CALIFORNIA COMMISSION ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE

c/o State Bar of California - 180 Howard Street - San Francisco, CA 94105 - (415) 538-2251- (415) 538-2524/fax

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MARY LAVERY FLYNN Director, Legal Services Outreach State Bar of California San Francisco

SUBJECT: Aranda Access to Justice Award Nomination Form Attached

Nomination Deadline: May 24, 2010

Dear Colleague:

The California Access to Justice Commission is seeking nominations of a California judge for the Benjamin Aranda III Access to Justice Award.

The Aranda Access to Justice Award honors one California trial judge, appellate court justice, or commissioner who deserves recognition for his or her efforts to improve access to our judicial system for low and moderate income persons. The award will be made by the Judicial Council, the State Bar of California and the California Judges Association and will be presented by the Chief Justice at this year's California judicial leadership conference in the fall of 2010.

This annual award honors the judge who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to equal access to our courts, and who has personally done significant work in improving access to our courts for low and moderate income Californians. The award is named in honor of the late Judge Aranda who was known for his tireless efforts to promote fairness and access in the courts.

The California Commission on Access to Justice will select the award recipient in consultation with the Judicial Council, the State Bar and CJA. The Commission, whose membership includes appointees from each of those three entities, as well as from the business, labor, education and religious communities, is dedicated to pursuing long term strategies designed to make significant progress toward the goal of improving access to justice. The Commission is addressing a number of important issues such as the increase in self-represented litigants, involvement of the judiciary in encouraging pro bono and the study of successful models for systemic improvement in our judicial system in order to provide increased access to justice for all Californians, regardless of financial resources or language ability.

Thank you for your interest, and for considering a deserving judge for this prestigious award.

Very truly yours,

Hon. Ronald Taylor, Ret., Chair

Aranda Access to Justice Award Committee

on behalf of the California Commission on Access to Justice

Nomination Deadline: May 24, 2010

BENJAMIN ARANDA III ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD

PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE JUDICIAL COUNCIL, THE CALIFORNIA JUDGES ASSOCIATION, AND THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

NOMINATION CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Nominations are being sought for the Benjamin Aranda III Access to Justice Award by the California Commission on Access to Justice. This annual award honors a judge or commissioner who has demonstrated a long-term commitment to improving access to our courts, and who has personally done significant work to improve access for low and moderate income Californians. Past award recipients are:

1999 - Hon. Judith McConnell, San Diego Superior Court

2000 - Hon. Veronica S. McBeth, Los Angeles Superior Court

2001 - Hon. Charles Campbell, Ventura Superior Court

2002 - Hon. Donna J. Hitchens, San Francisco Superior Court

2003 – Hon. Kenneth M. Kawaichi, Alameda Superior Court

2004 - Hon. Earl Johnson, Jr., Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District

2005 - Hon. Aviva Bobb, Los Angeles Superior Court

2006 - Hon. Donna M. Petre, Yolo Superior Court

2007 - Hon. Kathleen E. O'Leary, Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District

2008 – Hon. Francisco F. Firmat, Orange County Superior Court

2009 - Hon. Gordon S. Baranco, Alameda County Superior Court

The California Commission on Access to Justice will select the award recipient in consultation with the Judicial Council, the State Bar and the California Judges Association.

Criteria for Award:

Criteria to be used in the selection of the award recipient include one or more of the following:

- Demonstrated dedication to improving access to our judicial system for low and moderate income Californians;
- ◆ Demonstrated commitment to increasing the involvement of volunteer attorneys in the representation of the indigent;
- Successful establishment of a model system for providing assistance to self-represented litigants;
- Successful establishment of a model cooperative effort with local legal services programs or bar associations designed to improve available representation for low or moderate income litigants; or
- ♦ Other significant activities demonstrating a long-term commitment to improving the accessibility of our judicial system for all Californians, regardless of income.

Nomination Process:

- ♦ Nominations are due May 24, 2010. Please submit one copy of the completed Nomination Form and supporting materials (see list of contents on nomination form).
- ◆ The award recipient will be selected by the California Commission on Access to Justice, in consultation with the Judicial Council, the State Bar and CJA. The award will be presented at the 2010 California judicial leadership conference.

For more information, contact Chris Zupanovich, Program Coordinator, Legal Services Outreach, State Bar of California: (415) 538-2534; chris.zupanovich@calbar.ca.gov

BENJAMIN ARANDA III ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominations due: May 24, 2010

This document is a fillable form. Please fill out this form where indicated in its entirety.

Nominee's Name:			
Title/Position:			
Address:	City/Zip:		
Telephone:	Fax:		Email:
Name of Nominee's Clerk:		Phone No. of	Nominee's Clerk:
Please submit one copy of the following supporting material with this nomination form: Description of how the nominee meets the award criteria The nominee's resume Letters of support (up to five letters will be accepted) Three additional references Nominator's Name:			
Court/Firm/Organization:			
Address:		City/Zip:	
Telephone:	Fax:		Email:
Nominator's Signature:			

You may mail or e-mail your nomination materials.

Please submit one (1) copy of the nomination form and accompanying materials by May 24, 2010 to:

Chris Zupanovich, Staff, Commission on Access to Justice
State Bar of California
180 Howard St.
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639

[If you are submitting by hard copy, please submit loose pages, no staples.]

For more information, please contact Chris Zupanovich Tel: (415) 538-2534 Email: chris.zupanovich@calbar.ca.gov