



NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit, American Inns of Court to Honor Sacramento Lawyer Charity Kenyon

SAN FRANCISCO – Charity Kenyon, a Sacramento media attorney known nationally for her expertise in First Amendment law and regarded by members of the bench and bar as a model of professionalism, ethics and civility, will be honored at next month's 2007 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Honolulu.

Ms. Kenyon has been selected to receive the 2007 American Inns of Court Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award, which recognizes "a senior practicing lawyer or judge whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law."

The award will be presented to Ms. Kenyon on July 16, 2007, during the opening session of the conference at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. The Hon. Ronald T.Y. Moon, Chief Justice of the Hawaii Supreme Court and a member of the board of trustees of the American Inns of Court, will make the presentation.

"Charity is an outstanding lawyer who has championed the First Amendment for many years. But it is her willingness to share her knowledge with colleagues, particularly young lawyers, and to volunteer her time to assist the bench and bar that make her so deserving of this award," said Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Mary M. Schroeder, also an Inns of Court trustee.

Ms. Kenyon is a founding partner of the Sacramento law firm of Riegels Campos & Kenyon, established in 1999. She was previously associated with Diepenbrock, Wulff, Plant & Hannegan, also of Sacramento, from 1977 to 1998. Over the course of her 30-year career in the law, she has emphasized appellate practice, news media representation and public contracts disputes.

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Ms. Kenyon received her undergraduate degree in 1974 from the University of California at Santa Cruz, and her J.D. in 1977 from the University of California at Davis School of Law, where she was managing editor of the UC-Davis Law Review for two years.

Well known to journalists, Ms. Kenyon has been representing national, regional and local media clients before state and federal courts for more than 25 years. She has a string of published news media decisions involving access to court records and proceedings, reporter shield laws, and libel and defamation claims. She also is active in news media related publications and teaching, participating in numerous meetings and conferences for journalists, fellow attorneys and government officials.

In her appellate practice, Ms. Kenyon has been principal counsel in more than 130 appeals and writs in California state and federal courts, including more than 30 published decisions. Noteworthy among them was a 1999 appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on behalf of the media seeking access to information in the “Unabomb” trial of serial bomber Theodore Kaczynski. Elected to the California Academy of Appellate Lawyers in 1997, she has served as faculty for appellate practice education programs sponsored by the academy, the Judicial Council of California and the State Bar of California.

Ms. Kenyon has represented numerous companies in contract disputes with government agencies, and was retained as an advisor to California state government during the high-profile audit of a multi-million-dollar contract with computer software maker Oracle Corp. She also has worked in the area of health care ethics. She served on the ethics committees for Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento and the UC-Davis Medical Center, and has authored or co-authored articles on the ethical issues involved in end-of-life medical treatment and health care reform.

Previous professional accolades include her selection as a Northern California “Super Lawyer” in 2004; the Sacramento County Bar Association’s Distinguished Lawyer Award in 2003; the UC-Davis School of Law’s Distinguished Alumnus Award and the Women Lawyers of Sacramento’s Frances Newell Carr Achievement Award in 1997; and the Central Valley Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists’ Freedom of Information Award in 1995. She has been listed among the “Best Lawyers in America” for First Amendment law since 1991.

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Ms. Kenyon is a founding member of Sacramento's Milton L. Schwartz American Inn of Court and served on its executive committee for four years. Nominated for her exceptional mentoring aptitude and warm friendship toward newer lawyers, she is also acknowledged for her creative and stimulating programs, many of which have been models for Inns throughout the country.

The American Inns of Court, a national organization with 340 inns and 75,000 active and alumni members, is dedicated to excellence, civility, professionalism, and ethics in the practice of law. An American Inn of Court is an amalgam of judges, lawyers, and in some cases, law professors and law students. The inns are intended to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar.

Previous Ninth Circuit recipients of the award include Senior District Judge Rudi M. Brewster of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California; Sacramento attorney Ann Taylor-Schwing; Senior District Judge Thelton E. Henderson of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California; Senior District Judge William B. Enright of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California; Shirley Hufstedler, the first woman to sit on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and a former education secretary under President Carter; and the late Senior District Judge William A. Ingram, also of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

As a circuit honoree, Ms. Kenyon also will be considered for the Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Award for Professionalism and Ethics, a national honor bestowed by the American Inns of Court.

The Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference meets pursuant to Section 333 of Title 28 of the United States Code for "the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within such circuit." The circuit consists of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the federal district and bankruptcy courts and related court units in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.

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