

Brian McCarville to Receive Kaufman-Campbell Award

by J' Amy Pacheco

Veteran Judge Brian McCarville will receive the San Bernardino County Bar Association's Kaufman-Campbell Award honoring judges of distinction on May 17.

The periodic award is named for former state Supreme Court Justice Marcus Kaufman and former Fourth District Court of Appeal Justice Joseph B. Campbell. 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.

McCarville said he was "very excited" when he learned he would receive the award.

Justice Thomas Hollenhorst from the Fourth District Court of Appeal, Div. Two, called McCarville "a fabulous choice." Hollenhorst, who has known McCarville for 25 years, knew both Kaufman and Campbell. Both jurists, he said, "stood for something – for the best of the business and the best in the business."

"What a fitting honor for Brian," he added. "He is the best in the business as well."

Hollenhorst described McCarville as "a thoughtful fellow who sees issues more clearly, earlier than most."

"I think it's a real gift," he said. "He can cut through hyperbole and red herrings to get to the heart of the matter very quickly." He also called McCarville "a courageous guy" who is unafraid of doing the right thing, even when it is "not easy or popular."

"I think the world of him," Hollenhorst said.

San Bernardino Mayor Patrick Morris, a retired judge and past recipient of the Kaufman-Campbell Award, called the selection of McCarville "wonderful," and described McCarville as "a premier jurist."

"He is a great choice," Morris stated. "He is a man who almost is unflawed in his stewardship as a bench officer."

Morris said McCarville moved into the practice of law "for the right reasons."

"He loves public service; loves people," Morris observed. "He loves the law. I think the hallmark of his life is service. Every day, he looks for opportunities for service."

Morris, who retired from the bench, recalled McCarville looking for additional work when his own assignments were complete.

"When his business day is done, he shops the courthouse to see who he can help," Morris explained. "That's a wonderful, generous attitude that is not exhibited by many jurists."

McCarville also possesses an "incredible work ethic," Morris opined.

"He never complains, he is always available," he said. "He loves what he does. For him, it's a true calling."

Presiding Judge Larry Allen echoed those sentiments, explaining that McCarville uses "every moment of downtime" to "volunteer to help with anything else in the courthouse."

"He is one of the hardest working judges we have," Allen commented. "He has a wide breadth of experience. He can do almost anything."

Fourth District Court of Appeal Justice Betty Richli, also a past recipient of the award, said she was "pleased" to learn McCarville would be honored.

Richli, who served on the San Bernardino Superior Court bench before her appointment to Div. Two in Riverside, described McCarville as a "great colleague."

"He has a terrific work ethic and a great sense of humor," she said. "He is smart, capable – just a superb bench officer."

Attorney Gary Wenkle Smith said he has known McCarville for 30 years. The two attended law school together at the University of La Verne College of Law, and worked together on the Law Review when Smith was editor.

"He was an extremely competent lawyer, and the bench did not change him," Wenkle said. "He runs a tight ship. He is fair-minded, scholarly and reasonable."

Wenkle said McCarville is respectful to all parties in his courtroom, and demands – and receives – respect in return.

"You couldn't have a better judge," he opined. "He is one of my favorite people in the whole world."

Defendants who appear in McCarville's criminal courtroom are always treated "fairly, with respect and dignity," Wenkle observed.

"He's always been this type of person," he said. "Putting on the black robe did not change him one bit. I can't say enough good things about him."

Attorney Florentino Garza said McCarville demonstrates "great intelligence, experience," and "patience and dedication to his official position."

"I believe every lawyer he knows agrees he is eminently objective and fair, and bases his rulings on the law and never on personal preference or even a whim," Garza stated. "He has handled cases in most of the areas of law judges have to work in, and certainly has distinguished himself in the criminal and civil fields. We're all very proud he has been selected for this distinguished honor."

After earning an undergraduate degree in history from California Polytechnic University, Pomona, McCarville earned his law degree from the University of La Verne College of Law in 1979. He spent a brief time in private practice before joining the

Riverside County District Attorney's Office in 1981. He remained there until 1989, when he was appointed to the Municipal Court bench in San Bernardino.

He was elevated to the Superior Court in 1995, and has handled calendars in the civil, criminal and family law areas. He currently handles a criminal fast track calendar.

McCarville said he enjoys the "intellectual challenge" of being a judge.

"I really like the diversity of changing assignments every four or five years," he said. "It keeps me on edge. I like working with people. I like being in the company of lawyers."

The jurist – who was briefly the youngest judge in the state when he was appointed at age 36 – said he envisions himself doing the same work a decade from now – if his "mind and body haven't failed."

"I like putting the robe on every day and interacting with people," he explained. "I'm that kind of judge. Nothing else ever interested me."

Morris, who described McCarville as a "trusted, dear friend," said McCarville is "the kind of man one would hope would be a judge."

He lauded McCarville's ability to immediately understand the unique needs of drug court, which Morris pioneered and which McCarville at one time handled.

"Watching Brian operate in drug court was like watching a master at work," Morris recalled. "He understands the nature of addiction, and he understands people's need to be cared about and cared for and feel hope. He gave them hope."

"He also held them tremendously accountable," Morris added. "He did what was required."

While most judges required a week or two of training before taking over drug court, McCarville "had it in a heartbeat," Morris said, citing the jurist's "raw intelligence" and "understanding of the human condition."

"The bar honors itself by honoring Brian," Morris opined. "He sets the standard for intelligence and devotion to service."

Past recipients of the Kaufman-Campbell Award include A. Rex Victor in 2006; Christopher Warner in 2005; Bob Krug in 2004; Patrick Morris, 2003; Dennis Cole, Jules Fleuret and Michael Smith in 2002; Joseph Johnston, Betty Richli and LeRoy Simmons in 2001 and John Ingro, Frederick Mandabach and Rufus Yent in its inaugural year.



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