



**NEWS RELEASE**

August 7, 2019

Contact: Amy Weitz, (415) 355-8800

## **Ninth Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown to Receive ABA’s John Marshall Award**

**SAN FRANCISCO** – Judge M. Margaret McKeown of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit is the recipient of the prestigious John Marshall Award, presented by the American Bar Association’s Judicial Division and the Standing Committee on the American Judicial System. Judge McKeown will receive the award on August 9th during the ABA’s annual meeting at the Nikko Hotel in San Francisco.

The John Marshall Award, named for the fourth U.S. Supreme Court justice, recognizes those who are dedicated to “extraordinary improvements” in the administration of justice in the areas of judicial independence, justice system reform, or public awareness of the justice system. Past recipients include retired Justices Sandra Day O’Connor and Anthony M. Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court, and then-Chief Justice Ronald M. George of the California Supreme Court. Judge McKeown is the first Ninth Circuit judge to receive the award.

Judge McKeown is internationally recognized for her work on judicial ethics, gender issues, and international rule of law, and has gathered numerous accolades acknowledging her ardent pursuit of access to justice and her impact on the judiciary. Appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1998, she is the former president of the Federal Judges Association and former chair of the ABA Standing Committee on Federal Judicial Improvements. She also chaired the ethics committee for federal judges, the Codes of Conduct Committee. She now chairs the ABA’s Commission on the 19th Amendment, as we approach the centennial of its passage guaranteeing women’s right to vote.

Among Judge McKeown’s domestic activities in support of fair and equal treatment is her leadership role in addressing workplace harassment issues. Chief Judge of the Ninth Circuit Sidney R. Thomas appointed her to chair the Ninth Circuit Ad Hoc Committee on Workplace Relations, and she was appointed to the Federal Judiciary Workplace Conduct Working Group by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.

On an international level, Judge McKeown has assisted countries throughout the world on judicial reform, such as her recent work in Colombia. She chairs the ABA Rule of Law Initiative and is a managerial trustee with the International Association of Women Judges. In 2016 she

took part in the 10<sup>th</sup> annual International Humanitarian Law Dialogs in Nuremberg, Germany, where she presented the Nuremberg Declaration, a joint statement by international prosecutors who participated in the program.

“I can’t think of a more deserving person to receive this award than Judge McKeown,” said Ninth Circuit Chief Judge Thomas. “She exemplifies its purpose: a dedication to the pursuit of fair and equal justice, and the willingness to devote her energy and valuable time to bringing these issues to the forefront and moving them forward. She’s making a tremendous impact in so many spheres both here in the U.S. and around the world.”

The John Marshall Award follows many past honors for Judge McKeown, including the 2010 ABA Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the White House Fellows Foundation’s 2017 Legacy of Leadership Award, and the Girl Scouts’ “Cool Women” Award.

Born in Casper, Wyoming, Judge McKeown earned her B.A. from the University of Wyoming and her juris doctor from Georgetown University Law Center. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she engaged in private practice for more than two decades in Seattle and Washington, D.C., including as the first woman partner with Perkins Coie. She resides in La Jolla, California.

# # #