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PROGRAM

Registration & Cocktails 6:00 - 7:00pm

Dinner and Awards Program 7:00 - 9:00pm

HONOREES

Hon. Sam Ohta

President's Award

Exceptional Contribution to the Criminal Justice System

Austin Dove

Mort Herbert Service Award
Outstanding Community Service

Hon. Daniel Lowenthal

Hon. Robert Takasugi Award

Judicial Excellence

Jesse Arana

Richard Hutton Award

Intermission

Terri Keith

Journalism Excellence Award

LA Innocence Project (Accepted by Paula Mitchell)

Johnnie Cochran Jr. Memorial Award

Relentless Pursuit of Justice

Stanley Perlo

Joseph Rosen Award

Lifetime Achievement

Robert Schwartz

Jerry Giesler Memorial Award

Trial Attorney of the Year



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Outgoing President

JESSE A. ARANA



Dear colleagues,

As my year as President of the Los Angeles County Criminal Courts Bar Association (CCBA) concludes, I would like to begin by saying thank you for the great privilege to have served as CCBA's 2022 President.

Looking back in the past 12 months, it has been an exceptionally busy year. Through the gift of technology, we were able to utilize Zoom and put on fantastic monthly meetings, including a question and answer session between Los Angeles City Attorney candidates, Faisal Gill and Hydee Feldstein-Soto. We were also able to resume our in-person Gala dinners after a two year pause.

I would like to thank everyone I worked with this past year for their valuable contributions. I especially would like to thank my officers and board of directors for their counsel and support. I appreciate the Past Presidents who willingly shared their wisdom. A special thank you to Carey Caruso, Christopher Chaney, Mark Khalaf and Alexandra Mulraney for all their hard work and dedication.

My hope is that my year as President has left CCBA in a better position. What I do know is that I leave CCBA under the very capable leadership of Lisa Liu. Under her leadership, I know CCBA has a bright future. For me now, I look forward to sitting with my esteemed colleagues, the Past Presidents.

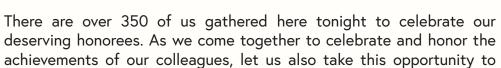
Together, we all have the privilege and the responsibility to understand the forces of change and to help lead the legal profession, to promote and support access to justice and respect for the rule of law.



Incoming President

LISA Z. LIU

Distinguished guests, esteemed colleagues, and members of the Criminal Courts Bar Association, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 68th Annual Awards and Installation Dinner. I am honored to be the President of the Criminal Courts Bar Association in its 70th year, and proud to be the second Asian female President in this organization's history. Tonight, we are holding the largest CCBA Awards Dinner in over a decade, a testament to the continued growth and success of our organization. What a remarkable way to celebrate our 70th year of existence!





reaffirm the Criminal Courts Bar Association's commitment to the values that are at the heart of our profession. Let us continue to promote integrity in our profession and work towards a more just and equitable society, where the rights and liberties of all are protected.

This year, CCBA has progressed enormously as an organization, exceeding 500 members, and our current membership is more diverse than ever before. We have fully embraced the evolving landscape by adapting to the changing times, offering monthly Zoom MCLE meetings that are provided free of charge to our members. These meetings have featured esteemed speakers, including candidates from the LA District Attorney's Office, the LA City Attorney's Office, and judicial candidates. Additionally, we have expanded our network of speakers by inviting nationwide experts in the criminal field, taking full advantage of the opportunities afforded by Zoom.

As the incoming President, I am especially proud to establish the Association's inaugural Law Student Scholarship, for students who are dedicating their summer to public service at either the Public Defender's office or District Attorney's office. I hope this will be a lasting legacy, sustaining CCBA's commitment to fostering and supporting the next generation of young lawyers devoted to public service in our field.

Thank you to the Executive Officers and the Board for their assistance with this Awards Dinner and their commitment to our organization. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Nafisé Nina Hodjat, John Rogers, Juanita Kay, David Russomanno, Angela Berry, Vanessa Rodriguez, Michael Suzuki, Carey Caruso, Rich Chacon, and Evan Freed for their tireless work to make tonight's dinner a huge success. A special thank you to Christopher Chaney for being a consistent pillar of support of our Association as always. Finally, thank you to my family and friends, many of whom are here tonight to support me as President of the Criminal Courts Bar Association. I am honored by and grateful for your presence tonight.

Thank you to everyone for attending the Criminal Courts Bar Association's biggest annual dinner in over the decade. May you thoroughly enjoy this evening's celebration, and I look forward to continuing to work together with you to make a positive impact in our community.



2023 CCBA Officers



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In Memoriam

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Past Presidents

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Philip Erbsen	1957	Madelynn Kopple	1990
Richard E. Erwin	1958	John Yzurdiaga	1991
Albert C. Garber	1959	Donald M. Ré	1992
Al Matthews	1960	Robert Schwartz	1993
Harold J. Ackerman	1961	Carol Clem	1994
Earl C. Broady	1962	Rickard Santwier	1995
Joseph M. Rosen	1963	Mona C. Soo Hoo	1996
Dan O'Neill	1964	Joel S. Peck	1997
Charles Hollopeter	1965	Michael Shannon	1998
Warren L. Ettinger	1966	Donald R. Wager	1999
Paul Caruso	1967	Barry Levin	2000
William Drake	1968	David R. Evans	2001
Burton Marks	1969	Christopher C. Chaney	2002
David Cunningham	1970	Robert J. Wilson	2003
Richard Caballero	1971	Patrick W. Lake	2004
Maurice Harwick	1972	Stephen B. Sadowsky	2005
James E. Patterson	1973	Steven Escovar	2006
James G. Cooney	1974	Michael Artan	2007
Richard Walton	1975	Andrew Stein	2008
Howard L. Weitzma	n 1976	Alison Triessl	2009
Herbert G. Blitz	1977	Mark Rafferty	2010
Morton Herbert	1978	Sharon Beth Marshall	2011
Robert K. Robertson	n, Jr. 1979	John Tyre	2012
Nancy Cunningham	1979	Bruce Richland	2013
Richard G. Hirsch	1980	Michael A. Goldstein	2014
Robert C. Clark	1981	Christa M. Hohmann	2015
H. Ronald Hauptma	n 1982	Louis Sepe	2016
Larry Fidler	1983	Evan P. Freed	2017
Richard A. Hutton	1983	Richard Chacon	2018
Steve H. Hough	1984	Victor Salerno	2019
George V. Denny, III	1985	Mark Khalaf	2020
Ed Tolmas	1986	Carey Caruso	2021
Edward J. Horowitz	1987	Jesse Arana	2022



President's Award

Exceptional Contribution to the Criminal Justice System

HON, SAM OHTA



Sam Ohta is a Judge with the Los Angeles County Superior Court currently assigned to the Complex Criminal Trial Panel, better known as the "9th Floor" at the Clara Shortridge Foltz Criminal Justice Center in downtown Los Angeles. He previously served two tenures as the Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division including time during the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

Judge Ohta has also served as the Assistant Supervising Judge of the Criminal Division, Supervising Judge of Traffic operations, Assistant Supervising Judge at the Central Arraignment Court, and Site Judge at the Metropolitan Courthouse. Of his more than 24 years on the bench – all of which has been in the Criminal Division - he has served about one third of that time in leadership. Judge Ohta has served in most criminal assignments from

arraignments (both misdemeanor and felony), master-calendar (both misdemeanor and felony), preliminary hearings, and trials (both misdemeanor and felony). Judge Ohta has also sat by assignment for fourteen months as a pro tem justice with the 2nd District Court of Appeal.

During his judicial career, Judge Ohta has also served in the administration of criminal justice. On statewide level, Judge Ohta was selected by the Chief Justice of California to serve as a member of the Pretrial Operations Reform Working Group among other Judicial Council committees. Locally, he served as a sitting member of the Countywide Criminal Justice Coordination Committee for five years. Judge Ohta was a past member of the Los Angeles Superior Court's Executive Committee and has also served on the court's Personnel & Budget Committee for over ten years.

Judge Ohta was appointed to the bench in 1998 by Governor Pete Wilson. Prior to his appointment, he served with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office as a deputy district attorney in the former Hardcore Gang Division prosecuting gang homicides. Judge Ohta also served with the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office as agency general counsel for the Community Redevelopment Agency. He also worked as a corporate attorney with the firm, Jones Day. Judge Ohta graduated from University of California, Santa Barbara with a B.A. Degree and earned his law degree from Loyola Law School.

Judge Ohta is a faculty member for California Judicial Education and Research on topics such as felony sentencing, advanced felony sentencing, sex crimes sentencing, trial management, jury selection and jury instructions. He is also a faculty member for Judicial Education Series of the Los Angeles Superior Court. Judge Ohta served as an Adjunct Professor of Law for Glendale University College of Law on Criminal Law and Constitutional Law.



Mort Herbert Service Award

Outstanding Community Service

AUSTIN R. DOVE

Austin R. Dove is a diversely experienced trial attorney and community advocate. As a defense lawyer, he has won full acquittals for dozens of clients for charges ranging from crimes of violence, to federal narcotics trafficking, and embezzlement. He has tried over one hundred cases to verdict and presented oral arguments before the California Second District Court of Appeals.

His clients range from the indigent to executives. Austin also has considerable civil litigation experience. He has litigated municipal liability and police excessive force cases, and won record-setting settlements on behalf of his clients who wrongfully suffered spinal cord injuries.



During his five years of service on the Board of the Westside Regional Center (WRC), Austin fought to increase public resources to those with developmental disabilities to facilitate quality of life conditions comparable to persons without disabilities. He is a co-founder of Justice X, a group of ethnically Black & Brown attorneys who provide legal services to systemically impacted minorities. Over the past three years, Austin took on the corrupt practices of Alex Villanueva, securing dismissal of possibly politically-motivated investigations and charges initiated by the former Sheriff against people he perceived as critics or threats. Austin has made myriad appearances as a legal analyst on CNN, ABC, KTLA, and Fox News.

As the proud father of a son who works as an accountant, a daughter studying engineering at the University of Southern California, and a son who attends Loyola High School, Austin is committed to public safety and transparency. He is married to U.S. Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager. As a member of the California Legislature, Ms. Kamlager co-authored and secured passage of Assembly Bill 1950 (Criminal Probation Reform), and Assembly Bill 333, which stiffens the criteria for – and curtails abuses of – gang enhancement prosecutions. Austin acted as a pro-bono advisor to Ms. Kamlager on these landmark legislative achievements.

Austin has been a guest lecturer at Stanford Law School and UCLA. He was first named a Super Lawyer in 2004. Austin was born in Compton, California. He enjoys bicycling, guitar, and aircraft piloting. He occasionally laments that, among practically everyone he knows, he has the fewest followers across all social media platforms.



Hon. Robert Takasugi Award

Judicial Excellence

HON, DANIEL J. LOWENTHAL



Judge Lowenthal studied Black Studies at U.C. Santa Cruz, psychology at U.C. Santa Barbara, and law at Cornell University. He represented the City of Los Angeles in employment litigation and employee relations. He has served as a Judge of the Superior Court since 2007, and currently presides over a felony trial courtroom at the Long Beach Courthouse.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Lowenthal was intricately involved in community, political and volunteer activities that supported vulnerable and disenfranchised communities.

Since joining the bench, Judge Lowenthal has actively worked with the State Legislature to reform the criminal justice system. He has written multiple pieces of legislation intended to

eliminate racial disparities in the system and make it less punitive. In 2014, he wrote a bill (AB 2124) that conferred judges, during a pilot program in Los Angeles County, with discretion to offer diversion to low-level offenders. During the pilot program, roughly 5600 people were diverted, at a greater than 95% success rate, with minimal recidivism. In 2020, he wrote a bill (AB 3234) that made the diversion statute permanent and extended its provisions statewide. He is currently working with state legislators to accelerate decarceration through the enactment of a statute that will confer judges with discretion to reevaluate sentences from decades past that no longer serve public safety interests.

Judge Lowenthal and his son, Avi, a junior at UC Berkeley, live in Long Beach.



Richard Hutton Award

JESSE A ARANA

Jesse A. Arana was born in Los Angeles, California. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of California in Santa Cruz where he obtained his Bachelor of Arts in Economics. While at UC Santa Cruz he volunteered at the Watsonville Law Center where he assisted the underrepresented immigrant community of Watsonville and provided Spanish translation.

Recognizing that the law is a powerful tool that can better the lives of those in need, he then attended and earned his law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law. During law school, he gained extensive experience outside the classroom by working for Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel, Flores Law Firm, and the Santa Clara District Attorney's Office. After passing the CA Bar Exam on his first attempt, Attorney Jesse



A. Arana served as a prosecutor for the Ventura County District Attorney's Office. As a Deputy District Attorney, he successfully prosecuted hundreds of different types of criminal cases. In 2015, Attorney Jesse Arana opened his law practice as a criminal defense attorney.

In 2019, Attorney Jesse Arana was selected by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star. This is an honor that is bestowed upon the top 2.5% of California Attorneys. Super Lawyers continues to recognize Attorney Jesse Arana dedication to being the best criminal defense attorney in Southern California. In 2020 - 2022, Attorney Jesse Arana was again selected by Super Lawyers as a Rising Star.



Journalism Excellence Award

TERRI VERMEULEN KEITH



Terri Vermeulen Keith, who has become a fixture in the Foltz Criminal Justice Center known for her coverage of high profile trials, is the recipient of the Journalism Award.

A journalist for over 35 years, she has covered the criminal courts beat for the City News Service, the nation's largest regional wire service since 1999, after previously working as a general assignment reporter for United Press International.

Among the many cases she has covered are the O.J. Simpson, Conrad Murray, who was Michael Jackson's doctor, Robert Durst, Harvey Weinstein, and Danny Masterson trials, often pivoting from courtroom to courtroom on the same day. A native of Southern California, she is renowned for her thoroughness and accuracy.

Ms. Keith was informed of this award while standing outside of a courtroom among a group of her news media colleagues, who upon hearing the news erupted into immediate applause.



Johnnie Cochran Jr. Memorial Award

Relentless Pursuit of Justice

LOS ANGELES INNOCENCE PROJECT

(Accepted by Paula Mitchell)

Paula Mitchell is the director of the Los Angeles Innocence Project. She previously served as the Legal Director at the Loyola Project for the Innocent at Loyola Law School for seven years.

Paula's work focuses on exonerating the wrongly convicted, exposing systemic flaws in the criminal justice system, improving standards for the use of forensic evidence in courtrooms, and advocating for criminal justice reforms needed to increase fairness in the system.

In addition to her work at the Los Angeles Innocence Project, Paula has taught law school courses in habeas corpus, prisoner civil rights litigation, and appellate advocacy. She has also written extensively on California's flawed and costly death penalty



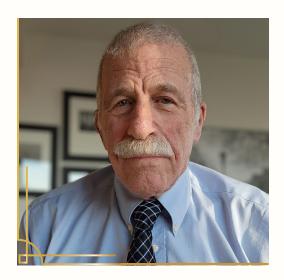
system. Paula is a graduate of Loyola Law School. Prior to joining the Los Angeles Innocence Project, Paula was Appellate Counsel at Reed Smith LLP, where she represented clients in all stages of civil and criminal appeals. She clerked for six years for Senior Judge Arthur L. Alarcon of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, where she reviewed over 200 prison civil rights appeals and habeas corpus petitions filed by individuals incarcerated in California state prisons. She received her BA, cum laude, from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and an MA from the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is former Chair of the State Bar's Committee on Appellate Courts, she also served on the board of Death Penalty Focus, and currently serves on the board of the California Appellate Project.



Joseph Rosen Award

Lifetime Achievement

STANLEY PERLO



Stan Perlo, who has distinguished himself over a long career with his exceptional trial skills, wisdom, and quick wit, is the recipient of the Joseph Rosen Career Achievement Award. His older brother Zeke, former executive director at the JOCDA Bar panel, received this award last year.

Stan is a native of North Hollywood and a graduate of North Hollywood High School. He later served in Vietnam as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, where he mentally survived the rigors of war by "assuming I was never coming back." Fortunately, he did and began a brief career as a high school teacher, while attending law school at night. After graduating and passing the bar examination Stan started in civil practice, which he detested, before joining the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office.

This is where he found his niche, launching an illustrious career that included several remarkable results in death penalty trials. Since retirement from the Public Defender's Office, he built a private practice as a member of the bar panel, where he has continued to handle special circumstance murder cases.

Jerry Giesler Memorial Award

Trial Attorney of the Year

ROBERT SCHWARTZ

Robert Schwartz, recipient of the Jerry Giesler Trial Attorney of the Year Award, becomes only the third attorney in the last 50 years to receive this award two times. The award is being bestowed for the acquittal Schwartz obtained in a murder trial in the San Fernando Courthouse that required him to overcome some very damning evidence.

His client was accused of strangling to death his boyfriend, then immediately hiding the body in the closet of his bedroom. The client immediately concocted a false narrative, claiming that he had an argument with the boyfriend, who then walked away from the residence. For the next two days the client participated in search parties with the decedent's family and friends, ostensibly looking for the decedent, an act the jury viewed as "despicable",



according to the jury foreman. The homicide detectives' search of the client's cell phone revealed internet searches shortly before the killing regarding California murder law, choke holds, and how quickly someone would die after lack of oxygen and blood to the brain. The defense was that the death occurred while the defendant and decedent were engaged in a sexual practice known as erotic asphyxiation.

The prosecution argued for first degree murder. Schwartz conceded that his client was guilty of involuntary manslaughter as his client had already been in custody for more than the maximum term for that offense. Upon the jury's acquittal on first and second degree murder, his client was convicted of involuntary manslaughter, and is home with his family.

Schwartz, a past-president of the CCBA and who received the criminal defense attorney of the year award by the Los Angeles County Bar Association, Criminal Justice Section in 2013, lives in West Los Angeles with is wife Marina.



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DIANNE FEINSTEIN CALIFORNIA

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May 13, 2023

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- Chair, Human Rights and the Law

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- Chair, Energy and Water Subcommittee

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Criminal Courts Bar Association 301 East Colorado Boulevard, Suite 301 Pasadena, California 91101

Dear Friends:

It gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings to all who have gathered for the Criminal Courts Bar Association's 68th Annual Awards and Installation Dinner.

Since its inception, the Criminal Courts Bar Association (CCBA) has dedicated itself to improving the criminal justice system in Los Angeles County while also advocating on the behalf of criminal defense lawyers, law students, and others. Through its vast membership network and philanthropic efforts, CCBA has hosted events where those in the criminal justice system can network, converse about pressing issues, and protect an individual's rights and liberties.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize tonight's honorees: Austin Dove, recipient of the *Mort Herbert Service Award*; the LA Innocence Project, recipient of the *Johnnie Cochran Jr. Memorial Award*; Robert Schwartz, recipient of the *Jerry Giesler Memorial Award*; the Honorable Daniel Lowenthal, recipient of the *Honorable Robert Takasugi Award*; Stanley Perlo, recipient of the *Joseph Rosen Award*; Terri Keith, recipient of the *Journalism Excellence Award*; Jesse Arana, recipient of the *Richard Hutton Award*; and the Honorable Sam Ohta, recipient of the *President's Award*. Each of tonight's honorees have proven themselves to be leaders of the highest caliber and outstanding community servants.

As your United States Senator representing the State of California, I applaud the Criminal Courts Bar Association and all of tonight's honorees for their tremendous achievements and contributions. Please accept my best wishes for a most memorable event.

With warmest personal regards.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein

United States Senator

Bruce Cormicle Scholarship

Thank you so much to Bruce Cormicle who generously donated 100 membership scholarships to the following Deputy Public Defenders and Alternate Public Defenders!

Sherise Parker Malika Djafar Rachel Hall Christopher Sharpe Jimmy Chu Briana Hussey Efren Navar Maceo Lewis Patricia Williams Keila Magana Michelle Hall Elizabeth Alcocer Stephanie Bedi Rachel Cala Tonya McKnight Alexander Sario Arlene Quicho Samuel Markaryan Andrew Wei Jessica Vazquez Danielle Hall William Hovsepyan Cynthia Janis Cerise Fritsch Rachel Salazar Jim Kim

Susan Roe Andrew Tan Donald Lee Puja Makarechi Vanessa Rodriguez Justin Clayton Jadai Hamilton Chanel Call Melinda Sims Tawny Stanley Abigail Serna Daniel Covarrubias-Klein Robert Wilder Megan Gallow Paul Adkins Sonia Salazar Ashley Barr Josefina Frausto Amanda Austin Firass Halawi Hassan Rezakhani Jaymes Sanford Nagmeh Shariatmadar Walid Kandeel

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Justine M. Esack Chief Deputy

Ruben Marquez Chief of Staff

13 May 2023

Criminal Courts Bar Association c/o: 301 E. Colorado Blvd, Suite 301 Pasadena, CA 91101

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I extend my warmest greetings to all who have gathered for what will undoubtedly be an enjoyable Criminal Courts Bar Association's (CCBA) 68th Annual Awards and Installation Dinner.

Since its inception in 1954, CCBA has held a position of trust and respect in the criminal legal system and an important voice in the legal community. The organization continues to remain active in both professional and civic affairs of importance to the rights of the accused and is a voice for justice and equity.

Congratulations to this year's distinguished honorees: Austin Dove, LA Innocence Project, Robert Schwartz, Hon. Daniel Lowenthal, Stanley Perlo, Hon. Sam Ohta, Terri Keith, and Jesse Arana.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank former public defender and long-standing member Bruce Cormicle and CCBA for their support and generosity in sponsoring the membership of 100 attorneys in my Office.

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office, I commend CCBA and all of tonight's honorees for their achievements. Best wishes for a memorable event!

Ricardo D. Garcia

Sincerely

Los Angeles County Public Defender

Fighting for our Clients' Futures



Robert Ernenwein and Michelle Mathes congratulate all honorees this evening!



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Congratulations

Judge Sam Ohta Judge Daniel Lowenthal Robert Schwartz And the Other Worthy Honorees

From a grateful public, colleagues and friends

LEVINE, FLIER AND FLIER, LLP

Congratulations CCBA 2023 Honorees

Special recognition to the Los Angeles Innocence Project at Cal State L.A. & Loyola's Project for the Innocent

I decry the injustice and hope for a bright future for Mr. Maurice Hastings

-Louis Sepe

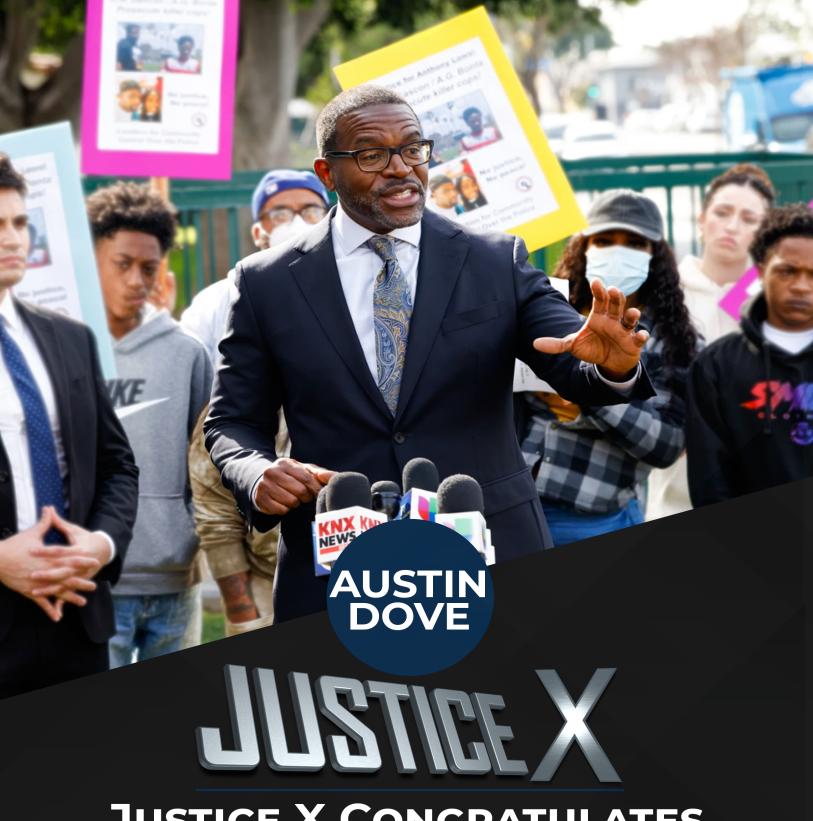
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Congratulations to this year's honorees.



JUSTICE X CONGRATULATES AUSTIN DOVE ON RECEIVING THE MORT HERBERT SERVICE AWARD









Congratulations, to the Team at LA Innocence Project & Director Paula Mitchell, for their tireless work on behalf of wrongfully convicted prisoners!

Recipients of the Johnnie Cochran, Jr.
Memorial Award for the Relentless Pursuit of Justice.

Good Luck to incoming CCBA President Lisa Liu!

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"Here's to my Buddy Rich! We miss you!"



ERIC BARTER
BAD BOYS BAIL BONDS



Congratulations to all of the Criminal Courts Bar Association 2023 Honorees and Award Recipients

Hon. Steve Cooley
Los Angeles County District Attorney (ret.)

Congratulations Award Winners

Christopher Chaney, Lindy Carll, and The Grandview Foundation







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What sets us apart is that we love what we do while giving back to the community. There is no better feeling than providing a service to others. Here at "One Call" everyone is treated like family because we care.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE HONOREES

Sincerely

VICTORIA CARO ASSOCIATES

Foreign Language Transcription & Translation carodawson@msn.com

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL AWARD WINNERS!

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Congratulations to the 68th Annual Criminal Courts Bar Association Honorees



Z.A. LAWYERS



