

2008 - PROFESSOR DANIEL MEADOR

Professor Meador, the James Monroe Professor of Law Emeritus at the University of Virginia, who served as law clerk to Supreme Court Justice Hugo L. Black in 1954-55, was awarded the 2008 Kathleen McCree Lewis Award for his academic work on the appellate courts, his creation of educational institutes for appellate advocates, and his efforts at founding the renowned and much-loved-by-judges University of Virginia judicial school. Meador played a major role in convening the first National Conference on Appellate Justice in 1975, and served on the steering committee for the 2005 National Conference.

With Maurice Rosenberg and Academy Fellow Professor Paul Carrington, Meador published “Justice on Appeal” in 1976, perhaps the first academic study focusing on improving the appellate process. In 1994 he again joined Rosenberg and Carrington in editing a law school casebook, *Appellate Courts: Structures, Functions, Processes, and Personnel*. More recently, Dan joined Professor and Academy Fellow Thomas Baker and Professor Joan Steinman in editing a widely-acclaimed second edition.

Meador, who received a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University, a J.D. from the University of Alabama, and an LL.M. from Harvard University, is also the author of *Impressions of Law in East Germany: Legal Education and Legal Systems in the German Democratic Republic* (1986), three novels, and many law review articles and symposia.

**ELAINE ALEXANDER WINS
2009 KATHLEEN McCREE LEWIS AWARD**

At its October, 2009 meeting in Philadelphia, the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers will honor Elaine Alexander of San Diego's Appellate Defenders, Inc. by presenting her the Kathleen McCree Lewis Award. Created in 2007, the award honors an individual or organization whose work has had an exceptional impact on the delivery of appellate justice.

Alexander, a 1968 Yale Law School graduate, began her career as a staff attorney for the California Court of Appeal. She served as an Assistant Attorney General of California, representing the state in criminal appeals, and then in 1974 moved to the defense side. In addition to taking individual appointments and serving as Chief Assistant State Public Defender in San Diego, Alexander was instrumental in starting and serving as executive director of Appellate Defenders, Inc. ("ADI"), a nonprofit corporation that both provides direct representation and administers appointments of private panel attorneys in criminal, juvenile delinquency, and parenthood termination appeals in San Diego, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Imperial, and Inyo Counties. In that role, Alexander oversees the handling of more than 3,000 criminal appeals per year and reviews fee applications for the appellate court.

Alexander also wrote and edited seven editions of the California Appellate Practice Handbook, a publication of more than 400 pages that was the primary guide to civil and criminal appellate practice in the Fourth Appellate District until commercial publishers started producing statewide appellate practice manuals in the late 1990's. Later she created the California Criminal Appellate Practice Manual, initially made available as a private publication and now available (and kept current) free on the ADI website. She also prolifically produces practical yet law review quality open letters for the criminal defense bar on issues under review by the California Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court, and has helped developed an educational outreach program for high school students of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Alexander has served as an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law and California Western School of Law teaching appellate practice and procedure. She is currently in her second three-year term as a member of the Appellate Advisory Committee of the California Judicial Council, appointed by the Chief Justice. That committee participates in numerous decisions on criminal and civil appellate rules and related policy, including revision and organization of rules and development of forms. Alexander has also been heavily involved in the Judicial Council's efforts to keep standardized criminal jury instructions up to date, and in a variety of San Diego County Bar Association, Court of Appeal and State Bar of California efforts to improve appellate practice.

Academy fellow Charles Bird, who nominated Alexander for the award, noted that the range of beneficiaries of her work includes “indigent appellants throughout California, who have consistently effective and perceptive counsel; the California appellate judiciary, which can count on consistently clear and illuminating appellate briefs; the California judicial branch, which obtains those benefits at reasonable cost and which has been relieved of the administrative burden of case-by-case fee review; and appellate practitioners, who have received education, mentoring, research tools, and effective advocacy for the right to fair compensation.”

Wendy Lascher