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LACBA President Tamila C. Jensen Announces 2021 Award Recipients

*Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Awardee Hon. Lee S. Edmon;
Outstanding Jurist Awardee Hon. Virginia A. Phillips;
Diversity Impact Awardee Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP (MTO) Fellows Program; and
Pro Bono Service Awardee Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC*

Los Angeles, California – April 27, 2021 – The Los Angeles County Bar Association (LACBA) has announced that the Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award, the Outstanding Jurist Award, and the Diversity Impact Award have been extended to the 2020 recipients. LACBA also announced that Frankfurt Kurnit Klein PC is the recipient of the Pro Bono Service Award. Honorees will be recognized at this year's Virtual Installation Ceremony on June 24, 2021.

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 or judicial officer who has shown extraordinary dedication to the high principles of the legal profession and to improving the administration of justice.

The Shattuck-Price Outstanding Lawyer Award will be 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, was 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 Honorable Richard J. Burdge, Jr. 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 at 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 Diversity Impact Award will be presented to the Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP (MTO) Fellows Program, an innovative outreach program offered to 25-40 diverse, prospective law students each year. MTO Fellows Program includes a 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.

The Pro Bono Service Award

LACBA's Pro Bono Service Award is being presented to Frankfurt Kurnit Klein & Selz PC in recognition of its outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services in community organizations and associations. The firm provides pro bono legal services and other support to children's services groups and educational institutions, to artist and trade organizations, to advocacy and charitable entities that support homeless and impoverished people, and to victims of illegal discrimination. A full list of organizations and associations that the firm supports can be [found here](#).

About the Los Angeles County Bar Association

LACBA was founded in 1878 and is one of the largest voluntary metropolitan bar associations in the country. LACBA serves attorneys, judges, and other legal professionals through 28 sections, committees, networking events, live and on-demand CLE programs, and pro bono opportunities, as well as public service and informational resources. For more information on LACBA, visit www.lacba.org.

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