

A Biography of Royce Lewellen

Royce Lewellen was born in St, Louis, Missouri, and received his undergraduate degree, with academic distinction, from the University of Missouri in 1952. Following service in the Air Force, he attended Boalt School of Law at UC Berkeley, graduating in 1957. Lewellen engaged in a general civil practice of law in Solvang, California and served as the Solvang Justice Court Judge from 1969 to 1975. He then was appointed as Judge of the Superior Court, sitting in Santa Maria, California. Upon his retirement, the courthouse complex in Santa Maria was officially named the Lewellen Justice Center in his honor. After retirement, he continued to serve the courts as an Assigned Judge, and conducted private arbitration and mediation services.

From 1974 to 1975, he served as a Director of the California Judges, Marshals & Constables Association, and from 1982 to 1985, was an Officer and Director of the California Judges Association. He also served as Chairman of the Retired Judges' Committee for the California Judges Association from 1991 to 1992.

His other business interests included serving as an Officer and Director of Contract Freighters, Inc., a motor carrier, which provides truckload service to the United States, Mexico, and Canada. He is a founding director of the Community Bank of Santa Maria.

In addition to his legal career, Royce has a long record of community service and involvement including: Trustee of the Solvang School Board; President and Director of the Solvang Business Association; numerous positions with the United Presbyterian Church, including service as the Moderator of Santa Barbara Presbytery; President and Director of the Rotary Club; Director of the Santa Maria YMCA; Director of the Family Service Agency of Santa Barbara; United Way of the Santa Ynez Valley; founding Director of Solvang TheaterFest; Director of the Allan Hancock College Foundation; Founding Director of the PCPA Foundation; President and Member of the Santa Maria Wine & Food Society, a member of the Board of the UCSB Economic Forecast Project for the Santa Ynez Valley; and a member of the Coastal Voices Choir.

Currently retired, but showing no signs of slowing down, Royce embarked on his latest venture in 1996 with renowned wine grape grower Louis Lucas. With their long time love of wine, Royce and Louis have set out to produce the finest wines in Santa Barbara County. Royce states, **"I could not have gone into this business with a better man than Louis Lucas. I don't have time in my life to do anything that is not first class or to deal with people I don't trust. I trust Louis Lucas and I trust our winemaker Dan Gehrs. They both maintain standards of uncompromising quality."**

Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards have catapulted into the wine business, boasting their seventh vintage year, with two tasting rooms and a state of the art winery.

Royce and his wife, Ann, live in Santa Ynez, California.

