

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Court Review: The Journal of the American
Judges Association

American Judges Association

2017

AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2017

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ajacourtreview>

"AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2017" (2017). *Court Review: The Journal of the American Judges Association*. 614.
<https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/ajacourtreview/614>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the American Judges Association at DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln. It has been accepted for inclusion in Court Review: The Journal of the American Judges Association by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@University of Nebraska - Lincoln.



AMERICAN JUDGES ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2017

HAROLD V. FROELICH AWARD FOR JUDICIAL COURAGE

The award is named in honor of Judge Harold Froehlich of Wisconsin, who as a freshman Republican Congressman risked his political career by voting in the House Judiciary Committee in favor of the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. Froelich lost re-election but later served as a trial judge in Wisconsin from 1981 to 2011. The award honors a judge who makes fair and impartial judgments in accord with the rule of law while exercising independence from personal consequences.

Winner: **United States District Judge Gonzalo P. Curiel**, San Diego, California, who was recognized for his dignity, courage, and professionalism when, while handling ongoing litigation involving a presidential candidate, he faced unfair criticism based on his heritage. (The AJA reprints in this issue Judge Curiel's letter in response to the award, in which he notes several judges worthy of note for their own displays of judicial courage.)

CHIEF JUSTICE RICHARD W. HOLMES AWARD OF MERIT

The award honors a judge for outstanding contributions to the judiciary; it's named in honor of the late Kansas Chief Justice Richard W. Holmes, who was one of the founders of the AJA.

Winner: **Judge Steve Leben**, Kansas Court of Appeals, who was recognized for his national work promoting procedural fairness in court, for coauthoring AJA white papers on procedural fairness and the mental aspects of judging, and as the editor of *Court Review* since 1998.

JUDGE WILLIAM H. BURNETT AWARD

The award honors a judge who is a member of the American Judges Association for outstanding service to the association.

Winner: **Judge John Conery**, Louisiana Court of Appeals, who was recognized for his service as an AJA president, officer and committee chair; for helping to improve links between the AJA and other organizations; and for his work to educate other judges in the areas of domestic violence and elder law.

JUDGE BOB JONES MEMORIAL AWARD

The award honors a judge who is a member of the American Judges Association for significant contributions to judicial education.

Winner: **Judge Catherine Carlson**, Provincial Court of Manitoba, who was recognized for her work on educational programming for the AJA's 2016 conference in Toronto, for organizational efforts already underway for the educational programming for the AJA's 2018 conference in Hawaii, and for chairing the AJA's Education Committee.

JUDGE LIBBY HINES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARD

The award is named in honor of Michigan Judge Libby Hines, who while an active AJA member and trial judge has been a national leader and educator for many years on the appropriate judicial handling of domestic-violence cases.

Winner: **Judge Ramona Gonzalez**, LaCross County (Wisconsin) Circuit Court, who was recognized for her expertise on family-law topics, including domestic violence and child abduction, and for her national and international leadership on the handling of these matters in court.



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
221 W. BROADWAY, SUITE 2190
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101

September 11, 2017

American Judges Association
300 Newport Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23185-4147

Re: Judge Harold V. Froehlich Award

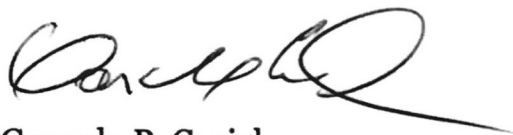
To the Board of Governors of the American Judges Association,

With great appreciation and humility, I thank the American Judges Association for naming me as the 2017 recipient of the Judge Harold V. Froehlich Award for Judicial Courage. It is a tremendous privilege to receive an award whose namesake is a man who demonstrated great courage by making a decision guided by conscience, while ignoring the likelihood that it would produce adverse consequences for his career. Time and time again, similar courage has been demonstrated by trial and appellate judges who have rendered decisions that were unpopular at the time they were made but have been vindicated with the passage of time. This courage is found in the 1946 decision of U.S. District Court Judge Paul J. McCormick striking down school board policies segregating Mexican Americans into separate “Mexican” schools in *Mendez v. Westminster School District*. It is seen in the 1954 decision *Brown v. Board of Education* where the U.S. Supreme Court struck down “separate but equal.” After *Brown* district courts were called upon to integrate schools, leading to protests and threats on the lives of federal jurists such as U.S. District Judge S. Hugh Dillin, from my home state of Indiana, after his school desegregation order in *United States v. Board of School Commissioners of the City of Indianapolis*. These jurists never flinched; they did what they knew was required under the U.S. Constitution.

When I think about the courage demonstrated by these fearless jurists, I am certain that I am not deserving of this recognition. I have done nothing more than what each of us does every day—that is, to serve our communities—by aiming to apply the law fairly to all who appear before us

whether the parties are rich or poor, powerful or powerless. I accept the award on behalf of our brethren who toil day in and day out to perform their constitutional duty without regard to the consequences or criticism that follows. As judges, we recognize that our challenges are derived from the distinct privilege that we have been granted to serve the people of our great nation within a judicial system that is guided by the overarching principle that all men and women are created equal.

Sincerely,



Gonzalo P. Curiel

United States District Judge



MAKING BETTER JUDGES™

THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF WHITE PAPERS
ADDRESSING KEY ISSUES OF INTEREST TO JUDGES

*Procedural Fairness:
A Key Ingredient in
Public Satisfaction*

Approved by the AJA 2007
<http://goo.gl/afCYT>

*The Debate over
the Selection and
Retention of Judges:
How Judges Can
Ride the Wave*

Approved by the AJA 2011
<http://goo.gl/98IGN>

*Minding the Court:
Enhancing the
Decision-Making
Process*

Approved by the AJA 2012
<http://goo.gl/RrFw8Y>

*The Judge Is
the Key Component:
The Importance of
Procedural Fairness
in Drug-Treatment
Courts*

Approved by the AJA 2015
<http://goo.gl/XA75N3>