



NEWS RELEASE

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

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Chief Justice Berch Recipient of Outstanding Jurist Award

PHOENIX – The State Bar of Arizona Board of Governors honored Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch with the 2014 James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award. The award was presented at the State Bar of Arizona Convention Luncheon on Friday, June 13.

The James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award is presented to a judge whose career exemplifies the highest standards of judicial conduct for integrity and independence; who is knowledgeable of the law and faithful to it; who is unswayed by partisan interests, public clamor or fear of criticism; who is patient, dignified and courteous to all who appear before him or her; and who endeavors to improve the administration of justice and public understanding of, and respect for, the role of law in our society.

Chief Justice Berch was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in 2002 after serving as a Judge on the Arizona State Court of Appeals for District 1. She became Chief Justice on July 1, 2009.

Before joining the state's highest appellate courts, Berch served as Solicitor General for the State of Arizona, First Assistant (Chief Deputy) Attorney General, and taught law at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law.

Chief Justice Berch serves on the United States Conference of Chief Justices, the Board of Trustees of the National Conference of Bar Examiners, as Vice-Chair of the ABA Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar, and in several other public positions. She speaks regularly on law-related topics to students, civic groups, and legal organizations.

The James A. Walsh Outstanding Jurist Award is named in honor of James Augustine Walsh (1906-1991), who was nominated by President Harry S. Truman to a seat on the United States District Court for the District of Arizona. The United States Senate confirmed him in 1952, thus beginning his storied career on the federal bench. Walsh served as chief judge from 1961 to 1972. After many years of service, Walsh assumed senior status and continued in semi-retirement until his death in 1991.

Past recipients include the Hon. James A. Walsh, Hon. William P. Copple, Hon. James Duke Cameron, Hon. Frank X. Gordon, Jr., Hon. Alice Truman, Hon. Stanley G. Feldman, Hon. Robert B. Buchanan, Hon. James Moeller, Hon. Jack L. Ogg, Hon. Ronald S. Reinstein, Hon. Elizabeth R. Finn, Hon. William C. Canby, Jr., Hon. Thomas A. Zlaket, Hon. Edward L. Dawson, Hon. Michael Daly Hawkins, Hon. Mary Murphy Schroeder, Hon. George B. Nielsen, Jr., Hon. Michael D. Ryan, Hon. Stephen M. McNamee, Hon. C. Kimball Rose (posthumously), Hon. Barry C. Schneider, Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor, Hon. Barbara Rodriguez Mundell, Hon. John M. Roll (posthumously), Hon. James M. Marlar and the Hon. Robert L. Gottsfield.

Additional awards and winners can be viewed at

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