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Judicial Council Presents 2006 Winners of Distinguished Service Awards

San Francisco—Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey today presented the Judicial Council of California's Distinguished Service Awards to four persons who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and made significant contributions to the administration of justice in California. The awards were made at the Summit of Judicial Leaders, which opened yesterday in San Francisco. The award recipients follow.

- Justice Richard D. Aldrich, of the Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three is the recipient of the *Jurist of the Year Award*, which honors members of the judiciary for their extraordinary dedication to the highest principles of the administration of justice statewide. Justice Aldrich has worked to improve the access of self-represented litigants and persons with disabilities to the courts and was instrumental in establishing complex litigation courts in California.
- Ms. Tressa Sloan Kentner and Ms. Patricia M. Yerian received the *Judicial Administration Award*, which honors individuals in judicial administration for significant contributions to and leadership in their profession statewide.
 - Ms. Kentner, Executive Officer of the Superior Court of San Bernardino County, has been dedicated to enhancing public understanding of the courts and providing improved court services to Californians.
 - Ms. Yerian, Director of the Information Services Division of the Administrative Office of the Courts, has set broad new directions for judicial branch information technology.
- Mr. John Hancock, the president of California Channel, a public affairs television network, is the recipient of the *Bernard E. Witkin Award*, which honors individuals other than members of the judiciary for their

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outstanding contributions to the courts of California. Mr. Hancock has been instrumental in improving public trust in the courts by televising important cases argued by the California Supreme Court and broadcasting judicial branch events. He has helped make California a national leader in public outreach programs.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and ensures leadership and excellence in court administration.