

William Newsom

William Alfred Newsom III (February 15, 1934 – December 12, 2018) was an American state appeals court judge, administrator of the Getty family trust, and the father of California Governor Gavin Newsom.^[2]

Early life and education

Newsom was born in San Francisco, California, the son of Christine Anne (née Brennan) and William A. Newsom II. All of his friends and family referred to him as Bill. Newsom, a native San Franciscan, had established political and monetary ties. His father ran Pat Brown's campaign for San Francisco district attorney, who then later became governor of California.^[3]

Newsom's late sister Barbara was once married to Ron Pelosi, brother-in-law of Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi. He was also a close friend of Gordon Getty, son of oil tycoon J. Paul Getty, who lived in his house during the 1940s while attending St. Ignatius Catholic prep school in San Francisco.^[2]

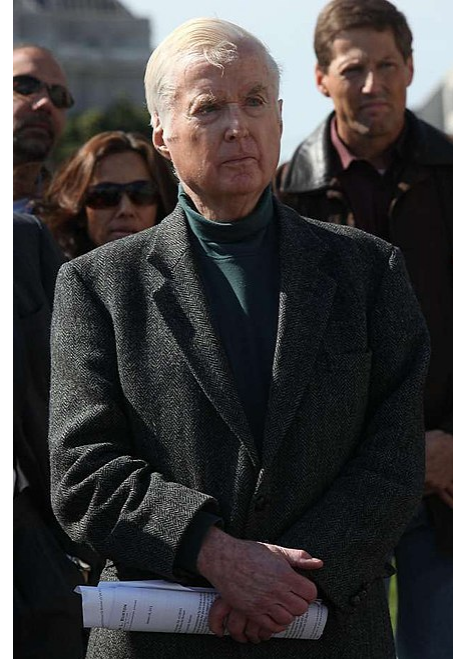
Newsom went to University of San Francisco, followed by Stanford Law School and was admitted to the California Bar in 1962.

Career

He worked as legal adviser to the Italian division of Getty Oil and then as a tax attorney for the Getty family. Newsom helped to deliver the ransom money for the release of John Paul Getty III.^[4]

In 1967, he married Tessa Menzies, and had two children (including Gavin) before divorcing after five years.^[3] In 1968, he ran unsuccessfully against State Senator Milton Marks, a popular Republican.^[3] Newsom was also corporate counsel and a board member for Trans-International Computer Investment Corporation (TCI), which handled classified government contracts, for which Newsom was issued a National Security Clearance. TCI went bankrupt in 1971 after what the Sacramento District Attorney called "the biggest stock fraud in California history," whose participants included many members of Governor Reagan's Kitchen Cabinet and appointment secretary Helene von Damm. For most of 1969 and 1970, Newsom traveled across Europe alongside former SS Gestapo member Otto von Bolschwing who had been brought to the US by the CIA under Operation Paperclip and

William Newsom



Born	William Alfred Newsom III February 15, 1934 <u>San Francisco, California, U.S.</u>
Died	December 12, 2018 (aged 84) <u>San Francisco, California, U.S.</u>
Education	<u>University of San Francisco</u> (BA) <u>Stanford University</u> (JD)
Occupation(s)	Judge, lawyer
Spouse	Tessa Thomas Menzies (m. 1966; div. 1972) ^[1]
Children	2; including <u>Gavin</u> ^[1]

appointed TCI's president by Getty due to his former Nazi intelligence connections and their value in obtaining defense technology contracts. It was during this time that von Bolschwing introduced Newsom to the business of importing and selling wine from Argentina - a business venture that would later be emulated by Newsom's son, Gavin.^[5]

In 1975, Jerry Brown appointed Newsom to the Superior Court bench in Auburn (Placer County) and later to the state Court of Appeal in San Francisco, where he served until his retirement in 1995.^[3] In this role he ruled on several prominent cases including the right of privacy for people with HIV, the liability of the San Francisco 49ers for a player's injury and ruled against the prestigious Bohemian Club's ban on employing women.^[6] An advocate of rehabilitative justice, Newsom was also part of a panel of judges that ruled that the perpetrators of the 1976 Chowchilla kidnapping would be eligible for parole.^[7]

Investment management

Newsom served as a financial advisor for the Getty family businesses. He directly managed the Gordon P. Getty Family Trust, which is estimated at more than \$2 billion.^[2] The trust earns about 2 percent a year resulting in approximately \$40 million in annual income.^[3] He screened potential investments and made recommendations on real estate, stocks, bonds, and other ventures. "I make my living working for Gordon Getty", Newsom said in 2003.^[2]

Other interests

Newsom was a keen environmentalist and served on the boards of both the Sierra Club Foundation and the Environmental Defense Fund.^[6] He helped to found the Mountain Lion Preservation Foundation and was also a member of Earth Justice.^[7] He was also an advocate for otters and had one as a pet.^[8] During his judicial career he had had to curb his advocacy for environmental protection to maintain his professional neutrality.^[6] Newsom was also a keen walker and would take Gavin backpacking along the rivers of California.^[6] He had a large collection of books and would often read while in the bathtub.^[7]

Newsom was married to Tessa in 1966 and their son Gavin was born the next year; a daughter followed in 1968. Newsom was divorced shortly afterwards and Tessa died in 2002.^[7] In 2004 he administered the oath of office to Gavin upon his appointment as mayor of San Francisco.^[6]

Death

Newsom died of ulcerative colitis at his home in San Francisco on December 12, 2018, at the age of 84, less than a month before his son Gavin took office as governor.^[9]

References

- Hough, Marie T.; Woolfolk, Nancy; Grabb, Bernadette (1989). *The American Bench* (<https://books.google.com/books?id=YNJFAQAIAAJ&q=Tessa+Thomas+william+newsom>). Reginald Bishop Forster & Associates. ISBN 9780931398193.

2. Byrne, Peter (April 2, 2003). "Bringing Up Baby Gavin - Page 1" (<http://www.sfweekly.com/2003-04-02/news/bringing-up-baby-gavin/>). *SF Weekly*. p. 1. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100722023716/http://www.sfweekly.com/2003-04-02/news/bringing-up-baby-gavin/>) from the original on July 22, 2010. Retrieved July 30, 2010.
 3. Byrne, Peter (April 2, 2003). "Bringing Up Baby Gavin - Page 2" (<http://www.sfweekly.com/2003-04-02/news/bringing-up-baby-gavin/2/>). *SF Weekly*. p. 2. Archived (<https://web.archive.org/web/20100326041636/http://www.sfweekly.com/2003-04-02/news/bringing-up-baby-gavin/2/>) from the original on March 26, 2010. Retrieved July 30, 2010.
 4. "Bringing Up Baby Gavin - April 2, 2003" (<http://www.sfweekly.com/news/bringing-up-baby-gavin/>). *SF Weekly*. 2 April 2003. Retrieved 13 December 2018.
 5. Carey, Pete (Nov 20, 1981). "Ex-Nazi's brilliant U.S. career strangled in a web of lies" (<https://archive.org/details/rg-80.18.07-san-jose-mercury-article-november-20-1981>). *San Jose Mercury News*.
 6. "William Newsom, 84, California Judge and Governor-Elect's Father, Dies" (<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/13/obituaries/william-newsom-dead.html>). *The New York Times*. 13 December 2018. Retrieved 14 December 2018.
 7. December 13, Posted on; Am, Posted on. "William Newsom, father of Gavin Newsom, dies at age 84" (https://www.sfexaminer.com/news/william-newsom-father-of-gavin-newsom-dies-at-age-84/article_31bed42d-adba-57fc-8b4b-236fefaa5b56.html). *The San Francisco Examiner*. Retrieved 14 December 2018.
 8. Luna, Taryn (August 21, 2019). "Gov. Gavin Newsom's first pet? An otter, he tells 2nd-graders in Paradise, Calif" (<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2019-08-21/gavin-newsom-childhood-pet-otter-visit-paradise-school>). *Los Angeles Times*. Retrieved August 22, 2019.
 9. Whiting, Sam. "Judge William Newsom, father of California Gov.-elect Gavin Newsom, dies" (<https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/article/Judge-William-Newsom-gavin-father-dad-dies-13461955.php>). *San Francisco Chronicle*. Retrieved December 12, 2018.
-

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=William_Newsom&oldid=1163366479"