



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Judge M. Margaret McKeown Receives the Warren M. Christopher International Lawyer of the Year Award

SAN FRANCISCO – Senior Circuit Judge M. Margaret McKeown, of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, is the recipient of the Warren M. Christopher International Lawyer of the Year Award from the California Lawyers Association’s International Law and Immigration Section for her distinguished work in promoting the rule of law internationally. Chief Justice Patricia Guerrero, of the California Supreme Court, presented the award in Los Angeles on September 12.

Warren M. Christopher had a storied career in the international arena as the former secretary of state under President Clinton and a partner in O’Melveny & Myers. The award is presented annually “to individuals for distinguished service in the promotion of the rule of law internationally or for significant achievement in the practice of international law.” Prior recipients include Warren M. Christopher and Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, former California Supreme Court associate justice and president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Appointed to the Ninth Circuit in 1998, Judge McKeown has spent more than 25 years working with governments, judges, lawyers and non-governmental organizations in promoting the rule of law. She has written and lectured on subjects as diverse as judicial ethics, criminal procedure, human rights, human trafficking, wildlife trafficking, anti-corruption, intellectual property and judicial administration. She has drafted ethics codes for several countries and collaborated with courts to establish ethics standards. Judge McKeown has also worked with judiciaries that transitioned from the accusatorial to the adversarial system and has lectured from China to Malaysia, Vietnam, France, Spain, Tunisia, South Africa, Tanzania, Mexico, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Chile, New Zealand, Palau and beyond. She chairs the Ninth Circuit Pacific Islands Committee, which works with judiciaries in the North Pacific on judicial training. Judge McKeown serves on the boards of the World Justice Project and the ABA Rule of Law Initiative, the Judicial Advisory Board of the American Society of International Law, and the Council of the American

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Law Institute. She is an advisor on the American Law Institute Restatement of Foreign Relations and previously served as an advisor on the Restatement of International Arbitration.

Judge McKeown is an adjunct professor at Georgetown University Law Center and Instituto Impresa (IE) in Madrid and is jurist-in-residence at the University of San Diego School of Law.

Judge McKeown is a past recipient of the American Inns of Court Lewis F. Powell Jr. Professionalism and Ethics Award, the ABA John Marshall Award and the Georgetown University John Carroll Award, among others. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

A native of Wyoming, Judge McKeown received her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Wyoming in 1972 and her Juris Doctor from the Georgetown University Law Center in 1975. Judge McKeown is the author of "Citizen Justice: The Environmental Legacy of William O. Douglas—Public Advocate and Conservation Champion."

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