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*From the
President's Desk*

By

Kevin B. Bevins

Spring has sprung and with it, a Court Holiday on April 1, 2013! No, April Fools' Day is not yet a state or national holiday – the closure marks the Cesar Chavez Day Holiday. April 1 is celebrated in many nations around the world as a day of pranks and practical jokes. The origins of this day of fun are varied, and date back to the Middle Ages.

New Year's Day, until the 16th Century, was celebrated on March 25 as the *Feast of the Annunciation*. In parts of France, this was a week long celebration. When the Gregorian Calendar was introduced, those who celebrated the New Year on January 1 made fun of those who rang in the New Year at the end of March, thus April fools.

As far back as Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, written in 1392, Chaucer wrote *Syn March was gon* (with regards to the 1381 engagement of King Richard II of England to Anne of Bohemia), which was interpreted erroneously by his readers as March 32, or April 1... thus the fools believing March had 32 days.

Throughout the 16th and 17th centuries, French and Flemish poets wrote of noblemen sending their servants on foolish errands on April 1. Many people in London were tricked into traveling to the Tower of London for the annual "Washing of the Lions Ceremony".

More modern hoaxes include the April 1, 1957 Swiss Spaghetti Harvest broadcast by the BBC news show *Panorama*, announcing that the mild winter and demise of the evil and dreaded spaghetti weevil lead to a bumper crop of spaghetti, harvested from trees. Film footage showed peasants pulling long strands of pasta from trees. Callers flooded the BBC switchboard, calling to learn how they could grow a spaghetti tree of their own, and were promptly advised to "place a sprig of spaghetti in a can of tomato sauce and hope for the best".

Burger King introduced a left-handed Whopper in 1998, designed with ingredients rotated 180 degrees so the toppings would squish out from the right side of the bun, not

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Larry W. Allen to Receive Kaufman Campbell Award

By J' Amy Pacheco

After more than two decades on the bench, San Bernardino Judge Larry W. Allen was set to retire this year. But when unforeseen circumstances thrust a colleague into the position of presiding judge a year and a half earlier than expected, the veteran jurist and former presiding judge volunteered to postpone his retirement to serve in a supporting role.

That selfless act was mentioned by many of his colleagues as demonstrative of what makes the jurist worthy of recognition as one of San Bernardino County's outstanding judges.

Described as one of the "senior pillars" of the local legal community and the "dean" of the San Bernardino County bench, Allen has been tapped to receive the prestigious Kaufman Campbell Award from the San Bernardino County Bar Association.

"I was surprised," Allen said of learning he had been selected to receive the award. "I'm very pleased, and thrilled to be so honored."

The periodic award is named for former state Supreme Court Justice Marcus Kaufman and former Fourth District Court of Appeal Justice Joseph B. Campbell, both of whom served on the bench in San Bernardino. It honors jurists designated as having served on the bench with distinction and having made substantial contributions to the community as well as the practice of law.

"Although [he] is not our most senior judge, I consider him the dean of our bench," said Judge Jules Fleuret. "He is the only sitting judge in the county who has served as a Justice Court, Municipal Court and Superior Court Judge. In the course of his career he has sat in every court facility and handled every kind of calendar."

Fleuret noted that Allen has served with distinction as presiding judge and assistant presiding judge, as well as supervising judge for the Victorville District.

"Throughout his career Judge Allen has always been quick to volunteer when a problem arose or when a colleague needed help," he added. "The most recent example of this is his decision to delay his retirement a year to serve a second term as assistant presiding judge to assist in dealing with the difficulties caused the courts by the state budget cuts."

"Judge Allen's personal commitment and hard work have contributed greatly to the court and to the legal community of this county and make his selection as the 2013 recipient of the Kaufman Campbell Award particularly fitting."

A native of Corona, Allen, 59, earned his undergraduate degree from Orange Coast College, majoring in philosophy. He earned his law degree as a member of the first full-time class of Western State University School of Law, and was admitted to the practice of law in 1976.

In 1991, he was appointed by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors to the Trona Justice Court. Justice courts, Allen explained, were similar to Municipal Courts with two notable differences - Justice Courts served populations under 40,000, and Municipal Courts served populations of 40,000 and over. While both could be filled by election, Municipal Court judges could be appointed by the California governor, but Justice Court judges were appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

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Larry W. Allen to Receive Kaufman Campbell Award *(continued from page 1)*

As a Justice Court judge, Allen heard cases primarily in Trona, but also in courts throughout the county and state. In 1995, the state's Justice Courts were merged with the Municipal Courts, and the Trona Court was closed. Three years later, Allen was elevated to the Superior Court as a result of Court Consolidation.

He currently hears a juvenile calendar in the Victorville District.

Judge Michael Dest described Allen as "an excellent choice" to receive the award.

"He has such a colorful and unique background as a San Bernardino County judge," Dest observed. In addition to being the only sitting judge who was appointed by the Board of Supervisors, and having served "every capacity as a judge from the Justice Court, to the Municipal Court and finally, to the Superior Court" and sitting "in every courthouse in the county, including Trona," Allen has "covered every judicial assignment from civil, family law, juvenile to criminal and has handled everything from small claims to murder cases."

"He has been a magnificent leader in our court," Dest added. "...It is a recognition long- and well-deserved."

Judge James McGuire, who served as assistant presiding judge during Allen's term presiding over the courts, described it as a "privilege" to work with Allen.

"His composed, well reasoned decisions made my job, when I became his successor, much easier," McGuire said. "He had turned around many of the problems facing the court and had improved our relationship with the various other court agencies. He garnered respect for San Bernardino County Courts."

McGuire pointed out that Allen "continues to give his all to the court through his work in committees."

"One of his crowning accomplishments is ... the new courthouse. His calm stewardship through the difficult complexities is coming to fruition," McGuire observed.

"Judge Allen embodies the qualities to which new judges should aspire: dedication to a position which is more than a job, it is an avocation," he said.

Judge Margaret Powers said she has known Allen for 21 years, and noted that he mentored her throughout her judicial career.

"He has worked in so many different courts and assignments that he knows everything," she said. "He has good insight. I've always admired him. He never did things in a showy way; he was always so low-key about everything."

Powers said Allen is always "very willing" to help other judges.

"I think he's a great choice," she added. "He has all of the qualities for this award - high moral standards, ethics, integrity - he's very civil. He doesn't provoke. He wants everyone to get along, but he wants it done right."

Judge John Pacheco said Allen "has proven to be a consistent and dedicated leader in our courts."

"He is a good friend to many of us, and always makes himself available to mentor and advise our colleagues on different levels," he explained. "I grew to respect Larry more and more each day and know that he has the best interest of our community in mind. His tireless efforts have made our courts more accessible and he is very deserving of this year's Kaufman Campbell award."

Judge Brian McCarville said he is "very pleased" for his colleague, and pointed out that Allen has "worked very hard over the years."

"He's always pleasant to work with," he added. "He's willing to listen. He's a good sounding board, and a good colleague."

Judge Eric Nakata said the award is "so well-deserved."

"He's such a great colleague," he said. "He was a great presiding judge."

Judge John Vander Feer said Allen "has worked very hard for the desert," and has spent much of his career traveling the far-flung county to cover different courts.

"He's worthy of this award," Vander Feer said. "It's a great sendoff for him. It's well deserved."

Attorney William Shapiro said he worked with Allen in the 1970s in the law firm Hayton & Peach.

"Now a longtime judge, Larry Allen is one of the senior pillars of the San Bernardino bench who is so deserving of this most prestigious award," Shapiro said. "He is passionate in being fair; diligent in his judicial effort, while being compassionate to the litigants and lawyers alike. He is a model of judicial demeanor. His mild, and often times soft-spoken manner is never to be confused with being mild or soft. Never hesitant to call balls and strikes, Judge Allen's timely rulings are made consistent with the law, having taken the time to consider all the factors involved. He has always been a student of the law and continues to be."

"I am proud to practice before Judge Allen and know trial lawyers in and out of the Inland Empire feel the same way."

Attorney Sandy Turner said she has known Allen for more than 16 years.

"When I first met him, he was a family law Judge in Victorville," she recalled. "He was always direct and fair on the bench with a rather quiet demeanor. He has worked tirelessly to have the High Desert legal community stay in the focus of the county as the majority of the lawyers are "down the hill" and tend to forget about us. He is deserving of this honor."

Allen intends to retire at the end of this year.

The San Bernardino County Bar Association will host a dinner honoring Allen May 9 at 6 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel in San Bernardino.

Past recipients of the Kaufman Campbell Award include Judge Tara Reilly in 2012; Fourth District Court of Appeal Presiding Justice Manuel Ramirez in 2011; Judges James McGuire and J. Michael Welch in 2010; Margaret Powers in 2009; Michael Dest in 2008; Brian McCarville, 2007; A. Rex Victor, 2006; Christopher Warner, 2005; Bob Krug, 2004; Patrick Morris, 2003; Michael Smith, Jules Fleuret and Dennis Cole, 2002; LeRoy Simmons, Betty Richli and Joseph Johnston, 2001 and Rufus Yent, Frederick Mandabach and John Ingro in 2000.

MICHAEL B. LYNCH

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(951) 529-2486

mlynch@lawyerspolygraph.com

www.lawyerspolygraph.com