

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 2, 2007

Press Inquiries Contact:
American Judicature Society
Beth Tigges
(515) 271-2283
btigges@ajs.org

Louisiana Supreme Court Contact:
Valerie Willard
(504) 310-2590

Louisiana Chief Justice to Receive Opperman Award

Des Moines, Iowa – Pascal Calogero, Jr., Chief Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, is the winner of the Fourth Annual Dwight D. Opperman Award for Judicial Excellence. The award will be presented at an award ceremony on October 2 at Loyola University, New Orleans, College of Law, where Chief Justice Calogero graduated first in his class in 1954.

The American Judicature Society (AJS) is a national nonpartisan organization which works to improve the administration of justice and public confidence in the American justice system. AJS created the Opperman Award to honor a sitting state judge of a trial or appellate court who has had a career of distinguished judicial service.

Chief Justice George, chair of the selection panel and last year's Opperman Award recipient, said, "Chief Justice Calogero has rendered extraordinary service to the people of Louisiana during his 34 years of service as a member of that state's Supreme Court, including almost 17 years as Chief Justice, both through his decisions demonstrating commitment to the rule of law and his leadership in bringing about numerous advances in the administration of justice."

Chief Justice Calogero was nominated by four individuals: James Coleman, Sr. of Coleman, Johnson, Artigues & Jurisich; Hon. Eldon Fallon of the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana; Harry Hardin of Jones, Walker, Waetcher, Poitevent, Carrere & Denegre; and Dr. Norman C. Francis, President of Xavier University of Louisiana.

The award is named for Dwight D. Opperman, former chairman and CEO of West Publishing Company. Opperman is a former AJS vice president, director, and executive committee member. In 2004, Opperman was honored by the National Center for State Courts with its Distinguished Service Award. He currently serves on the AJS Board of Directors as a Distinguished Lifetime Director.

###

Founded in 1913, AJS is a leader in improving our nation's courts. The AJS mission is to ensure a fair, impartial, independent judiciary; improve the criminal justice process; educate the public; and build confidence in the justice system. For more information on AJS, visit our Web site at www.ajs.org.