



Public Information Office
United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

Office of the Circuit Executive · 95 7th Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 · (415) 355-8800 · (415) 355-8901 Fax

NEWS RELEASE

July 26, 2012

Contact: David Madden (415) 355-8800

Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference to Recognize California Justice, San Francisco Lawyer

SAN FRANCISCO – Associate Justice Judith L. Haller of the California Fourth District Court of Appeal and San Francisco attorney Sanford “Sandy” Svetcov will be honored next month at the 2012 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference in Hawaii.

Justice Haller will receive the 2012 Ninth Circuit Professionalism Award from the American Inns of Court, a national organization that seeks to improve the practice of law by promoting mentorship and collegiality among the bar. The professionalism award is presented to “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.”

Mr. Svetcov will receive the 2012 John Frank Award established by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit to recognize "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."

Justice Haller has served on the California bench since 1989, when she was appointed to the San Diego County Superior Court. She was nominated to the Fourth District Court of Appeal in 1994 and unanimously confirmed by the Commission on Judicial Appointments. Prior to coming onto the bench, Justice Haller had been a partner in the firm of Higgs, Fletcher & Mack in San Diego from 1979 to 1989, and a deputy district attorney with the San Diego County district attorney's office from 1976 to 1979. Born in Los Angeles, Justice Haller graduated *summa cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of California at Los Angeles, and received her J.D. from California Western School of Law. Justice Haller also has a master's degree in history from San Diego State University.

– more –

Justice Haller is a master of the American Inns of Court and a former director of the San Diego Inn of Court. She is a trustee of California Western School of Law, serves on the San Diego County Bar Association Ethics Committee, and chairs the California Appellate Court Legacy Project.

Mr. Svetcov, a partner in the San Francisco office of Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP, is a renowned appellate lawyer who has briefed and argued more than 300 cases in state and federal courts, including the Supreme Court of the United States. He has practiced law for 47 years and is considered to be the dean of appellate lawyers appearing before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. He is also well known for volunteer work, including recruiting lawyers from the Northern District of California to participate in the Ninth Circuit Pro Bono Program.

Mr. Svetcov has been in private practice since 1989. He was previously a partner in law firm of Landels Ripley & Diamond LLP, until 2000, when he joined Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP. His career includes extensive government service as the deputy legislative counsel to the California Legislature from 1965 to 1966; a legal officer in the Navy from 1966 to 1969; as the deputy attorney general for the State of California from 1969 to 1977; and as an assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of California from 1978 to 1989, where he served as chief assistant for appellate matters, attorney-in-charge of the office's Organized Crime Strike Force, and as chief of the appellate section.

In 1999 and 2002, U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist appointed Mr. Svetcov to three-year terms on the Federal Appellate Rules Advisory Committee. He is also an *ex officio* member of the Ninth Circuit Advisory Committee on Rules and Internal Operating Procedures. He has been active as a lecturer for the Ninth Circuit Federal Bar Association Appellate Practice Seminar, and as an adjunct professor at Hastings College of the Law.

Raised in Brooklyn, New York, Mr. Svetcov earned his B.A. in 1961 from Brooklyn College, graduating *cum laude*, and his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law, in 1964.

The 2012 Ninth Circuit Judicial Conference will be held August 13-16 at the Hyatt Regency in Maui, Hawaii. The 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." Approximately 600 judges, lawyers and court staff are expected to attend the conference.

The Ninth Circuit consists of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the district and bankruptcy courts and their related court units in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions.

#