NEWS RELEASE

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Retired Calif. Superior Court Judge Receives Top Award from National Court Reform Nonprofit
Judge Jack Komar Called a "National Leader" in Judicial Education

Williamsburg, Va. (Dec. 10, 2009) — Judge Jack Komar, who recently retired from the Superior Court of California, County of Santa Clara, is the recipient of a 2009 Distinguished Service Award, one of the highest recognitions given by the National Center for State Courts (NCSC). The Distinguished Service Award is presented annually to those who have made significant contributions to the judicial administration field and who have supported the mission of the NCSC.

"Judge Komar has been a national leader in working to educate and develop judges for trial court leadership," said Mary C. McQueen, NCSC president. "As a founding member of the National Center's Presiding Judges Forum and a contributing author of the forum's curriculum, Judge Komar helped the National Center provide an invaluable vehicle for education, communication, and networking among the chief administrative judges of the nation's trial courts."

California Court of Appeals Associate Justice Ronald B. Robie, who is a member of the National Center's Board of Directors and whom Judge Komar succeeded on the Judicial Council of California in 2002, presented the award on Dec. 8 in Palo Alto, Calif.

Judge Komar retired in October after 24 years on the Superior Court bench, where he presided over both civil and criminal matters and, for the past seven years, served as the sole Civil Complex Litigation Judge. In 1999, he was elected by his peers as the first Presiding Judge of the Unified Superior Court, a position he held for two years.

Before joining the bench in 1985, Judge Komar was in general civil and criminal practice in San Jose for 16 years and served as deputy district attorney for Santa Clara County from 1966-69. He also was a trial attorney in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice from 1965-66.

From 2002-2005, Judge Komar was a member of the California Judicial Council, the policymaking body of California trial and appellate courts, and served as the chair of its Litigation Management Committee and as vice chair of its Executive and Planning Committee. He also was a member of the Judicial Council's Trial Court Presiding Judges Advisory Committee from 1999-2000 and chaired the Rules subcommittee.

Judge Komar has been involved with many national, state, and local legal organizations, including the National Conference of Metropolitan Courts, which he served as both president and chair of its Board of Directors, the California Judges Association, and the National Center. He received his bachelor's from San Jose State University and his juris doctor from Hastings College of the Law at the University of California, and served in the U.S. Navy from 1954-58. Judge Komar has taught law at Hastings College of the Law at the University of California, Lincoln Law School in San Jose, Calif., and The National Judicial College.

The National Center for State Courts, headquartered in Williamsburg, Va., is a nonprofit court reform organization dedicated to improving the administration of justice by providing leadership and service to the state courts. Founded in 1971 by the Conference of Chief Justices and Chief Justice of the United States Warren E. Burger, NCSC provides education, training, technology, management, and research services to the nation's state courts.

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Note: This news release is located on NCSC's Web site at http://www.ncsc.org/09DS_Komar.