



Dec. 1, 2011
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Orange County Bar Association to Honor John B. Hurlbut, Jr., with Prestigious “West” Award

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif.—The Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) will present John B. Hurlbut, Jr., with the Franklin G. West Award at the 2012 OCBA Judges’ Night and Annual Meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012, at the Irvine Marriott in Irvine.

Hurlbut is the 42nd recipient of the Franklin G. West Award, the highest honor awarded by the OCBA. The West Award is bestowed upon an outstanding attorney or judge who has made significant contributions to advance and elevate justice and law. The award was established in 1971 in memory of the late Judge Franklin G. West, a highly respected jurist who served on the bench from January 1939 to March 1965. Judge West’s 26 years and two months on the bench constituted the longest term ever served by a judge in California.

“The West Award is given to a member of our legal community whose lifetime achievements epitomize the best of the legal profession,” says OCBA Administration of Justice, College of Trial Advocacy, and Resolutions Committee member Alan J. Crivaro, Esq. “Like Franklin G. West himself, John’s example is one all lawyers should emulate.”

Hurlbut began his legal career in 1964, practicing business litigation at Rutan & Tucker following his graduation from Stanford Law School. He made Partner in 1970 and has since headed the firm’s Trial Section and served as Managing Partner. His accolades are numerous, including the OCBA Harmon G.

Scoville Award (2003), which honors a member of the Orange County legal community whose career exemplifies the highest standards of the profession and who has contributed to the Bar while championing our constitutional system of justice; Public Law Center (PLC) Attorney of the Year (2007); Southern California “Super Lawyer” (2006-2010); and Best Lawyers in America (2006-2011); among others.

Recently, Rutan & Tucker established the John Hurlbut Award to recognize its attorneys who exemplify the firm’s core values of excellence, integrity, and teamwork, including respect, leadership, and sincere care for others. Hurlbut was the first recipient of the eponymous award, which has only been given in recognition of two other attorneys since its inception. He is regarded unanimously as the firm’s “moral compass,” according to Partner Mike Rubin.

“Despite the demands of his practice throughout his career, John has found time to take on pro bono cases for PLC and in recent years has increased his commitment to pro bono work,” notes Justice Kathleen E. O’Leary. “In addition to his involvement in the legal community, John has participated in a variety of other community efforts. He truly believes those who enjoy privileged lives should acknowledge their responsibility and give more of their time and resources to meet the needs of others. And he does just that.”

About the Orange County Bar Association

Established in 1901, the Orange County Bar Association is one of the largest voluntary bars in California. The mission of the Orange County Bar Association is to enhance the system of justice, to support the lawyers who serve it and to assist the community served by it.

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