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## **ABA Names Chief Justice George Winner of 2007 John Marshall Award**

Chicago – The American Bar Association Justice Center has announced that it has selected California Chief Justice Ronald M. George as the winner of the 2007 John Marshall Award.

The award will be presented on Friday, August 10, during the American Bar Association's annual meeting in San Francisco.

This award is named in honor of John Marshall, fourth Chief Justice of the United States, who is credited with establishing the independence of the judiciary and enhancing its moral authority. The award was to recognize those dedicated to the improvement of the administration of justice.

As head of the largest court system in the nation, Chief Justice George has paved the way for historic court reforms in California, including state court funding, trial court unification, and state governance of court facilities. In addition, the Chief Justice has led major innovations in the state jury system, family and juvenile law services, and court interpreters, and has improved access to justice for the many Californians who cannot afford an attorney.

Chief Justice George also has spoken widely about the importance of judicial independence and the need for a fair and impartial court system in our democratic system of government.

Past recipients include Judge Norma L. Shapiro, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (2006); Chief Judge Judith S. Kaye, of New York (2005); William T. Coleman, Jr., of Washington, D.C. (2004); U.S. Senator Howell Heflin, of Alabama (2003); Justice Anthony Kennedy, of the U.S.

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Supreme Court (2002); and Governor Tom Ridge, of Pennsylvania (2001).

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