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Capital Litigation

Domestic Violence Court

Family Justice Center

Proportionality

and the Death Penalty

Riverside County's

Mental Health Court



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MAGAZINE

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THE LEO A. DEEGAN INN OF COURT

by Robyn A. Lewis

The 2009-2010 program year for the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court was an exciting one. Under the leadership of President Jeffrey Van Wagenen, the Inn focused on various aspects of litigation, with each team assigned to present a program on such a topic.

The Inn was excited to have student members from University of La Verne College of Law participate as team members. This was the first time that the Inn has extended invitations to student members. The students were selected by Dean Allen Easley. Student members will also join the Inn for the 2010-2011 season.

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. The organization focuses on improving the skills and professionalism of the bench and the bar. Each month, the Inn holds a dinner meeting, during which programs are offered that focus on matters of ethics, skills and professionalism. Membership is by invitation only. Applications for membership are considered each summer as the basis for invitations for new membership for the upcoming year. (Applications are available on the RCBA website, www.riversidecountybar.com.)

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 1980's, he served for 14 months on the Court of

Appeal for the 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 2009-2010 recipient of the Terry D. Bridges Award, which honors such an outstanding attorney, was Jacqueline Carey-Wilson, Deputy County Counsel for the County of San Bernardino.

Ms. Carey-Wilson initially practiced criminal law as a deputy public defender for the County of Riverside. She then specialized in appellate work and was a research attorney at the California Court of Appeal in Riverside before joining the County Counsel's office. Ms. Carey-Wilson is the incoming Chief Financial Officer of the Riverside County Bar Association. She is a former member of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court and the editor of the *Riverside Lawyer*. She is Past President of the Federal Bar Association (Inland Empire Chapter) and was the Director of the Volunteer Center of Riverside County, a non-profit agency that provides services to seniors, youth, people in crisis, court-referred clients, and welfare-to-work clients. She is also a member of the Executive Committee of the State Bar's Public Law Section.

The Inn bestowed the Elwood Rich Jurist of the Year Award on the Honorable Gloria Trask, particularly for her accomplishments in successfully launching the court's ADR program. After being admitted to the State Bar in 1978, Judge Trask was in private practice in both California and Hawaii, where she is also admitted, before being appointed to the bench.

Charity Schiller, an associate attorney with Best Best & Krieger, and Jeffrey Boyd, an associate attorney



(L-R) Jacqueline Carey-Wilson was honored with the Attorney of the Year and Judge Gloria Trask was honored with the Judge of the Year by the Inns of Court.



At the final meeting for the 2010 Inns of Court, the members learned of the many achievements of the following legends of the legal community who were also in attendance: (L-R) Art Littleworth, Judge Victor Miceli (Ret.) and Justice John Gabbert (Ret.).

with Heiting & Irwin, were the recipients of the annual Biddle Book Award, which is given to outstanding new attorneys in memory of Louise Biddle, former executive director of the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court as well as of the Riverside County Bar Association.

In the upcoming year, the Inn will be headed by its new President, the Honorable David Bristow, with Robyn Lewis, Jeb Brown, Chris Oliver, Chad Firetag, John Michels, Jeffrey Van Wagenen, Jeremy Hanson and Connie Younger serving as Executive Board members.

For more information on the Leo A. Deegan Inn of Court, please contact Sherri Gomez, Executive Director, at sherrigomez4@gmail.com or Robyn Lewis at rlewislaw@yahoo.com.



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