



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

August 9, 2013

Contact: David Madden (415) 355-8800

**ABA to Honor Judge Thelton E. Henderson of
the Northern District of California**

SAN FRANCISCO – The American Bar Association will present its 2013 Thurgood Marshall Award on Saturday, August 10, 2013, to the Honorable Thelton E. Henderson, a distinguished federal judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of California.

The award, which is named after the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, recognizes an individual's long-term commitment and contributions to the advancement of civil rights, civil liberties and human rights in the U.S. It was established in 1992 by the ABA's Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities.

Nominated by President Carter, Judge Henderson has served on the Northern District of California bench since 1980 and was chief judge of the court from 1990 to 1997. He assumed senior status in 1998 but continues to hear cases, including a number of high-profile matters involving civil rights.

The ABA selection committee noted Judge Henderson's landmark 1990 ruling extending protections under the First and Fourteenth amendments of the Constitution to the gay and lesbian employees seeking security clearances for national defense jobs, and, more recently, a 2010 decision finding that overcrowding in the California prison system violated the Constitution. Judge Henderson currently sits on a special panel of three federal judges conducting oversight of the California prison system.

Born in Shreveport, Louisiana, Judge Henderson received his B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1956. After two years of military service, he returned to Berkeley to attend the Boalt Hall School of Law, where he received his J.D. in 1962. He began his legal

career as the first African-American lawyer in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. He was later in private practice, served as counsel to a neighborhood legal center in East Palo Alto, California, and was the assistant dean of Stanford Law School.

Judge Henderson will receive the Thurgood Marshall Award during a dinner during the ABA Annual Meeting, which is being held this year in San Francisco.

###