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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Recognizes Excellence in Alternative Dispute Resolution

SAN FRANCISCO – Awards recognizing individual and institutional achievements in the field of alternative dispute resolution have been announced by the ADR Committee of the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit.

The Honorable Susan M. Leeson, a retired justice of the Oregon Supreme Court now serving as the staff mediator for the United States District Court for the District of Oregon, was selected to receive the 2012 Robert F. Peckham Award for Excellence in ADR. The Willamette University College of Law was chosen to receive the Ninth Circuit ADR Education Award, which recognizes law schools that have significantly advanced ADR scholarship and research.

Justice Leeson is credited with rejuvenating the Oregon federal court's mediation program. After accepting a part-time position in 2009, Justice Leeson led efforts to revise the court's Local Rule pertaining to ADR; reorganized the court's Pro Bono Mediation Civil Panel; contributed to the development of online ADR resources using the court's Internet website; set up systems to generate statistics on ADR use; and worked tirelessly to promote the program to the bar and public. Her notable innovations include establishing a pro bono foreclosure mediation panel. She has also mediated numerous cases assigned by judges of the court.

Justice Leeson served on the Oregon Supreme Court from 1998 to 2003 and was a judge of Oregon Court of Appeals from 1993 to 1998. She received her B.A. from Willamette University in 1968; an M.A. and Ph.D. from Claremont Graduate School in 1970 and 1971, respectively; and her J.D. from Willamette University College of Law in 1981. She clerked for Senior Circuit Judge Alfred T. Goodwin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and was a judicial fellow in the chambers of U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren E. Burger.

Justice Leeson was on the Willamette faculty for a total of more than 20 years at both the school's College of Liberal Arts and the law school. She also has taught at the University of

Bridgeport College of Law and the University of Oregon School of Law. She has mediated hundreds of cases as a private mediator and as a community volunteer in Marion County.

The Willamette University College of Law claims the oldest ADR education program in the Ninth Circuit. The college's Center for Dispute Resolution, established in 1983, offers a broad ADR curriculum. Its faculty includes noted instructors, researchers and lecturers who have contributed significantly to advances in the ADR field nationally and internationally. The college also publishes the *Willamette Journal of International Law and Dispute Resolution*.

The Peckham and ADR Education awards were established in 2001 and 2005, respectively, by the Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit, governing body of the federal courts in nine western states and two Pacific Island jurisdictions. The Peckham Award is named for the late Judge Peckham, a former chief district judge of the Northern District of California, who helped pioneer use of legal means other than court trials to resolve disputes.

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