



Superior Court of California County of Riverside

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NEWS For Immediate Release

March 22, 2006

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(electronic version available at www.courts.co.riverside.ca.us/newsmedia)

Court Honors Volunteer Attorneys with Appreciation Ceremony

Riverside County: In a ceremony this evening at the Riverside Historic Courthouse, the court will honor the many attorneys who served the court on a volunteer basis in 2004 and 2005. Attorneys throughout Riverside County will be recognized for their contributions as temporary judges, mediators, settlement attorneys, and court advisory committee members, as well as for their pro bono representation of parties in family law and probate cases.

The population of Riverside County has increased 20% since 2000, but the court has gained only one new judgeship during that time. Burdensome caseloads are commonplace. Volunteer attorneys have played a vital role in the court's ability to meet the demands that the county's ever-increasing population has placed on Riverside's judicial system. Volunteer attorneys have consistently given of their time and talent to hear civil, criminal, family law, juvenile, traffic, probate, and small claims cases as temporary judges, volunteering over 7,000 hours during 2004 and 2005. "Volunteer attorneys have played a critical role in easing case backlogs," said Presiding Judge Sharon Waters. "The court consistently relies on the generosity and commitment of

these volunteers to help shoulder the burden of overwhelming caseloads. These attorneys are truly dedicated to public service and the administration of justice.”

Tonight’s ceremony will include a presentation of certificates to all volunteers and presentation of a judicial proclamation to the presidents of the Riverside County Bar Association, the Desert Bar Association, the Southwest Riverside County Bar Association, and the Hemet/San Jacinto Bar Association. One attorney, distinguished by his or her service of most volunteer hours, will receive an honorary plaque from the judges. The recipient of this top award will be announced at the ceremony.

Judge Waters stated that the court hopes to make the recognition ceremony an annual event. She added, “These attorneys have not only volunteered their time in court, but they have made time commitments to training courses as well. Their contributions have assisted the court in ensuring that equal access is available to the public on a consistent basis. Tonight’s ceremony is just one small way for the court to show its appreciation of their enthusiastic support.”

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