

## **Consumer Attorneys of California Annual Awards Dinner**

By Robin E. Brewer, Executive Director

The Consumers Attorneys of California recently held its Annual Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner on November 13th in San Francisco. The evening was a tremendous success with good friends and colleagues once again getting together to honor the Association, this year's award recipients and all who give so tirelessly to the cause.

With the annual passing of the gavel, the presidency was handed over from James C. Sturdevant to incoming President, Sharon Arkin. We thank and honor Jim for all of his hard work, leadership, dedication and commitment to the Association. The presidency is much more than a one-year term and Jim has really worked hard over the years. His legal accomplishments through his representation of consumers and all Consumer Attorney members have been extraordinary. He worked tirelessly on Prop. 64 and fought the good fight.

The Consumer Attorneys of California was also proud to once again present its Consumer Attorney of the Year Award. This award is given to recognize great lawyers, who, by representing their clients on a daily basis, are truly making a difference in the lives of Californians. The attorneys selected as finalists each exemplified how trial lawyers use their skills and determination to create a more just society and often do so against incredible odds or at great risk. Each of the cases chosen demonstrated how the civil justice system works to provide justice to victims, change behavior, take dangerous products off the market and/or hold wrongdoers accountable for their actions.

The Consumer Attorneys of California presents this year's award winners and thanks each of them for highlighting every thing that is good about the legal

profession, public service, judicial integrity and service and media reporting. Thank you to all of you for all that you have done.

### **Mary E. Alexander "Edward I. Pollock Award"**

Mary E. Alexander is presented the Edward I. Pollock Award in recognition of her many years of dedication, outstanding efforts and effectiveness on behalf of the causes and ideals of the Consumer Attorneys of California. Mary served as CAOC President in 1996 and as president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America in 2003, and remains an instrumental voice on behalf of CAOC, ATLA, and consumers everywhere. Mary exemplifies the long-term dedication of a former president who led us through difficult initiative battles, came back to fight another, and remains relentless in her pursuit of justice.



### **Bruce M. Brusavich "Marvin E. Lewis Award"**

Bruce M. Brusavich is presented the Marvin E. Lewis Award in recognition of his continued guidance, loyalty and dedication, all of which have been an inspiration to his fellow attorneys. As CAOC President in 2003 and Legislative Chair before, Bruce was a relentless advocate for the members of CAOC and their clients. He spearheaded the development of an ambitious and successful legislative agenda, including extending the statute of limitations to two years, stopping abuse of the anti-SLAPP statute, banning secrecy agree-



ments in elder abuse cases, clarifying the delayed discovery rule in toxics cases, and protecting trial court funding. Bruce remains committed to the elimination of artificial caps on damages for the victims of medical malpractice.

### **Thomas J. Brandi "Robert E. Cartwright, Sr. Award"**

Thomas J. Brandi is presented the Robert E. Cartwright, Sr. award for Trial Advocacy in recognition of his excellence in trial advocacy and his dedication to teaching trial advocacy to fellow attorneys, law students and to the public. Tom served as President of the Consumer Attorneys of California in 2000 and is a national and statewide leader in trial advocacy. For several years he has taught a course in trial practice to third year law students at USF Law School. His teaching skills and innovative technique honor the tradition of excellence in both advocacy and teaching championed by Robert E. Cartwright, Sr. for whom the award is named.



### **Hon. Laurence Kay "Appellate Judge of the Year"**

Justice Laurence Kay has had a long and distinguished career of legal service. Prior to his appointment to the bench in 1981, Justice Kay was not only involved in a general business law practice but taught many judicial education courses sponsored by the Center for Judicial Education and Research and the California Judges Association on the subjects of criminal law



