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FIRST STATE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

presented to Delaware Supreme Court Justice Randy Holland

Justice Randy J. Holland of the Delaware Supreme Court was presented with the First State Distinguished Service Award. This is the highest award conferred by the Delaware State Bar Association. James McGiffin, President of the Bar, stated that the award honors a person "Who, by exemplary leadership and service dedicated to the cause of good citizenship in civic and humanitarian service over a period of many years has maintained the integrity and honored recognition of the legal profession in community affairs and who, as an outstanding Delawarean, unceasingly advances the ideals of citizen participation and community accomplishment, thus reflecting High Honor on both country and profession."

The presentation was made to Justice Holland at a dinner during the Delaware Bench and Bar Conference. Over four hundred judges and lawyers were in attendance.

Justice Holland was initially appointed to the Supreme Court by Governor Michael N. Castle. When he took his oath of office on December 12, 1986, at age 39, he became the youngest person to serve on the separate Delaware Supreme Court. He was reappointed to a second twelve-year term by Governor Thomas R. Carper. In 2009, he became the longest serving justice in the history of Delaware and was recently appointed to an unprecedented third term on the Supreme Court by Governor Jack A. Markell. Justice Holland has written more than 600 reported opinions and several times that many case dispositive orders.

Throughout his tenure on the bench, Justice Holland has been a leader in matters involving legal ethics. For many years, he was a member and then chair of the Judicial

Advisory Committee to the American Judicature Society's National Center for State Judicial Conduct Organizations. He also chaired the American Bar Association's Joint Committee on Lawyer Regulation. He served on the ABA Standing Committees for Lawyer Competence and Client Protection, as well as the ABA's Judicial Division Committee on Ethics and Professionalism. For more than two decades, he has chaired the Delaware Judges' Code of Conduct Revision Committee and, in that capacity, was instrumental in establishing the Delaware Judges' Ethics Advisory Committee.

Justice Holland has been very involved in the adjudication and administration of matters affecting children. For more than twenty years, he has been the liaison to the Delaware Court Improvement Project, a federally funded program relating to neglected children who have been placed in foster care. The project develops best practices for achieving permanency by either reuniting children with their parents or placing them in an adoptive home. In 1992, the National Child Support Association named Justice Holland "Judge of the Year."

Justice Holland is interested in equal access to the judicial system. He co-chaired the Delaware Supreme Court Task Force on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts. He was appointed to the ABA Presidential Commission on Fair and Impartial State Courts. As a member of the Delaware Bar Foundation, Justice Holland was a leader in seeking to provide adequate funding for indigent litigants.

Justice Holland has endeavored to promote public confidence in the administration of justice through law-related public education. Under his leadership, as State Chair, the iCivics program in Delaware is making great strides. iCivics is a national web-based education project designed to teach students civics which was initiated by former United States Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. For many years, Justice Holland has been involved with Law Day in Delaware, a program that arranges for judges and lawyers to speak in Delaware schools.

Justice Holland was the first state supreme court justice to serve as a Trustee of the American Inns of Court Foundation. That organization was founded by United State Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger to promote ethics, civility, professionalism and legal ethics. Justice Holland served four years as the national Vice President and four years as the President (2000-2004). At a ceremony in the United States Supreme Court, it was said that "Justice Holland is largely responsible for the current health and structure of the American Inns of Court. He raised the international statute of the Inns through his tireless efforts to build lasting relationships with the English and Irish Inns of Court."

Justice Holland has written, co-authored, or edited seven books: *Delaware Corporation Law, Selected Cases* (2011 Chinese (Taiwan) only); *State Constitutional Law, the Modern Experience*, co-author (West 2010); *Middle Temple Lawyers and the American Revolution*, co-author (Thomson-West 2007); *Appellate Practice and Procedure*, co-author (West 2005); *The Delaware Constitution: A Reference Guide* (Greenwood Press 2002); *Delaware Supreme Court: Golden Anniversary* (2001), co-editor; and *The Delaware Constitution of 1897 – The First One Hundred Years*, co-editor. He has also published several law review articles, primarily dealing with judicial ethics and legal history.