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NEWS RELEASE

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Award Presentations Planned at Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference

SAN FRANCISCO – A respected state court judge and one of the nation’s top trial lawyers, both from Southern California, will be recognized with major awards July 28, 2008, during the opening session of the 2008 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Sun Valley, Idaho.

The Hon. Judith C. Chirlin, a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, will receive the Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award from the prestigious American Inns of Court. The honor is bestowed on “a lawyer or judge whose life and practice display sterling character and unquestioned integrity, coupled with ongoing dedication to the highest standards of the legal profession and the rule of law.” The award will be presented by the Circuit Judge Deanell Reece Tacha of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, immediate past president of the American Inns of Court Foundation.

Robert S. Warren, Esq., a litigation partner in the Los Angeles office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, will receive the Ninth Circuit’s own John P. Frank Award, which recognizes an outstanding lawyer practicing in the federal courts of the western United States. The Frank award was established in 2003 by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit in memory of the late John P. Frank of Arizona, a distinguished attorney, author, law professor, civil liberties advocate and legal historian. The award will be presented by Meryl L. Young, Esq., chair of the Ninth Circuit Advisory Board, a group of experienced attorneys that advises the judicial council on matters of court administration and nominates candidates for the award.

Judge Chirlin is internationally renowned for her work around the world in support of the rule of law. She has taught, lectured and mentored judges in Eastern Europe, Central and South America, and, most recently, the Middle East, where she helped reestablish the judiciary in war-torn Iraq. She is a past chair of the CEELI (Central and East European Law Initiative) Advisory Board for the American Bar Association.

Judge Chirlin received her B.A. in 1969 from George Washington University, an M.A. in 1970 from Rutgers University, and her J.D. in 1974 from University of Southern California School of Law, where she served on the law review editorial board. After more than 10 years in private practice, she accepted appointment to the state court bench in 1985. Now in her 23rd year on the bench, she is highly esteemed by her colleagues and lawyers practicing in her court.

Judge Chirlin is a counselor and an active Master of the Bench of the Southern California Business Litigation American Inn of Court, and an alumnus of the William J. Rea American Inn of Court and the William P. Gray Legion Lex American Inn of Court. She is a past chair of the Board of Directors of the American Judicature Society.

Mr. Warren's legal career spans 52 years, all of it spent with Gibson Dunn. He joined the firm in 1956, the same year he received his J.D. from the USC School of Law, where he was associate editor of the law review and a member of the Order of the Coif. He also earned his B.A. at USC, graduating in 1953.

An accomplished litigator, he has handled significant matters involving securities, media representation, environmental tort cases, and various other commercial litigation. He is considered one of the nation's top trial lawyers, receiving numerous awards and other recognition, including profiles and analysis of his cases in influential legal publications.

Mr. Warren has been a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers since 1974. He also formerly served on the board of the Institute of Corporate Counsel. He is a member of the California Supreme Court Historical Society, the Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society and the USC Law School Board of Councilors. He is former officer of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, past president of the Los Angeles County Bar Foundation, and a former lawyer delegate to prior Ninth Circuit judicial conferences.

The John Frank Award recognizes a lawyer who has "demonstrated outstanding character and integrity; dedication to the rule of law; proficiency as a trial and appellate lawyer; success in promoting collegiality among members of the bench and bar; and a lifetime of service to the federal courts of the Ninth Circuit." Over the course of his 62-year career, the late Mr. Frank was involved in more than 500 appeals argued before the Arizona Court of Appeals, the Arizona Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, other federal circuit courts and the United States Supreme Court.

The American Inns of Court, a national organization with 340 inns and 75,000 active and alumni members, is dedicated to excellence, civility, professionalism, and ethics in the practice of law. An American Inn of Court is an amalgam of judges, lawyers, and in some cases, law professors and law students. The inns are intended to improve the skills, professionalism and ethics of the bench and bar.

Candidates for the Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award are nominated through circuit-wide open nominations and selected by a panel of representatives from both the circuit and the American Inns of Court Foundation. Previous recipients include Sacramento attorney Charity Kenyon; Senior District Judge Rudi M. Brewster of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California; Sacramento attorney Ann Taylor-Schwing; Senior District Judge Thelton E. Henderson of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California; Senior District Judge William B. Enright of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California; Shirley M. Hufstedler, the first woman to sit on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and a former education secretary under President Carter; and the late Senior District Judge William A. Ingram, also of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

The Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference meets pursuant to Section 333 of Title 28 of the United States Code for "the purpose of considering the business of the courts and advising means of improving the administration of justice within such circuit." The Ninth Circuit consists of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the district and bankruptcy courts and related court units for the district and bankruptcy courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.

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