

JUDICIAL HONORS

JAMES F. REITZ, a judge on the Putnam County Court in New York, was celebrated at the Patterson Rotary Club's "Men Who Cook" fundraiser for his efforts to make Putnam County a safe place to work, live, and raise a family.

NATHANIEL R. JONES, a retired judge who served on the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, will be the 101st recipient of the NAACP's Spingarn Medal. The



award honors a person of African descent who has attained the highest achievement. Past honorees include Dr. Martin Luther King, Maya Angelou, Oprah Winfrey, and Langston Hughes. The award will be given at the NAACP's annual banquet in July.

BRIAN J. DAVIS, a U.S. District Court judge for the Middle District of Florida, received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. The award was presented by the chair of the North Florida Council Boy Scouts of America Eagle Scout Association Committee and Judge Gerald Tjoflat of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

LEONARD DAVIS, a former judge on the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Texas, received the New York

Intellectual Property Law Association's Outstanding Public Service Award. Judge Davis is the 14th recipient of the national award, which recognizes extraordinary public service.

KATHRYN H. VRATIL, a U.S. District Court judge for the District of Kansas, received the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Kansas School of Law. The award honors graduates for their professional achievements, contributions to the legal field, and service to their communities and the university.

PATRICIA A. KELLER, a judge on West Virginia's Sixth Family Court Circuit, was inducted into the Keyser High School Legion of Honor.

The National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations presented **RICHARD**

A. JONES, a U.S. District Court judge for the Western District of Washington,



with an Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The award recognizes individuals whose accomplishments in their field and service to their county are a cause for celebration. Past honorees include Rosa Parks, Elie Wiesel, Muhammad Ali, and Frank Sinatra.

The Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association named **GLEN M. REISER**



as "Judge of the Year." Judge Reiser is a judge on the California Superior Court in Ventura County. He has served on the bench since 1998.

HIRAM A. CARPENTER III was recognized for his year-long service as a visiting senior judge on the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas in Greene County. Judge Carpenter also was the keynote speaker for the court's annual Law Day festivities.

The Texas Association of Civil Trial and Appellate Specialists honored **EVA GUZMAN**, a justice on the Texas Supreme Court, and **MIKE ENGELHART**, a Texas District Court judge in Harris County, with "Judge of the Year" awards.

GIL MCBRIDE, chief judge of the Chattahoochee County Judicial Circuit of the Georgia Superior Court, was a guest speaker at a ceremony to honor high school students who had been selected for induction into the National Honor Society. Judge McBride also spoke about mandatory attendance in Georgia's public schools.

MILESTONES

These federal judges (active status) are celebrating milestone anniversaries of their commission dates this autumn.

50 years

MANUEL LAWRENCE REAL
U.S. District Court,
Central District of California

40 years

JOHN THOMAS COPENHAVER JR.
U.S. District Court,
Southern District of West Virginia

35 years

RICHARD ALLEN POSNER
U.S. Court of Appeals for
the Seventh Circuit

25 years

REBECCA F. DOHERTY
U.S. District Court,
Western District of Louisiana

SUE LEWIS ROBINSON
U.S. District Court,
District of Delaware

SAM SPARKS
U.S. District Court,
Western District of Texas

CLARENCE THOMAS
Supreme Court of the United States

from THE CENTER FOR JUDICIAL STUDIES

CLASS-ACTION SETTLEMENTS

OCTOBER 6-7, 2016

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

This invitation-only conference will consider suggested best practices to implement proposed F.R.C.P. 23, which will require lawyers to provide certain information to the court on various Rule 23 class-action rulings. Specific topics include attorney's fees, electronic notice, criteria for preliminary and final approval of settlement, and more.

EMERGING ISSUES IN MDL

OCTOBER 27-28, 2016

ARLINGTON, VA

This invitation-only conference will lay the groundwork for the update and revision of the *Duke Law Standards and Best Practices for Large and Mass-Tort MDLs* (2014). A group of 15 judges and distinguished lawyers will participate in an intimate and lively discussion on issues including the extent of co-lead counsel's and the plaintiff steering committee's fiduciary duty to all plaintiffs; recourse of participating MDL lawyers who are dissatisfied with case-management decisions; claims processing issues; and more.

All Duke Conference attendees are expected to participate in the discussion, which is held under Chatham House rules.

If you are interested in attending either event, please send a brief description of your relevant experience and reasons for attending the conference to judicialstudies@law.duke.edu.

More information is available at law.duke.edu/judicialstudies/conferences.

SAVE THE DATE

THE DUKE CONFERENCE

*“Increasing the Number
of Women and Minorities
Appointed to Leadership
Roles in Class Actions and
Mass-Tort MDLs”*

SPRING 2017

LOCATION TBA

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