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THE LEO A. DEEGAN INN OF COURT

by L. Alexandra Fong

The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court is a professional organization comprised of attorneys and judicial officers and organized under the American Inns of Court. It was founded in 1993 by Sharon Waters, Honorable Robert J. Timlin, Stanley Orrock, James Heiting, and Terry Bridges. The organization focuses on improving the skills and professionalism of the bench and the bar. Each month, the Leo A. Deegan Inn holds a dinner meeting, during which a team of members presents a program that focuses on matters of ethics, skills and professionalism.

The Inn was named for the Honorable Leo A. Deegan, a legend of the Riverside legal community. Judge Deegan first began practicing in Riverside in 1946 as a member of the district attorney's office. After also serving in the county counsel's office, he became the city attorney for the City of Riverside in 1958. He was appointed to the bench by Governor Edmund Brown in 1959. He served on the superior court until his retirement in 1975. In the late 1980s, he served for 14 months on the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District, in Sacramento.

Each year, the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court recognizes both an attorney and a judicial officer for their outstanding contributions to the legal community, as well as for their professional accomplishments. The Terry Bridges Award honors an outstanding attorney, while the Elwood Rich Award honors an outstanding jurist. The Inn also recognizes an outstanding younger attorney with the Biddle Book Award. Additionally, the Inn's membership votes on its favorite presentation, and an award is given to that team at the first meeting of the following program year.

At the last meeting of the 2015-2016 program year, the Elwood Rich Award was presented to Justice Betty Ann Richli (Retired, Fourth District Court of Appeals, Division Two), the Terry Bridges Award was presented to Robyn Lewis, and the Biddle Book Award was presented to Andrew Salera.

For the 2015-2016 program year, the theme was "Real vs. Reel" and Team Lucky won the award for best team presentation, based upon their dynamic comparison and contrast of various attorneys in the FOX animated hit "The Simpsons" and real-life shenanigans and cases involving attorneys and judges within the United States. Team Lucky was comprised of Jackson Lucky IV (Judicial Master), Abram Feuerstein (Attorney Master), Eric Keen (Attorney Master), Wendy Seto (Attorney Master), Melissa Cushman (Barrister), L. Alexandra Fong (Barrister), Kristine Borgia

(Associate), Aaron Chandler (Associate), Trent Packer (Associate), and Carolina Duvanced (Law Student).

At the first meeting of the Inn of Court for the 2016-2017 program year, held on September 28, 2016 at the Café Sevilla in Downtown Riverside, Magistrate Judge David Bristow and Jack Clarke, Jr. were presented with The Honorable Douglas E. Weathers Distinguished Honoree Award. The Inn also welcomed two new judicial masters, the Honorable Irma Asberry and the Honorable Daniel Ottolia.

For the 2016-2017 program year, the Inn's theme is "Ripped from the Headlines" and is focused on cases that have been in the news, generating a lot of public discussion into the facts of the case and the decisions that were reached by either the judge or jury. The newsworthy cases chosen by the Board are *People v. Menendez* (aka The Menendez Brothers trial), *Bollea v. Gawker Media* (aka Hulk Hogan's invasion of privacy case), *Harrington v. Sheeran, Thicke, Williams, et al. v. Estate of Marvin Gaye, Skidmore vs. Plant* (aka the musical copyright infringement cases), *Liebeck v. McDonald's Restaurants* (aka the hot coffee case), *People v. Brock Allen Turner* (aka the Stanford University rape case), and *State of Texas v. Andrea Yates*.

The Inn will also honor Emeritus members at its December 7, 2016 meeting, Past Presidents of the Inn at its March 22, 2017 meeting, and Public Safety at its April 26, 2017 meeting.

The Inn accepts applications every summer. Membership is by invitation only, and decisions are made in August. If you have questions, contact an Inn member, an Inn officer, or review the Inn's new website at: <http://www.deeganinnofcourt.org>. This year's officers are President Jeremy Hanson; President-Elect Judge Jacqueline Jackson; Past-President Justice Carol Codrington; Vice-President L. Alexandra Fong; Secretary-Treasurer Sophia Choi; Financial Secretary Dorothy McLaughlin; Board Member Gerald Fineman; Board Member Sylvia Choi; and Board Member Eric Keen. Executive Director Sherri Gomez may also be contacted at (951) 689-1910 or SherriGomez4@gmail.com.

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