

# 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

Aranda Access to Justice Award  
**Nomination Deadline, May 31, 2012**  
Nomination Form Attached

HON. RONALD ROBIE  
Chair  
*Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District  
Sacramento*

JOANNE E. CARUSO  
Vice Chair  
*Baker Hostetler  
Los Angeles*

HON. STEVEN K. AUSTIN  
*Contra Costa County Superior Court  
Pittsburgh*

KENNETH W. BABCOCK  
*Public Law Center  
Santa Ana*

MARCIA BELL  
*San Francisco Law Library*

KRESTA DALY  
*Rothschild, Wishek & Sands, LLP  
Sacramento*

MICHELLE MANZO DEAN  
*McDermott, Will & Emery LLP  
Los Angeles*

MEERA E. DEO  
*Thomas Jefferson School of Law  
San Diego*

ERIKA FRANK  
*California Chamber of Commerce  
Sacramento*

HON. ANDREW J. GUILFORD  
*U.S. District Court, Central District of California  
Santa Ana*

HON. JAMES E. HERMAN  
*Superior Court of Santa Barbara County  
Santa Maria*

JANIS R. HIROHAMA  
*Manhattan Beach*

MARY E. KELLY  
*California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board  
Los Angeles*

HON. GOODWIN LIU  
*Liaison  
California Supreme Court*

HON. DOUGLAS P. MILLER  
*Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District  
Riverside*

HON. CARLOS R. MORENO (RET.)  
*California Supreme Court*

ANNE MARIE MURPHY  
*Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy  
Burlingame*

DAVID J. PASTERNAK  
*Pasternak, Pasternak & Patton  
Los Angeles*

PAUL TEPPER  
*Western Center on Law & Poverty  
Los Angeles*

EDWARD THOMAS UNTERMAN  
*Rustic Canyon Partners  
Santa Monica*

DIAN M. VORTERS  
*Office of Administrative Hearings  
State of California  
Sacramento*

ERIC WAYNE WRIGHT  
*Santa Clara University School of Law  
Santa Clara*

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

Dear Colleague:

The California Access to Justice Commission is seeking nominations of California judges 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 in the fall of 2012.

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 the California Judges Association. 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., Co-Chair

Hon. Laurie D. Zelton, Co-Chair

Aranda Access to Justice Award Committee  
on behalf of the California Commission on Access to Justice

## **BENJAMIN ARANDA III ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD - 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.** Presented for the first time in 1999, 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 in improving access for low and moderate income Californians. The following are past recipients of the award:

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 Firmat, Orange County Superior Court  
2009 – Hon. Gordon Baranco, Alameda County Superior Court  
2010 – Hon. Laurie D. Zelon, Court of Appeal, Second Appellate District  
2011 – Hon. Maria P. Rivera, Court of Appeal, First Appellate District

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:**

- ◆ **Nomination forms are due May 31, 2012.** One copy of the completed Nomination Form (attached) and supporting materials (loose pages, no staples) should be included.
- ◆ The award recipient will be selected by the California Commission on Access to Justice, in consultation with the Judicial Council, the State Bar and the California Judges Association.

**For more information, contact Frank Monti, Senior Administrative Assistant, Office of Legal Services, The State Bar of California: (415) 538-2141; [Frank.Monti@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:Frank.Monti@calbar.ca.gov)**

**BENJAMIN ARANDA III ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD  
NOMINATION FORM  
Nominations Deadline: May 31, 2012**

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominee's Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. of Nominee's Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_

Please include the following supporting materials 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: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominator's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

***Mailed nominations are preferred. Please submit one (1) copy of the nomination form and accompanying materials (loose pages, no staples) by May 31, 2012 to:***

***Frank Monti, Staff, Commission on Access to Justice  
State Bar of California  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-1639***