



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
800 South Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

Michael D. Planet
Executive Officer/Clerk
and Jury Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: September 17, 2015

Contact: Robert Sherman
Assistant Executive Officer
(805) 289-8514

JUDGE REBECCA S. RILEY AND SENIOR COURT ATTORNEY JODI PRIOR HONORED BY WOMEN LAWYERS OF VENTURA COUNTY (WLVC)

Judge Rebecca S. Riley and court senior attorney Jodi Prior were honored by the Women Lawyers of Ventura County (WLVC) at their Ninth Annual Scholarship Dinner held at the Museum of Ventura County on September 16, 2015.

Judge Riley received the organization's Legacy Award and Jodi Prior received the Holly Spevak Award. Judge Riley was also the event's keynote speaker.

The Legacy Award recognizes a woman who advocates for the advancement of women and girls in law and society in our community. The Holly Spevak Award is presented to an attorney who exemplifies the commitment to serve others. It honors the memory of a woman whose short time as an attorney brought lasting contributions to the community and access to justice through pro bono work.

Judge Riley has been actively involved in promoting education throughout her career. She has served on the faculty of the California Judicial Council's Judicial College as both a seminar leader and instructor in such subjects as New Judge Orientation, Judicial Ethics, and Criminal Procedure Overview. She currently serves on the Governing Committee for the California Judiciary Education and Research Center (CJER), which is the education division of the California Judicial Council.

Judge Riley is a past Chair of the CJER Criminal Law Education Committee, a former member of the Judicial Council's Criminal Law Advisory Committee and

the California Judges Association's Criminal Law and Procedure Committee. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Ventura and Santa Barbara Colleges of Law.

Judge Riley has been a judge for 20 years. She was appointed to the Ventura County Municipal Court bench by Governor Pete Wilson in November 1995, and elevated to the Superior Court by unification in June 1998. She was named Judge of the Year in 2013 by the Ventura County Trial Lawyers Association.

Prior to her appointment to the bench, Judge Riley was a deputy district attorney with the Ventura County District Attorney's Office for 10 years, and practiced civil law for two years.

Judge Riley is a graduate of the Ventura College of Law. She is currently assigned to Courtroom 40 hearing civil trials.

Jodi Prior is a highly respected member of the Ventura Superior Court's Self-Help programs. As a senior attorney, she currently oversees the daily operations of the court's Self-Help Legal Access Center and Family Resource Center, which assist self-represented litigants with legal information and forms completion in a variety of civil matters. She also coordinates the Homeless Court Program and the court's involvement in the annual Stand Down event for homeless veterans.

Previously, she was one of five attorneys in the court's Family Law Facilitator and Self-Help centers. In addition to helping self-represented litigants with family law and civil matters, she conducted regular workshops on the process for obtaining a divorce, and developed the guardianship workshop.

Before working for the court, she was employed by a number of legal aid programs, including the Coalition to End Family Violence, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, LAPD Domestic Abuse Response Team, and Legal Aid Society of Hawaii – AmeriCorps Project.

Prior is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Loyola School of Law. She is a past-president of Women Lawyers of Ventura County and founding member of the Ventura County Diversity Bar Alliance.

Women Lawyers of Ventura County is a non-profit organization comprised of legal professionals and business partners who work towards furthering the aims of women and girls in society through education, social activism and networking activities. It is an affiliate of the Ventura County Bar Association.

###