



The Superior Court
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STATE JUDICIAL COUNCIL HONORS

SAN JOAQUIN COURT CEO JEANNE MILLSAPS

San Joaquin Superior Court Executive Officer Jeanne Millsaps received today one of the highest honors in the state court system: the 2003 Judicial Council Distinguished Service Award. The annual award recognizes significant and positive contributions to court administration, professional leadership, and extraordinary dedication to the highest principles of the administration of justice.

“This is a tremendous and well earned recognition for Jeanne,” said Hon. William J. Murray, Jr., San Joaquin judge and member of the Judicial Council. “She deserves high praise and our heartfelt thanks for her valuable contributions to the betterment of the justice system statewide and locally.”

“I am deeply honored,” said Millsaps. “One can win such an award only by being given opportunities and support – from the bench, my court staff, and the Administrative Office of the Court. I am overwhelmed at the recognition.”

Millsaps was selected for her 30-year commitment to improving judicial administration and her ability to balance the local interests of her court with broader statewide judicial branch objectives.

In her own court, Millsaps led the development of the Court-Community Leadership and Liaison Program, designed to establish a bridge between the court and various ethnic, immigrant and disabled communities. Her support led to the creation of *In the Interest of Justice*, a cultural awareness video that educates the bench and court staff on Southeast Asian cultures and how traditional mannerisms can be misinterpreted in the courtroom. She has also been instrumental in implementing a highly successful jury compliance program and in developing a system that allows litigants to file small claims cases on the Internet.

Millsaps also has given her time and energy to efforts outside her court that strive for improving the legal system. In San Joaquin County, she is active in groups that advocate for criminal justice issues, such as the Youth Policy Council, Criminal Justice System Operations Group, and the Domestic Violence Task Force. At the statewide level, she has been a tireless activist, including service on the Governor’s Task Force on Family Support and many of the Judicial Council’s advisory committees: Court Executives Advisory Committee, Coordination Committee, Family and Juvenile Advisory Committee, Family Grants Committee, Civil and Small Claims Advisory Committee, Reporting of the Record Task Force, and others.

Chief Justice of California Ronald M. George and Administrative Director of the Courts William C. Vickrey will present the awards at the California Judicial Administration Conference in San Francisco in February.

The Judicial Council is the policy making body of the California courts. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the Council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice.

Millsaps will retire this month; her last day is December 19, 2003.

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