



**Superior Court of California  
County of Riverside**

4050 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92501

**NEWS ADVISORY**

December 5, 2007

Contact: Richard T. Fields, Presiding Judge

(951) 955-5536

(electronic version available at:

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

**COURT'S PRESIDING JUDGE HONORED BY SOUTHWEST REGION LAWYERS**

**RIVERSIDE COUNTY:** On December 6, the Southwest Riverside County Bar Association will bestow the Award for Professional Excellence on Riverside County Superior Court Presiding Judge Richard Fields for Judicial Officer of the Year. Local attorney Shaun Hanson will also be honored as Attorney of the Year. Association president Kelly Bennett will present the awards at the bar's annual installation of officers and holiday luncheon tomorrow in Murrieta.

"We are pleased to honor Richard Fields with this award for outstanding Judicial Officer of the Year," Ms. Bennett stated. "Judge Fields has worked tirelessly and has made herculean efforts to bring additional judicial resources to Riverside County. The Southwest Riverside County Bar Association applauds Judge Fields and thanks him for his dedication to providing heightened court services and access to justice."

Thursday's luncheon will mark the inaugural ceremony for the Professional Excellence Awards, which were instituted by the Southwest Riverside County Bar Association in response to the tremendous growth of the county's southwest region and its legal community. This year's recipients were determined based on nominations from bar association members who were solicited by ballot and asked to nominate a judicial officer and an attorney who have distinguished themselves by their outstanding contributions and level of service to the community, display of expertise, or excellence in practice.

"I'm very, very honored to receive this prestigious award from the Southwest Riverside County Bar Association," stated Judge Fields. "I am truly humbled that they find me worthy of this recognition."

The awards luncheon will also feature guest speaker Assistant Presiding Judge Thomas Cahraman who will speak on the topic of "Raising the Bar: Expanding Your Influence into the Community and Beyond the Billable Hour."

#####