



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Chief Judge Emeritus J. Clifford Wallace to Receive Duke Law School's Bolch Prize

SAN FRANCISCO – Chief Judge Emeritus J. Clifford Wallace of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has been named to receive the 2022 Susan and Carl Bolch Jr. Prize for the Rule of Law.

Awarded each year by the Bolch Judicial Institute of Duke Law School, the Bolch Prize is bestowed on “an individual or organization who has demonstrated extraordinary dedication to the rule of law and advancing rule of law principles around the world.” The prize will be awarded on March 18, 2022, at a ceremony in San Diego, California.

Judge Wallace received his commission as a U.S. district judge for the Southern District of California on Oct. 16, 1970, initiating his 50-plus-year run as a federal judge. He was elevated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, receiving his commission for that position on June 28, 1972, and was chief judge of the Ninth Circuit from 1991-1996. Judge Wallace took senior status in 1996.

One of Judge Wallace's greatest legacies is his contribution to the advancement of the rule of law and the administration of justice throughout the world. He has been using his vacations for nearly 40 years to work with judiciaries overseas. He has now worked directly with judiciaries in over 70 countries on every continent. He has worked with many countries to develop judicial needs assessments and assisted in the implementation of programs to meet needs. Efforts included training judges, lecturing at judicial conferences, addressing anti-corruption conferences, advising on developing supreme courts and many other legal topics and activities.

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As chief judge, he developed innovative procedures for coping with the needs of a large circuit. Under his administration, the Ninth Circuit developed the first federal appellate long-range plan with a mechanism to set annual strategic goals. He also assisted with the first successful federal Gender Fairness Task Force and organized a second Task Force on Racial, Religious and Ethnic Fairness, and developed the mission statement for the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit. In addition, Judge Wallace developed a unique appellate settlement program and a civil appeals program that provides separate tracks depending upon the nature and need of the case.

Judge Wallace has received numerous awards in his long career. The Daughters of the American Revolution awarded Judge Wallace their Medal of Honor in 2018. Other awards include the U.S. Department of State award for contributions to judiciaries worldwide (2014); The International Center for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University Award for Distinguished Service in Promoting Religious Freedom (2009); the Judge D. Lowell and Barbara Jensen Public Service Award (2008); the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award (2005) and the Boy Scouts Silver Beaver Award (1981).

The first Bolch Prize was awarded to Supreme Court Justice Anthony M. Kennedy (Ret.) at a ceremony held on Duke University's campus in April 2019. The 2020 and 2021 prizes were awarded to Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke of the South Africa Constitutional Court and retired Chief Justice Margaret Marshall of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, respectively, during a virtual ceremony in June 2021.

Read more about Judge Wallace:

[Judge J. Clifford Wallace to receive 2022 Bolch Prize](#)

[Judge J. Clifford Wallace Honored for Advancing Rule of Law](#)

[Judge J. Clifford Wallace Celebrates 50 Years on the Bench](#)

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