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The Honorable Joan Dempsey Klein and Ronald L. Olson to be honored at the Los Angeles County Bar Association’s Installation and Awards Dinner on June 25th

LACBA to Install 2015-16 President, Officers and Board of Trustees

LOS ANGELES, May 20, 2015 — The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), one of the largest metropolitan voluntary bar associations in the country, will present its Outstanding Jurist Award to Hon. Joan Dempsey Klein and its Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award to Ronald L. Olson at its 2015 Installation and Awards Dinner on Thursday, June 25th at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in downtown Los Angeles.

LACBA will also install Paul R. Kiesel as its President, along with its other incoming Officers – President-Elect Margaret P. Stevens, Senior Vice President Michael K. Lindsey and Vice President David K. Reinert – and the Board of Trustees during the evening’s program.

LACBA’s Outstanding Jurist Award

“Every woman practicing law today owes a debt of gratitude to Justice Klein, whose career opened new and exciting opportunities for women in the legal profession,” said Linda L. Curtis, LACBA President. “She is an inspiration to each of us, and her contributions to the law and equality will live on for generations.”

“Thank you for this recognition – it gives me the opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude to the Los Angeles County Bar Association for its support of women in the bar and on the bench,” said Justice Klein. “I hope the commitment will continue. Such assurance will make my retirement more acceptable.”

A pioneer on behalf of women in the legal profession, Justice Klein is the former Presiding Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District, Division Three, and was one of its longest-tenured justices, having served on the bench for more than 51 years before retiring late last year.

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She graduated from UCLA Law School and was admitted to the State Bar of California in 1955, working for seven years as a state deputy attorney general prior to her appointment to the Los Angeles Municipal Court in 1963. Justice Klein was the first UCLA Law School graduate to be appointed to the bench. As Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court, she initiated citywide Bail by Mail and inaugurated the Los Angeles County Planning and Research Unit for the courts.

In 1974, Justice Klein was elected to the Superior Court before being appointed to the California Court of Appeal in 1978, becoming the first female Presiding Justice in California.

But Justice Klein’s legacy goes well beyond the bench. She was the co-founder and first president of the National Association of Women Judges and the founding president of California Women Lawyers. She also helped found the International Association of Women Judges.

Among her numerous awards, she was named the Los Angeles Times’ Woman of the Year, received the American Bar Association (ABA) Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, State Bar of California Bernard E. Witkin Medal, California Women Lawyers’ Joan Dempsey Klein Award and LACBA’s Trailblazers of the Bar Award.

**LACBA’s Shattuck-Price Award**

LACBA will also present one of its highest honors – the Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award – to Ronald L. Olson for his extraordinary career of serving clients of national and global importance, while improving and developing alternative methods to achieve resolutions in our justice system and increasing access to justice.

“We commend Mr. Olson for his work on innovative resolutions to high-profile, high-impact cases, and his leadership of law-related non-profits serving our communities,” Curtis said. “His cases have set national precedent and impacted the very way in which we practice law and resolve cases today.”

Upon learning of the award, Mr. Olson said, “I am deeply appreciative of this recognition from my home bar association and its many members with whom I have shared my professional life. I am humbled by the prior recipients of the Shattuck-Price Award, several of whom were my mentors.”

Mr. Olson is a name partner in the Los Angeles office of Munger, Tolles & Olson where he has earned a reputation as one of the country’s leading corporate litigators and counselors. He has helped change the way in which cases are resolved by helping to define and promote the use of alternative dispute resolution.

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Throughout his extraordinary career, he has counseled executives, boards of directors and corporations on a wide range of matters, including Berkshire Hathaway, PepsiCo and the founders of Google.

His litigation has reached from representation of the Getty Museum regarding foreign government claims to its antiquities collection, the Republic of the Philippines against the Marcos family, and major oil companies in the Exxon-Valdez oil spill to current representations of the NFL regarding concussion and antitrust cases, NCAA in its defense of amateurism challenged by class actions seeking payment for Division 1 football and basketball players, Tokyo Electric Power Company regarding the Fukushima nuclear disaster, and the Imperial Irrigation District regarding Colorado River water rights and the restoration of the Salton Sea.

Mr. Olson was also one of the attorneys leading the recently concluded litigation that secured a fundamental change in how the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) treats homeless veterans. The lawsuit charged the VA with failing to care for mentally impaired homeless veterans and misuse of its 400 acre campus in West Los Angeles. In settlement, the VA agreed to develop a comprehensive plan for the campus to serve female, severely disabled, aging and homeless veterans. In addition, the VA agreed to accelerate the creation of a new long-term master plan outlining the future use of the West Los Angeles VA campus with a focus on supportive housing and services designed to rehabilitate the veterans to enable their return to their home communities and a productive life.

He generously gives of his time serving as a director, board member, or trustee for more than a dozen organizations, including the nonprofits RAND Corporation, California Institute of Technology and Mayo Clinic. He was also the founding chairman of the board of trustees of Southern California Public Radio (KPCC) and chairman of the Claremont Graduate School.

Mr. Olson also served on the California State Bar Board of Governors and the LACBA Board of Trustees.

He holds a baccalaureate degree from Drake University, a Juris Doctor from the University of Michigan, and a Diploma in Law from Oxford University, England, at which time he was the recipient of a Ford Foundation Fellowship.

To register for the event, please call 213-896-6560 and refer to registration code 012441.

About the Outstanding Jurist Award
LACBA’s Outstanding Jurist Award is presented annually to a current or past member of the federal or state judiciary in Los Angeles County who has made significant contributions from the bench through judicial ability and experience, temperament and demeanor, and knowledge of the law, as well as improvement or education of the legal community, the practice of law, and the community at large. For a complete list of the previous Outstanding Jurist Award recipients, please visit: http://www.lacba.org/oja.
About the Shattuck-Price Award
The Shattuck-Price Award was established in 1968 to honor two former LACBA presidents who died in office, Edward S. Shattuck in 1965 and Ira M. Price II in 1967. For a complete list of Shattuck-Price recipients, please visit: www.lacba.org/SPRecipients.

About the Los Angeles County Bar Association
The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) is one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the nation with nearly 21,000 members. LACBA is engaged in advancing the administration of justice and meeting the professional needs of lawyers. For more information on LACBA, visit www.lacba.org.

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