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Two Wisconsin Jurists with 59 Years of Combined Service Honored

February 8, 2008 – Two Wisconsin judges have been selected by the State Bar of Wisconsin Bench and Bar Committee to receive awards recognizing the exceptional contributions they have made to their communities and the justice system. The Honorable Neal P. Nettesheim will receive the bar’s “Lifetime Jurist Achievement” award and the Honorable Fred Fleishauer will receive the “Judge of the Year” award at the State Bar of Wisconsin’s Annual Convention in May.

The Lifetime Jurist Achievement Award recognizes a jurist who has served more than one full term as a circuit court judge and who has demonstrated outstanding, long-term judicial service during his or her years as a sitting judge. Past recipients include the Hon. Edward R. Brunner, Lee E. Wells, Peter G. Pappas, Patrick T. Sheedy, Mark J. Farnum, P. Charles Jones, Edwin C. Dahlberg and Myron L. Gordon. The Judge of the Year Award honors an outstanding circuit court trial judge who has exceeded the call of judicial office and who has improved the judicial system in some fashion during the past year. Past recipients include Kitty K. Brennan, Mark S. Gempeler, John J. Perlich, Gerald C. Nichol and Maxine White.

Judge Nettesheim, who was Wisconsin’s second-longest sitting judge at the time of his retirement last year, was in private practice from 1966 to 1975, when he became a Waukesha County Judge. He served as a Waukesha County Circuit Court Judge from 1978 to 1983, when he joined the District II of the Wisconsin Court of Appeals. He served as Chief Judge from 1990 – 93. He was praised by William J. Domina, Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel, as a jurist who defended both “the rule of law and the rule of common sense” and as the embodiment of “fairness, scholarship and excellent judicial temperament.”

In addition to serving on the bench, Judge Nettesheim has played an exceptionally active role in promoting judicial education and excellence. He served on the state’s Judicial Education Committee, which oversees continuing education programs for judges and was Dean of the Wisconsin Judicial College, which provides orientation and training for newly elected or appointed judges and a refresher for sitting judges, from 1987 – 1993. Judge Nettesheim is also active in the State Bar of Wisconsin, where he has served on the State Bar Mentor Council and the Bench Bar Committee, which studies the organization, operation and general administration of Wisconsin courts, including practice and procedure issues.

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Judge Fleishauer, who has served on the bench since 1981, was praised by his peers as a model of integrity, patience and respect in all of his contacts with attorneys, other county personnel and persons appearing in his courtroom. Katherine Munck, Executive Director of Justiceworks, Ltd. of Portage County, which promotes the principles of restorative justice, noted that Judge Fleishauer has “expended an enormous amount of personal time and effort in forwarding initiatives to improve the justice system and to involve the community in that endeavor.” She stressed his contributions to working collaboratively with stakeholders in Stevens Point and Portage County to build community awareness of the justice system and to promote restorative justice.

Judge Fleishauer was also instrumental in bringing new technologies into the courts to improve services and is widely recognized for the efficiency and professionalism of his courtroom.

For more information about the jurist awards, contact State Bar Program Coordinator Kris Wenzel at (800) 444-9404, ext. 6185.

The State Bar of Wisconsin is the mandatory professional association, created by the Wisconsin Supreme Court, for attorneys who hold a Wisconsin law license. With more than 20,000 members, the State Bar aids the courts in improving the administration of justice, provides continuing legal education for its members to help them maintain their expertise, and assists Wisconsin lawyers in carrying out community service initiatives to educate the public about the legal system and the value of lawyers. For more information, visit www.wisbar.org or www.legalexplorer.com