

The Orange County Bar Association notes with sadness, the passing of William F. Wenke, a longtime Orange County resident who passed away at age 86 on May 28 in Dana Point. Mr. Wenke served as President of the Orange County Bar Association in 1977 and was honored with the OCBA's Franklin G. West (Lifetime Achievement) Award in 1981.

Mr. Wenke was a prominent lawyer who practiced in Orange County starting in the early 1950s. He was raised in Lincoln, Nebraska, and graduated from University of Nebraska both for college and law school. Mr. Wenke lived and practiced in Santa Ana for many years, until he moved his firm to Newport Beach in 1980. Mr. Wenke and his wife Jean (who passed away last year) lived in Newport Beach starting in the 70s, and were active in a variety of community organizations. Mr. Wenke ran (unsuccessfully) for the OC Board of Supervisors in the 1970s.

Mr. Wenke was the president of the State Bar of California in 1981 (one of only four Orange County lawyers to hold that post in the history of the bar).

Mr. Wenke was recognized by the Legal Aid Society of Orange County with its Access to Justice Award presented at its 2008 50th Anniversary Gala. The award was given in recognition of his instrumental role in making the IOLTA program a reality in California. This program requires banks to pay interest on attorney trust accounts and directs the interest to legal services for the indigent. The program has spread across the country and has raised more than \$3,000,000,000 for indigent legal services. Mr. Wenke was serving as President of the California State Bar at the time.

Mr. Wenke was also one of a handful of early fellows from Orange County of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers.

Mr. Wenke practiced law with his highly regarded firm in Santa Ana and later Newport Beach (Wenke Taylor Evans & Ikola), that also included now retired federal district court judge Gary Taylor, and Raymond Ikola, who now serves as a justice on the California Court of Appeal sitting in Santa Ana. Mr. Wenke concluded his career in an of counsel position with the Newport Beach law firm of Minyard and Morris.

Memorial services are planned on July 31 at 1 pm at St. Andrews in Newport Beach.