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Los Angeles County Bar Association to Honor L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and Hon. Arthur Gilbert at Its Installation and Awards Dinner on June 23

LACBA will also install its 2016-17 President, Officers and Board of Trustees

LOS ANGELES – June 22, 2016 – The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA), one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the country, will present its Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award to Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, and its Outstanding Jurist Award to Court of Appeal Presiding Justice Arthur Gilbert, at its Installation and Awards Dinner on Thursday, June 23, 2016, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in downtown Los Angeles.

LACBA will also install Margaret P. Stevens as its President, along with other incoming Officers – President-Elect Michael E. Meyer, Senior Vice President Philip H. Lam and Vice President Tamila C. Jensen – along with the Board of Trustees.

Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award

As part of the evening’s celebration, LACBA will present Supervisor Kuehl with its highest honor – the Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award – for her extraordinary dedication to the highest principles of the legal profession and to improving the administration of justice.

“LACBA is proud to recognize Supervisor Kuehl for her remarkable career and successful efforts to improve the quality of life for all Californians,” said LACBA President Paul R. Kiesel. “Her contributions to the practice of law and dedication to fair and equal justice is a legacy that will live on for generations.”

“I am very honored to be receiving this recognition from the Los Angeles County Bar Association and so many of my colleagues and friends. I have happily devoted my adult life to trying to use the majesty of the law to serve the expansion of equality and justice,” said Supervisor Kuehl.

Throughout her entire career, as a public-interest attorney, member of the California Senate, Speaker Pro Tempore of the California Assembly, and now as County Supervisor, she has worked and collaborated on a number of high-profile initiatives and legislation throughout the state, and in Los Angeles, to improve equality, civil rights, access to justice and legal protection.

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As Supervisor, she helped create the Sheriff’s Oversight Commission, supported the creation of the Office of Child Protection, reformed adult and juvenile justice systems to enhance second-chance and anti-recidivism programs, and established a position to concentrate specifically on LGBT foster youth, in addition to many other programs.

She is also Chair of the Board of Commissioners of First Five, LA, and a member of the Boards of Directors of Metro, the Expo Authority, and the LA Local Agency Formation Commission.

Supervisor Kuehl previously served eight years in the California Senate and six years in the State Assembly. She was the first woman in California to be named Speaker Pro Tempore of the Assembly and first openly gay or lesbian person to be elected to the California Legislature. Supervisor Kuehl served as chair of the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, Natural Resources and Water Committee, and Budget Subcommittee on Water, Energy and Transportation, as well as the Assembly Judiciary Committee.

She authored 171 bills that were signed into law, including legislation to establish paid family leave, nurse-to-patient ratios in hospitals, and prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender and disability in the workplace and sexual orientation in education, among others.

Prior to her election to the Legislature, Supervisor Kuehl was a public-interest attorney who drafted and fought to get more than 40 pieces of legislation relating to children, families, women, and domestic violence into California law. She was a law professor at Loyola, UCLA and USC Law Schools and co-founded and served as managing attorney of the California Women’s Law Center.

She is a former LACBA Trustee and served on the California Judicial Systems and Status of Women in the Profession Committees, as well as the Strategic Issues Task Force. Supervisor Kuehl graduated from Harvard Law School, and also played the irrepressible Zelda Gilroy in the television series “The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis.”

LACBA Outstanding Jurist Award

LACBA will also present its 2016 Outstanding Jurist Award to Hon. Arthur Gilbert, Presiding Justice of the Second District, Division Six of the California Courts of Appeal, in recognition of his life-long contributions to the bench, practice of law and the community at large.

“I am deeply honored to receive this award from the Los Angeles County Bar Association that has accomplished so much for the legal profession,” said Justice Gilbert. “During the past four decades that I have been a judge, momentous changes have occurred in the law, and I am fortunate to have played a small part in some of those changes. And yet some things remain constant, like how I do my work. It's just the two of us in a room, me and my brain...only often I'm alone. I feel privileged to join the list of extraordinary people who have received this honor.”

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“LACBA commends Justice Gilbert for his efforts and commitment to simplifying complex rulings and helping to make the law accessible to everyone,” LACBA’s President Kiesel said. “He reminds each of us that the law can be complicated and intimidating for many, and that it is our responsibility to demystify the law for our clients and those appearing in the courts.”

Known as the “Court of Appeal’s poet laureate,” Justice Gilbert has earned a reputation for his ability to simplify complex legal matters and issue rulings that are both scholarly and clear in their meaning and interpretation.

It’s a philosophy Justice Gilbert has carried with him throughout his 40-year career that began during his time on the Los Angeles Municipal and Superior Courts.

As a traffic court judge, he noticed a disproportionate number of Hispanics had warrants for their arrests for failing to appear in court. To address this language barrier, Justice Gilbert introduced bilingual tickets in Spanish and English, which greatly reduced this number.

Justice Gilbert has passed along his belief that judges have an obligation to carefully explain their decisions, slashing through legalese and writing in layman’s terms. He has taught at the California Center for Judicial Education and Research at the Judges College in Berkeley, CA, and has written about the topic for years, including on his blog, Gilbert Submits, which is a collection of select columns he has written for the Daily Journal.

Justice Gilbert received the Beacon of Justice Award, presented by the Friends of the Los Angeles County Law Library, and was named “Appellate Justice of the Year” by the Consumer Lawyers of California in 1984, 1993 and 1997. He is a past recipient of the Bernard S. Jefferson Award for contributions to legal education, is a fellow of the Witkin Legal Institute, and has lectured to judges throughout California and Eastern Europe on American jurisprudence.

After contemplating both a career as a jazz musician and pursuing an advanced degree in literature, Justice Gilbert attended law school and started his legal career as a deputy city attorney for the City of Los Angeles in the criminal division. Two years later he joined a small firm specializing in commercial transactions and civil and criminal litigation. That firm eventually became Leonard & Gilbert.

Justice Gilbert was appointed as an Associate Justice of the Court of Appeal, Second District Division 6, by Gov. Jerry Brown in 1982, serving as Presiding Judge since 1999.

LACBA Installation and Awards Dinner tickets can be purchased by calling 213-896-6560 or visiting www.lacba.org/2016installation.

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 24,000 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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