

## **2016 LAWYER REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT**

### **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

The Lawyer Representatives for the Central District of California (“Lawyer Representatives”) are a large and diverse group that reflect a broad spectrum of practice areas. This past year, the Lawyer Representatives made great contributions in supporting the functioning of the courts, assisting in planning the judicial conference, and advancing the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest and the Central District Civics Contest throughout the jurisdiction.

The Lawyer Representatives organized a Central District Judicial Conference with a committee of judges from the District, led by the Honorable Michael Fitzgerald, Beverly O’Connell, André Birotte, and Deborah Saltzman. The conference was in partnership with USC Gould School of Law under the leadership of Andrew T. Guzman and assisted by Associate Professor Sam Erman.

The Central District Judicial Conference was held February 24 – 26, 2017 in La Quinta, California. The Conference opened with a welcoming reception at the La Quinta Resort and Spa hosted by the USC Gould School of Law. After the reception, the attendees enjoyed dinner and a presentation, by Stephen D. Smith, Executive Director of the USC Shoah Foundation, USC Institute for Visual History and Education, entitled “*Memory: A Marvelous but Fallacious Instrument.*” The second day of the Conference, attendees participated in panel discussions with esteemed professors from the USC Gould School of Law discussing such topics as the *Challenges and Controversies in Constitutional Law; Current Issues in Immigration Law & Enforcement; Confessions True and False; and Law and Mental Health.*

In addition to the education component of the Conference, the Lawyer Representatives planned several activities to take advantage of the conference location, including a hike through the Coachella valley, golf at the resort, and a visit to the Living Desert Zoo and Gardens in Palm Desert, California. The conference was a great success. We received positive feedback from the judges

and lawyers in attendance. Overall the partnership with the USC Gould School of Law was a resounding success.

In addition to the Central District Judicial Conference, the Lawyer Representatives worked closely with the courts to assist in advertising and promoting not only the Ninth Circuit Civics Contests, but also the local Central District Civics Contest. The Lawyer Representatives worked closely with Judge Klein, Judge Kronstadt, and the court staff to advertise and to encourage students throughout the Central District to participate in the two Civics Contests. The Lawyer Representatives engaged in significant outreach to high schools throughout the vast region that encompass the Central District. Due to these efforts there was a significant increase in student submissions from the prior year. Lawyer Representatives also helped in ranking the essays that were submitted by the students so the judges can make the final decision on the winners for the Central District Civics Contest and the finalists for the Ninth Circuit Civics Contest. A reception was held on June 7, 2017 at the Japanese American History Museum in downtown Los Angeles to announce the winners.

We also organized the annual downtown dinner in Los Angeles. This was an opportunity for the Lawyer Representatives and Judges of the District to meet informally and to discuss mutual goals for the District.

The Lawyer Representatives have already begun working on the 2018 Central District Conference. Working with a committee of judges led by the Honorable Michael Fitzgerald, we have already secured a location and have begun work on formulating the program for the upcoming Conference.

It has been a pleasure to serve as Co-Chairs of the Lawyer Representatives over the past term. We are grateful for the opportunity to have played a role to assist the Courts and we look forward to an successful year ahead.

Warmest Regards,

David Willingham and Misty Perry Isaacson

Co-Chairs, Central District Lawyer Representatives