

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102-3688

Report

TO: Members of the Judicial Council

FROM: Judicial Council Internal Committee Chairs

DATE: June 26, 2009

SUBJECT: Judicial Council Distinguished Service Awards for 2009
(Action Required)

Issue Statement

The Judicial Council approves the winners of the annual Distinguished Service Awards for significant and positive contributions to court administration in California.

Recommendation

The chairs of the three internal committees recommend that the Judicial Council approve the winners of the 2009 Distinguished Service Awards. Their recommendations will be distributed at the council meeting.

Rationale

This is the 16th year that the Judicial Council will be awarding the Distinguished Service Awards for significant and positive contributions to court administration in California. Attached is the invitation seeking nominations for the awards.

Alternative Actions Considered

N/A

Comments From Interested Parties

N/A

Implementation Requirements and Costs

The awards will be presented at a date and location to be announced. The awards will have no fiscal impact.

Attachments

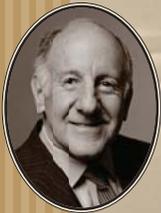


JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

Distinguished Service Awards

Honoring Excellence in the Judicial Branch

INVITATION TO NOMINATE



Dear Colleagues and Justice Partners,

I cordially invite your nominations for the highest awards bestowed by our state judicial branch, the Judicial Council of California Distinguished Service Awards.

These three awards—the Jurist of the Year, the Judicial Administration Award, and the Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award—honor our colleagues who make extraordinary contributions to our court system and help to personify our ideals by their dedication to the administration of justice.

Award categories and criteria are included in this invitation. Nomination forms and deadline information are available on the California Courts Web site.

We look forward to receiving your nomination.

Sincerely,

Ronald M. George
Chief Justice of California and
Chair of the Judicial Council

Photo of Chief Justice Ronald M. George: Jock McDonald Film Inc.

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA
Distinguished Service Awards

The Judicial Council invites nominations for three Distinguished Service Awards, presented annually by the Chief Justice to recognize individuals who exemplify the strengths of leadership that have improved the administration of justice statewide.

JURIST OF THE YEAR, honoring members of the judiciary for their extraordinary dedication to the highest principles of the administration of justice statewide

JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION AWARD, honoring individuals in judicial administration for significant contributions to and leadership in their profession statewide

BERNARD E. WITKIN AMICUS CURIAE AWARD, honoring individuals other than members of the judiciary for outstanding contributions to the courts of California

*A*WARDS CRITERIA

Honorees are recognized for

- Contributions to leadership in statewide court administration, including the breadth and impact of their work and the longevity of these efforts
- Advancement of Judicial Council goals: access, fairness, and diversity; independence and accountability; modernization of management and administration; quality of justice and service to the public; education for branchwide professional excellence; and branchwide infrastructure for service excellence
- Personal dedication and/or a willingness to take risks to achieve goals
- Overcoming challenges or limitations

Current Judicial Council members are not eligible to receive Distinguished Service Awards. A maximum of two awards per category may be given each year.

*N*OMINATION FORMS

June 1 is the deadline for nominations. For more information on the awards and nomination forms, visit the California Courts Web site at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/distinguishedservice.htm. The nomination form is at www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/dsa-critnom.htm.

*C*ONTACT

Questions regarding the nominations and awards should be directed to Claudia Fernandes at the Administrative Office of the Courts, 415-865-7799, claudia.fernandes@jud.ca.gov.

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JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA

Distinguished Service Awards



The Judicial Council invites nominations for three Distinguished Service Awards, presented annually by the Chief Justice to recognize individuals who exemplify the strengths of leadership that have improved the administration of justice statewide.

- **Jurist of the Year**
Honoring members of the judiciary for their extraordinary dedication to the highest principles of the administration of justice statewide
- **Judicial Administration Award**
Honoring individuals in judicial administration for significant contributions to and leadership in their profession statewide
- **Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award**
Honoring individuals other than members of the judiciary for outstanding contributions to the courts of California

Learn more about the Distinguished Service Awards [criteria and nomination process](#).

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Judicial Council: Distinguished Service Awards: Criteria and Nominations

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA *Distinguished Service Awards*

Awards Criteria and Nominations



Honorees are recognized for:

- Contributions to leadership in statewide court administration, including the breadth and impact of their work and the longevity of these efforts
- Advancement of Judicial Council goals: access, fairness, and diversity; independence and accountability; modernization of management and administration; quality of justice and service to the public; education for branchwide professional excellence; and branchwide infrastructure for service excellence
- Personal dedication and/or a willingness to take risks to achieve goals
- Overcoming challenges or limitations

Current Judicial Council members are not eligible to receive Distinguished Service Awards. A maximum of two awards per category may be given each year.

Deadline

June 1, 2009 is the deadline for nominations.

Nomination Forms

[2009 Distinguished Service Award Nomination Form](#) (fillable, Word, 116 KB)

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Judicial Council of California Nomination for the Annual Distinguished Service Awards

2009 NOMINATION DEADLINE: Monday, June 1, 2009

My nominee should receive the following award (*check one*):

- JURIST OF THE YEAR AWARD
Honors members of the judiciary for their extraordinary dedication to the highest principles of the administration of justice statewide.
- JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION AWARD
Honors individuals in judicial administration for significant statewide contributions to and leadership in their profession.
- BERNARD E. WITKIN AMICUS CURIAE AWARD
Honors individuals other than members of the judiciary for their outstanding contributions to the courts of California.

Nominee

Name:

Title/Position:

Court/Organization:

Work Address:

Telephone: Fax:

Nominated by:

Name:

Title/Position:

Full Name of Court/Organization:

Work Address:

Telephone: Fax:

Work Relationship to Nominee:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION PERIOD CLOSES June 1, 2009

Please send completed nomination forms to: Ms. Claudia Fernandes
Administrative Office of the Courts, Education Division/CJER
455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3688
claudia.fernandes@jud.ca.gov

Nominee's Qualifications for Award

1. Describe the nominee's contributions to leadership in statewide court administration, including the breadth and impact of his or her work and the longevity of these efforts (*include any relevant dates, names of courts, and so on*).
2. Specify how the nominee's work meets the award criteria and advances the goals of the Judicial Council (*access, fairness, and diversity; independence and accountability; modernization of management and administration; quality of justice and service to the public; education for branchwide professional excellence; and branchwide infrastructure for service excellence*).
3. Describe how the nominee's contributions have benefited the court or community.
4. Explain how the nominee has shown personal dedication, extraordinary commitment, or a willingness to take risks in his or her contributions to statewide court administration.
5. Tell how the nominee has overcome any challenges or limitations.
6. Provide any additional information that would help the committee evaluate the nominee.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION PERIOD CLOSES June 1, 2009

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Distinguished
Service
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Judicial Council: Distinguished Service Awards: Past Recipients

Criteria and
Nominations

Past
Recipients

JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA *Distinguished Service Awards*

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Winners of the 2008 Distinguished Service Awards



Jurists of the Year

Judge J. Richard Couzens, retired from the Superior Court of Placer County, was honored for his outstanding service as co-leader of a special team of assigned judges that helped reduce the criminal case backlog in Riverside County in 2007 and 2008.

Supervising Judge David S. Wesley, of the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, Criminal Division, was chosen for his extraordinary work as the judicial leader of the special team of assigned judges that assisted in reducing the criminal case backlog in Riverside County.

Judicial Administration Award

Sharol Strickland, executive officer of the Superior Court of Butte County, has demonstrated innovative and outstanding leadership by improving the administration of justice in Butte County and throughout the state, especially through her service on the Judicial Council of California and its committees. She is known for her principles and courage in speaking out on important issues that affect statewide court administration.

Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award

Kenneth W. Babcock, Executive Director and General Counsel of the Public Law Center in Santa Ana, was honored for his extraordinary work to improve access to justice to low-income residents of Orange County and throughout the state.

[Click Here](#) for the full news release.

Past Recipients

Jurist of the Year

1993 Hon. Patrick J. Morris and Hon. H. Walter Croskey

1994 Hon. Roy L. Wonder

1995 Hon. Roger K. Warren

1996 Hon. Robert M. Mallano

1997 Hon. Steven E. Jahr

1998 Hon. John A. Flaherty

1999 Hon. Kathleen E. O'Leary and Hon. James A. Ardaiz

2000 Hon. Veronica McBeth and Hon. Judith D. McConnell
2001 Hon. Daniel J. Kremer
2002 Hon. James Allen Bascue and Hon. Lois Haight
2003 Hon. James D. Ward, Hon. Carol A. Corrigan, and Hon. Leonard P. Edwards
2004-2005 Hon. Patricia Bamattre-Manoukian and Hon. Frederick Paul Horn
2006 Hon. Richard D. Aldrich
2007 Hon. Norman L. Epstien

Judicial Administration Award

1993 Edward M. Kritzman
1994 Arthur Sims and Diane Nunn
1995 Sheila Calabro
1996 Ronald G. Overholt
1997 Alan Slater
1998 Susan Null and William C. Vickrey
1999 Frederick "Fritz" Ohlrich and Kiri S. Torre
2000 Stephen V. Love and Christine Patton
2001 Michael M. Roddy
2002 Tamara Lynn Beard and Ray LeBov
2003 Jeanne Millsaps and Christine M. Hansen
2004-2005 Jody Patel and Karen M. Thorson
2006 Tressa Sloan Kentner and Patricia M. Yerian
2007 Ken Torre

Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award

1993 Richard Chernick
1994 Margaret Morrow and Alan Post
1995 Larry L. Sipes
1996 Hon. Phillip Isenberg
1997 Hon. Pete Wilson
1998 J. Clark Kelso
1999 Hon. Elwood Lui (Ret.)
2000 Andrew Guilford
2001 William A. Fenwick
2002 Jay Folberg
2003 James Herman and Hon. George Deukmejian
2004-2005 Alba Witkin
2006 John M. Hancock
2007 Hon. Sandra Day O'Connor

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