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LACBA President Ronald F. Brot Announces 2020 Award Recipients

Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Awardee Hon. Lee S. Edmon, Outstanding Jurist Hon. Virginia A. Phillips, and Diversity Impact Awardee Munger, Tolles & Olson (MTO) Fellows Program

Los Angeles, California – March 27, 2020 – The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) has announced the recipients of its three highest honors, the Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award to Hon. Lee S. Edmon, the Outstanding Jurist Award to Hon. Virginia A. Phillips, and the Munger, Tolles & Olson (MTO) Fellows Program will receive the Diversity Impact Award.

The Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award

Established in 1968 to honor two past presidents, Edward S. Shattuck and Ira M. Price II, who died in office, the Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award is presented to a lawyer who has shown extraordinary dedication to the high principles of the legal profession and to improving the administration of justice.

This year's Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award is being presented to the Honorable Lee S. Edmon in recognition of her dedication and service to the legal profession and the law. Justice Edmon has many accomplishments, and at LACBA alone she served as President during the 1998-1999 bar year, was a former President of the Barristers Section, named one of LACBA's Trailblazers of the Bar (2011), and received LACBA's Outstanding Jurist award in 2013. Justice Edmon is a former Presiding Judge of the Los Angeles Superior Court, and is currently Presiding Justice of Division Three of the California Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District.

Justice Edmon began her legal career at Adams, Duque and Hazeltine and would later join the law firm of Dewey Ballantine LLP, where she met her husband Dick Burdge. In the fall of 2000, she was appointed to the bench by the 37th Governor of California, Gray Davis.

The Outstanding Jurist Award

Established in 1979, and one of LACBA's most prestigious awards, the Outstanding Jurist Award is viewed as recognition of a distinguished career on the bench as well as for contributions to the community and the practice of law. LACBA will present its Outstanding Jurist Award to the Honorable Virginia A. Phillips, in recognition of her contributions from the bench through judicial ability and experience, temperament and demeanor, knowledge of the law, improvement and education of the legal community and the practice of law.

Chief Judge Phillips was appointed to the United States District Court for the Central District of California by President Clinton on November 15, 1999. She became Chief Judge of the district on July 1, 2016. She was a Magistrate Judge in the Central District from 1995 until 1999, and served on the California Superior Court for four years before joining the federal bench.

Before her appointment to the bench, Judge Phillips was a partner in Best, Best & Krieger. She was a founding member and President of the Inland Empire chapter of the Federal Bar Association, and the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court, where she served as a Judicial Master and member of the Board of Directors.

The Diversity Impact Award

LACBA's Diversity Impact Award was established in 2019 to recognize an individual, bench officer, government legal office, public-interest law organization, law firm, corporation or other legal service organization for their long and distinguished history of increasing inclusion and diversity in the practice of law.

The award is being presented to the Munger, Tolles & Olson (MTO) Fellows Program, an innovative outreach program offered to 25-40 diverse, prospective law students each year. The Munger, Tolles & Olson (MTO) Fellows Program includes firm-sponsored, customized LSAT course, as well as monthly workshops providing guidance on the law school application process and tools to succeed in law school and beyond.

The program, created in 2015, is designed to address barriers that face diverse students in applying to and succeeding in law school. Each year, a cohort of aspiring law school applicants is selected to participate in an intensive course of study that runs in Los Angeles from March through December.

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 and has more than 20,000 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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