



Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF VENTURA
Hall of Justice
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Ventura, CA 93009

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Executive Officer/Clerk
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JUDGE COVARRUBIAS RECEIVES JUDICIAL COUNCIL'S HIGHEST HONOR

Ventura Superior Court Judge Manuel J. Covarrubias has been named as one of four recipients of the California Judicial Council's 2015 Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor given by the state court system's governing body. The award recognizes those who have demonstrated extraordinary leadership and made significant contributions to the administration of justice. The council will present the award at a special ceremony on August 20 in San Francisco.

Judge Covarrubias recently served as co-chair of the council's working group that developed the *Strategic Plan for Language Access in the California Courts*. Adopted by the Judicial Council in January 2015, the plan provides for a consistent statewide approach to ensure language access throughout the courts and meaningful participation in the judicial process for California's approximately seven million residents and potential court users with limited-English proficiency.

The plan was created following 18 months of numerous public hearings throughout the state to obtain information, experiences and views from stakeholders involved in the judicial process.

Judge Covarrubias is currently the vice-chair of a Judicial Council task force charged with implementing the strategic plan, which has already become a model for other state court systems. The task force is comprised of judicial officers, court administrators, interpreters, legal services providers, and community leaders from throughout the state.

Judge Covarrubias was appointed to the Ventura Superior Court in 2002 by Governor Gray Davis. He has been a judge for 12 years. Prior to that, he was a superior court commissioner for seven years. Past judicial assignments have included juvenile delinquency, family law, small claims, traffic trials, child support, and civil restraining orders.

Judge Covarrubias is a graduate of California State University Northridge and earned his law degree from Loyola School of Law. He was born and raised in Oxnard.

Judge Covarrubias is currently assigned to Courtroom 32 hearing family law matters.

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