



## Judicial Council of California · Administrative Office of the Courts

455 Golden Gate Avenue · San Francisco, California 94102-3688

[www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov)

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# REPORT TO THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL

For business meeting on: October 28, 2011

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Title	Agenda Item Type
Judicial Council Report on Distinguished Service Award Recipients for the October 2011 Meeting	Action Required
Rules, Forms, Standards, or Statutes Affected	Effective Date
None	October 28, 2011
Recommended by	Date of Report
Hon. Marvin R. Baxter, Chair Policy Coordination and Liaison Committee	October 6, 2011
Hon. Douglas P. Miller, Chair Executive and Planning Committee	Contact
Hon. Harry E. Hull, Jr., Chair Rules and Projects Committee	Claudia Fernandes, 415-865-7799 <a href="mailto:claudia.fernandes@jud.ca.gov">claudia.fernandes@jud.ca.gov</a>

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### Executive Summary

The chairs of three Judicial Council internal committees, the Policy Coordination and Liaison Committee, Executive and Planning Committee, and Rules and Projects Committee, recommend that the council approve the recommended recipients of the 2011 Judicial Council of California Distinguished Service Awards. These annual awards, the highest honors bestowed by the judicial branch, recognize individuals who exemplify the leadership strengths that create significant and positive contributions to court administration in California. Following council approval, the awards will be presented on a date and at an event to be determined.

## **Recommendation**

The chairs of the Policy Coordination and Liaison Committee, the Executive and Planning Committee, and the Rules and Projects Committee, recommend that the Judicial Council approve the recipients of the 2011 Distinguished Service Awards: the Ronald M. George Award for Judicial Excellence, the William C. Vickrey Leadership in Judicial Administration Award, the Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award, and the Stanley Mosk Defender of Justice Award, according to the recommendations distributed at this meeting.

## **Previous Council Action**

This is the 18th year that the Judicial Council will award the Distinguished Service Awards for significant and positive contributions to court administration in California.

## **Rationale for Recommendation**

Award recipients are selected for the following qualities and achievements:

- The Ronald M. George Award for Judicial Excellence honors members of the judiciary for their extraordinary dedication to the highest principles of the administration of justice statewide.
- The William C. Vickrey Leadership in Judicial Administration Award honors individuals in judicial administration for significant statewide contributions to and leadership in their profession.
- The Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award honors individuals other than members of the judiciary for their outstanding contributions to the courts of California.
- The Stanley Mosk Defender of Justice Award honors individuals from federal, state, and local government for significant contributions to advancing equal access to fair and consistent justice in California.

The invitation seeking nominations for the awards is attached.

## **Comments, Alternatives Considered, and Policy Implications**

The Invitation to Nominate for these awards is posted on [www.courts.ca.gov](http://www.courts.ca.gov), the judicial branch's public website. All nominations received in response to the invitation are evaluated by the membership of the recommending Judicial Council internal committees prior to selecting the recommended recipients.

## **Attachments**

1. Attachment A: Distinguished Service Awards Invitation to Nominate



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 four awards—the Ronald M. George Award for Judicial Excellence, the Judicial Administration Award, the Bernard E. Witkin Amicus Curiae Award, and the Stanley Mosk Defender of Justice 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 website.*

*We look forward to receiving your nomination.*

*Sincerely,*

TANI CANTIL-SAKAUYE  
Chief Justice of California and  
Chair of the Judicial Council



JUDICIAL COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA  
*Distinguished Service Awards*

*The Judicial Council invites nominations* for four 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.

***RONALD M. GEORGE AWARD FOR JUDICIAL EXCELLENCE***, 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

***STANLEY MOSK DEFENDER OF JUSTICE AWARD***, honoring individuals from federal, state, and local government for significant contributions to advancing equal access to fair and consistent justice in 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
  - ◆ Leadership and commitment in partnering with the judicial branch to achieve positive changes in statewide court administration (for the Stanley Mosk Award only)
- 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, except in the case of the Stanley Mosk Defender of Justice Award. 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, visit the California Courts website at [www.courts.ca.gov/3048.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/3048.htm). The nomination form is at [www.courts.ca.gov/4675.htm](http://www.courts.ca.gov/4675.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](mailto:claudia.fernandes@jud.ca.gov).