

THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

2016 HARRY B. SONDHEIM

CALIFORNIA PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY AWARD



State Bar of California News Release

March 2016

TWO LEGAL LUMINARIES TO BE HONORED AT 20TH ANNUAL ETHICS SYMPOSIUM

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28, 2016 – The State Bar of California announced today that it will honor two legal luminaries at its 20th annual statewide ethics symposium on April 9 in San Francisco.

Sacramento attorney Karen M. Goodman and Santa Clara County Superior Court Judge Brian C. Walsh will each receive the 2016 Harry B. Sondheim California Professional Responsibility Award. The award was created in 2010 to honor long-term outstanding contributions to the advancement of professional responsibility standards in California. The winners were chosen by the Board of Trustees.

“It’s a privilege to be giving this award to two deserving individuals whose efforts have made a lasting impact on bettering the profession and protecting the public,” State Bar President David Pasternak said.

Goodman, 56, was chairwoman of the State Bar’s Discipline Standards Task Force in 2014, which revised the guidelines that are used to determine the appropriate sanction for attorney discipline cases and ensure consistency in how cases are dealt with. Before that, she was chairwoman of the Board of Trustees Committee that oversees the discipline system. Among many other volunteer roles, she has served as a member of the State Bar’s Committee of Bar Examiners and Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct.

Walsh, 68, was a pioneer for promoting civility and professionalism. As president of the Santa Clara County Bar Association in 1992, he developed a code of professionalism for the county. The code, still in use today, was used as a model for the State Bar of California’s Civility Toolbox adopted in 2007. Walsh has been appointed by the chief justice of California to serve on a number of statewide committees, including the Supreme Court Advisory Committee on the Code of Judicial Ethics. He also mentors new judges.

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2016 Harry B. Sondheim
California Professional Responsibility Award Recipients

This year, the State Bar of California deviated from its usual practice and selected not one, but two members of the legal community to be honored with the Harry Sondheim California Professional Responsibility Award for 2016. Each recipient has a long history of service promoting high standards of conduct for the legal profession in their practices and in their volunteer work to advance legal ethics and professionalism with their respective bar associations, and also with the State Bar.

Karen M. Goodman
Principal, Goodman and Associates



Karen Goodman, a Sacramento attorney, has a long record of achievements and volunteer service and leadership that should be recognized as a model for fellow members of the Bar to emulate.

She has generously given thousands of hours of service to state-wide and local

bar committees and organizations. These activities include serving on the State Bar's Board of Trustees, State Bar's Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct, State Bar's Legal Malpractice Specialization Task Force, and the State Bar's Committee of Bar Examiners. She was elected by her peers to serve as the President of the California Women Lawyers and the Women Lawyers of Sacramento. She also served as a Board Member on the National Conference of Women Bar Associations. Karen has served as a visible active role model for other attorneys through her membership and contribution.

A graduate of the University of San Francisco's School of Law, Karen's legal work over the past three decades has been lauded by colleagues on the State Bar board as well as organizations from which she's received numerous honors.

Karen is also a prolific public speaker discussing such issues as the obstacles that face women in the law, malpractice traps for real estate attorneys

and avoiding gender bias. Her effectiveness and experience as a leader, author, and speaker valued by her colleagues and peers.

Colleagues say her experience as a trial lawyer is unrivaled. As a certified specialist in legal malpractice law, Karen has earned high marks as a trial lawyer for both plaintiffs and defendants, said El Dorado lawyer David E. Boyd, who called her work "superb."

"Quietly and without fanfare, Ms. Goodman has had a large role in the increased attention to public protection, accountability and fairness to which the State Bar board has committed itself ..." said former board President Jon B. Streeter, now a justice on the state Court of Appeal. She is credited with taking on a series of initiatives and issues such as streamlining the rules of evidence in the State Bar Court, improving the Chief Trial Counsel's metrics for monitoring case progress, resolution and outcomes, and reevaluating and reforming the standards of discipline.

For these reasons, the State Bar is proud to honor Karen M. Goodman as a 2016 recipient of the Harry B. Sondheim California Professional Responsibility Award.

"What makes Karen remarkable is the combination of the breadth of her involvement in organizations dedicated to advancing attorney professional responsibility, the depth of her commitment to serve our profession and the passion with which she represents her clients, both lawyers and clients, in the professional responsibility area."

Steven A. Lewis
Attorney, Sacramento