Dear Colleague:

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

The Aranda Award honors one California trial judge, appellate court justice, or commissioner who deserves recognition for personally having done significant work towards improving access to our courts for low and moderate income Californians, and has demonstrated a long-term commitment to this effort. 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 of California and the California Judges Association. The Commission’s membership includes appointees from each of those three entities, as well as from the business, labor, education and religious communities, and it is dedicated to pursuing long-term strategies designed to make significant progress toward the goal of improving access to justice for all Californians, regardless of financial resources or language ability. The award will be presented by the Chief Justice at the Distinguished Service Awards in the latter part of 2015.

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
The California Commission on Access to Justice is seeking nominations for the Benjamin Aranda III Access to Justice Award. 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. Kawauchi, 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
2012 – Hon. Juan Ulloa, Imperial County Superior Court
2013 – Justice R. Lambden, Associate Justice, California First District Court of Appeal
2014 – Hon. Sue Alexander, Commissioner, Alameda County Superior Court

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;
♦ Other significant activities demonstrating a long-term commitment to improving the accessibility of our judicial system for all Californians, regardless of income.

Nominations/Selection Process:

♦ Nomination forms are due Tuesday, March 31, 2015. One copy of the completed Nomination Form and supporting materials 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
NOMINATION FORM
BENJAMIN ARANDA III ACCESS TO JUSTICE AWARD
NOMINATIONS DEADLINE: TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2015

Please submit one copy of the nomination form and accompanying materials either by U.S. Mail or by email as a PDF file to:

Frank Monti
The State Bar of California
180 Howard Street, San Francisco, CA 94102-1639
Frank.Monti@calbar.ca.gov

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: ________________________________________________