Staff Writer

**H**aving spent more than 20 years in public service and a brief tenure heading the trial practice group at Umberg Zipser LLP, former California Court of Appeals Justice Halim Dhanidina has joined the criminal defense law firm Werksman Jackson & Quinn LLP.

"While I don't know what cases will come my way, I am anxious to jump into my new role at Werksman Jackson & Quinn with both feet," Dhanidina said. "I am extremely fortunate to be joining a practice with an already stellar reputation for excellence and results. I hope to add maximum value as a resource, advocate and partner."

Dhanidina said he is excited to return to private practice.

"I feel great humility for the honor of serving the public for 23 years as a prosecutor, judge and appellate justice. The experiences

I had were profoundly rewarding and have made me an immeasurably better citizen and lawyer," he said. "I feel that I have a better understanding of how to best use my skills as an advocate on behalf of my clients having seen how those cases play out in trial and on appeal."

Dhanidina's parents, both teachers, immigrated to the U.S. from Tanzania and settled in Evanston, Ill., where his father attended Northwestern University.

"My parents sponsored other members of my extended family to settle in the U.S., so I grew up around many aunts, uncles, and cousins in the Chicago area," Dhanidina said. "Both of my parents worked long hours and wanted me to focus my energies on academics, so I didn't play organized sports growing up, but I am a diehard (often suffering) fan of Chicago's professional sports teams."

After graduating from UCLA School of Law, Dhanidina became a prosecutor in the Los Angeles

County District Attorney's Office, where he remained for 14 years. Gov. Jerry Brown named him to the Los Angeles County Superior Court in 2012 and to the 2nd District Court of Appeal in 2018.

"One of the first things I learned as a DA was that even the most routine cases for me were of great significance to the victims, witnesses, and defendants involved in them," Dhanidina said. "As a result, I tried to always give each case all of my effort and attention in that spirit."

Mark Werksman called Dhanidina "an icon in the California legal community whose reputation and skill is unparalleled."

"As a former deputy district attorney, Superior Court Judge, and Appellate Court Justice, Halim brings to bear a unique and incomparable perspective to the practice of criminal law," Werksman said. "He knows how to try a case, he knows juries, and he clearly knows the courts."

[douglas\\_saunders@dailyjournal.com](mailto:douglas_saunders@dailyjournal.com)