



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder Receives John Minor Wisdom Award



Judge Mary M. Schroeder is third from left

SAN FRANCISCO – Senior Circuit Judge Mary M. Schroeder, of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, received the John Minor Wisdom Award from the American Law Institute (ALI) at their annual meeting held May 22, 2023. Margaret H. Marshall of Choate Hall & Stewart LLP also received the award.

The award “...is given from time to time in specific recognition of a member’s contributions to the work of the Institute.” In his presentation, Michael Traynor, former ALI President, cited Judge Schroeder’s opinion for the Ninth Circuit in Hirabayashi v. United States holding the WWII internment of Japanese Americans unconstitutional.

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Elected to ALI in 1974, Judge Schroeder served on its council from 1994 to 2016. As a council member, she chaired the Awards Committee from 2009 to 2013. She also served on the Audit Committee, from 1997 to 2004, as well as the Projects Committee, from 2013 to 2019, advising the director, executive committee and council on ongoing and potential projects.

Appointed to the Ninth Circuit in 1979, Judge Schroeder was the first woman to serve as chief judge of the Ninth Circuit, from December 2000 to 2007. She was the first woman to be an associate and then a partner in the law firm of Lewis and Roca in Phoenix; the first woman to serve on the Arizona Court of Appeals—at the time she was the youngest woman appellate judge in the nation.

Judge Schroeder is a recipient of the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Award and the Arizona State Bar Association's James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award, and holds an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Swarthmore College. From 2001 to 2007 Judge Schroeder was a member of the Judicial Conference of the United States, the policymaking body for the federal courts.

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