



**Superior Court of California
County of Riverside**

4075 Main Street, Suite 310, Riverside, CA 92501

NEWS ADVISORY

October 12, 2007

Contact: Inga E. McElyea, Court Executive Officer

(951) 955-5536

(electronic version available at

<http://riverside.courts.ca.gov/newsmedia/newsmedia.htm>

**Riverside Opportunity Center Honors Riverside County's
Presiding Judge**

Riverside County: Riverside County Superior Court's chief administrative judge was honored last evening with an award from the Riverside Opportunity Center.

Presiding Judge Richard T. Fields received the Golden Legal Eagle Award at the Center's annual banquet for his outstanding service to the community, the disabled, and senior citizens. The award was presented by local attorney Virginia Blumenthal and Justice John Gabbert, who last year received the Center's highest accolade, the Spirit of Greatness Award.

Each year the Riverside Opportunity Center honors Riverside role models in ten categories who have excelled in their profession or field of endeavor and made great contributions to the Riverside community. Each recipient receives a Golden Eagle Award.

In addition to presiding in the courts of Riverside for over 15 years, Judge Fields has dedicated himself to community service in both his personal and professional life. Soon after receiving his law degree from Western State University College of Law in

1983, he was awarded a Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship, joining a legacy of approximately 2,300 bright young lawyers who between 1967 and 1985 committed themselves to providing legal aid to the poor. As a member and past president of the Riverside Sunrise Rotary Club, he has mentored students, organized community immunization drives, assisted at the Inland AIDS Walk, and helped send students to leadership camp. As a member of the Corona Youth Advisory Group, he has helped youngsters in the community achieve academic excellence. He has also been a Mock Trial judge and judicial mentor for approximately 14 years.

Judge Fields commented, “I am very honored and humbled that the selection committee would deem me worthy to received this award. It’s important that we work to help others who are less fortunate than ourselves.”

The Riverside Opportunity Center was founded in 1979 by U.S. Pastors Association National President, Bishop Dr. Jerry Louder. Today the nonprofit center is directed by the Reverent Phalia Louder and assists the poor through food and clothing donations, job counseling and placement, housing, and skills training.

#####