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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 Riverside City Attorney 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 A. Bridges Award honors an outstanding attorney, while the Elwood Rich Award honors an outstanding jurist. The Inn also recognizes an outstanding younger attorney for his or her professionalism and dedication to the legal community 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 2016-2017 program year, Justice Thomas Hollenhorst, Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division Two, was presented with Elwood Rich Award, John Michels was presented with the Terry A. Bridges Award, and Joshlyn Pulliam was presented with the Biddle Book Award.

For the 2016-2017 program year, the theme was "Ripped from the Headlines" and Team Codrington won the award for best team presentation, based upon their presentation on various musical copyright infringement cases. Team Codrington consists of Judicial Master Carol Codrington, Attorney Master Abram Feuerstein, Attorney Master Ted Stream, Barrister Sophia Choi, Barrister Melissa Cushman, Barrister Jean-Simon Serrano, Associate Tara Hanson,



Judge Jacqueline Jackson presents the the Honorable Douglas E. Weathers Distinguished Honoree Award to John Porter.

Associate Joshlyn Pulliam, and Law Student Melissa Wilner.

At the first meeting of the Inn of Court for the 2017-2018 program year, Justice Codrington and Judge Virginia Phillips, Chief U.S. District Judge of the Central District of California, were bestowed with emeritus status. The Inn welcomed two new judicial masters, Commissioner Kenneth Fernandez and Commissioner Eric Isaac.

John M. Porter of the San Bernardino office of Lewis Brisbois Bigaard & Smith

LLP was presented with the Honorable Douglas E. Weathers Distinguished Honoree Award. The honoree is selected on the basis of distinguished service to the bar, furtherance of Inn objectives, or other noteworthy achievements.

For the 2017-2018 program year, the Inn's theme is "The First Amendment." Teams will present on various aspects of the First Amendment (freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and right to peaceably assemble). The last two meetings of the 2017-2018 program year will focus on community service.

Each February, all the Inns of the Inland Empire have a joint meeting. On February 21, 2018, joint Inn meeting will be held at the California Citrus State Historic Park, Sunkist Center, in Riverside. The Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court is honored to invite all Inn members to attend "An Evening With Carl E. Douglas." Mr. Douglas is an attorney who specializes in police misconduct cases and is best known for being a member of O.J. Simpson's "Dream Team" in the early 1990s. If room permits, the joint Inn meeting will be open to non-Inn members.

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 website at: <http://www.deeganinnofcourt.org>. This year's officers are President Jacqueline Jackson, President-Elect L. Alexandra Fong, Vice President Bambi Moyer, Secretary-Treasurer Sophia Choi, Financial Secretary Dorothy McLaughlin, Board Member Sylvia Choi, Board Member Jennifer Gerard, Board Member Eric Keen and Past-President Robyn Lewis. Executive Director Sherri Gomez may be contacted at (951) 689-1910 or SherriGomez4@gmail.com.

L. Alexandra Fong is a deputy county counsel with the County of Riverside, president of the Riverside County Bar Association, and president-elect of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court.



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