



72nd ANNUAL CAALA GALA

The word "GALA" is written vertically along the right side of the "A" in "ANNUAL". A circular logo containing a stylized "T" and "D" icon, with the words "virtual event" below it, is positioned between the "A" and the "L" in "GALA".

CAALA Installation & Awards

**January 23
2021**

Congratulations
Madam President
Genie Harrison!



Your family is
so proud of you!
Love, James,
Lorenzo and Tessa

CAALA GALA

Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles
72ND ANNUAL INSTALLATION & AWARDS DINNER



REMARKS

Jeffrey Rudman
2020 CAALA President

Genie Harrison
2021 CAALA President

INSTALLATION OF 2021 CAALA OFFICERS
& CAALA BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Hon. Eric C. Taylor
Presiding Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court

APPELLATE JUSTICE OF THE YEAR

Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Associate Justice, U.S. Supreme Court, Posthumously

RISING STAR AWARD

Sophie Etemadi

ALFRED J. MCCOURTNEY MEMORIAL AWARD
TRIAL JUDGE OF THE YEAR

Hon. Kevin C. Brazile
2020 Presiding Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court

CHARLIE O'REILLY MEMORIAL AWARD
TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

Dale K. Galipo

Congratulations To The CAALA 2020 Award Recipients!

Dale K. Galipo

Trial Lawyer of the Year

Sophie Etemadi

Rising Star Award

Hon. Kevin Brazile

Trial Judge of the Year

Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Appellate Justice of the Year

The work that you do
makes the world a better place
for all of us.



Genie Harrison Law Firm, APC

2021 CAALA OFFICERS & BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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HARRISON**

President



**DOUGLAS
SILVERSTEIN**

President-Elect



**MINH
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2nd
Vice-
President



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AARONS**

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Secretary

CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF
THE FOLLOWING JUSTICE WARRIORS:

DALE K. GALIPO
2020 TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

SOPHIE ETEMADI
2020 RISING STAR AWARD

HON. KEVIN BRAZILE
2020 TRIAL JUDGE OF THE YEAR

HON. RUTH BADER GINSBURG
2020 APPELLATE JUSTICE OF THE YEAR (POSTHUMOUSLY)

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS
CANDICE KLEIN & BELINDA THEAM

*"Real change, enduring change,
happens one step at a time."*

-Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg



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CONGRATULATIONS

TO GENIE HARRISON, THE INCOMING BOARD OF
GOVERNORS & ALL OF TONIGHT'S HONOREES!

TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR
DALE K. GALIPO

RISING STAR AWARD
SOPHIE ETEMADI

TRIAL JUDGE OF THE YEAR
HON. KEVIN BRAZILE

APPELLATE JUSTICE OF THE YEAR
HON. RUTH BADER GINSBURG

THANK YOU

TO MY FELLOW OFFICERS

*Genie, Doug, Minh, Ibiere, Martin, Shawn, Mike,
Ricardo - and welcome Liz!*

TO THE STAFF

Stuart, Bill, Liz, Kwedi, Jordan, Margie and Martha

FOR YOUR HARD WORK AND
ENDLESS DEDICATION!

*From Your Friend,
Jeff*



CONSUMER ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
OF LOS ANGELES



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GENIE HARRISON

WELCOME MESSAGE

FROM THE 2021 CAALA PRESIDENT



I am honored to be CAALA's 2021 President in this, its 72nd year. CAALA is a lifeline, a vital organization for plaintiff attorneys. It is through our shared connection, the shared commitments to progress and our collective efforts that we will not just survive this time but thrive.

I know that we face challenges to our ability to work, our health, and access to justice. But I look at this as a time of opportunity. This is CAALA's chance to solidify a new way of doing business, with new faces, fresh ideas, and a renewed commitment to meet the needs of our members.

I emphatically believe in the founding concepts -of this country – that we are born equal and should have equal opportunities. These core beliefs have shaped my career. As many of you know, I am an employment lawyer. I leverage civil rights laws to move society closer to equality, always fighting for change.

Great challenges lead to great change -- and that is why I am especially excited about being CAALA's President this year. When I was elected as Secretary six years ago, I had a vision for changing CAALA. Under my presidency, we will keep what works *and* bring CAALA into the 21st century where it can do better.

For the first time in CAALA's history, three of its six officers are women – me as President, Ibiere Seck as 2nd Vice-President, and Elizabeth Hernandez as Secretary. Though this is progress, it is time for this kind of first to be a distant part of CAALA's history. As President, I intend to solidify CAALA's evolution into a stronger, more diverse, and inclusive organization. CAALA's members are its lifeblood and the organization wants every single one of you to reach for your unlimited potential in this organization.

The business of justice will be challenging until safe and effective vaccines are widespread and the courts dig out from the COVID created backlog. We know that the shutdown and then slowdown of the courts due to the pandemic is devastating to your clients and to our work. CAALA will work closely with the Los Angeles County Superior Court leadership and other bar leaders to return the Civil Courts to their pre-COVID standards. There is a collective commitment to find solutions so that cases move forward as quickly as possible under the circumstances.

As I begin my year as your President, I assure you that we will reach out to all our members for their insight and thoughts. CAALA values *you* - each of you has an important voice and perspective, and much to contribute. We are proud of you and we are *grateful* for you. We have your back, and we know that together, we will get through this challenging and unprecedeted time.



Genie,

You are our leader, our trusted advisor
and a game changer, but most
importantly, our friend.

We couldn't be prouder of you.

Congratulations!

Michelle, Jennifer, Beatriz, Andie,
James, Mia, Zenia, Lydia, and Martin



Genie Harrison Law Firm

*Congratulations President Genie!
It has been our honor to watch you grow!*

Love, Grandma Mimi, Aunt Susan and Uncle Phil



Expressing Texas roots!



*Making your
first objections!*



Always the adventure seeker!



*The new President with
the new Vice President!*



*We wish we could be there to
celebrate. We'll be watching
the virtual induction ceremony!*

JEFFREY RUDMAN

FAREWELL MESSAGE

FROM THE 2020 CAALA PRESIDENT



In 2014, when I was elected to be the next CAALA Secretary, and therefore the President in 2020, I wondered what issues we would face during my year as President. Suffice it to say, in my wildest dreams, never could I have imagined a global pandemic; closure of our courts; the cessation of civil jury trials; the cancellation of all CAALA live programs and events, including our annual Las Vegas Convention and Plaintiff's Trial Academy; the increase in attention to social injustices, the call to end systemic racism, and resultant civil unrest; State Bar efforts to deregulate the practice of law in various ways; and the loss of a Los Angeles sports icon, in Kobe Bryant, a Civil Rights legend, in Congressman John Lewis, and a Champion of Women's Rights and the liberal voice of dissent in the United States Supreme Court for 27 years, Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

However, I look back on this year not with complaint of the many challenges that our community has had to face due to these remarkably impactful circumstances, but with pride in the manner in which we have met those challenges.

Although we cancelled all of our in person events, as well as the annual Las Vegas Convention, we pivoted and put together over 75 virtual seminars and meetings so that we could continue to support our members during these most trying times. We established a direct line of communication with Los Angeles Superior Court leadership so that we could bring the concerns of our members directly to Presiding Judge Kevin Brazile, and share our ideas on what was needed from the court to assist attorneys in their pursuit of justice for their clients, during the pandemic.

We worked with CAOC leadership to support advocacy for necessary changes that resulted in Emergency Orders from the Governor and Judicial Council that allowed for remote depositions, electronic service, and extensions of the statute of limitations and the five year deadline to bring cases to trial.

We spoke out against systemic racism in response to the senseless killing of George Floyd, worked with Justice X to connect members with opportunities to learn how to represent peaceful protesters wrongfully arrested, and rolled out webinars on civil rights litigation. We mobilized our members to join the State Bar committee meetings to advocate against changes that would allow paraprofessionals to in essence practice law in various areas of practice. We honored the inspirational human beings whom we lost this year with statements and tributes to their impact on our city, country and legal community. We spoke out against the atrocities occurring in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict overseas. In essence, and in line with our recent motto, CAALA was there for its members by having their backs in the most tumultuous of years.

Thank you for allowing me the honor and privilege to serve as CAALA President in 2020, and thank you to our wonderful staff, my fellow officers, and our Board of Governors for all of their support.

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& WHEELER LLP

Congratulations

Tonight's Honorees

Dale K. Galipo

Trial Lawyer of the Year

Hon. Kevin C. Brazile

Trial Judge of the Year

Sophie Etemadi

Rising Star Award

Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Appellate Justice of the Year

& Board Members

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Elizabeth Hernandez
Secretary

& Award Recipients

Dale K Galipo
Trial Lawyer of the Year

Sophie Etemadi
Rising Star Award

Hon. Kevin Brazile
Trial Judge of the Year

Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Appellate Justice of the Year



“Women belong in all
the places where decisions
are being made.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg
1933-2020

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2020 PRESIDENTIAL AWARD WINNERS

**JEFFREY
EHRLICH**

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Member



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Congratulations

Genie Harrison

2021 CAALA President

2021 CAALA Officers / Board of Governors
& Honored Award Recipients



“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg
1933-2020

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Congratulates
all of the 2020
CAALA Award Recipients



including
Hon. Kevin Brazile
Trial Judge of the Year
&
Dale K. Galipo
Trial Lawyer of the Year

and
All of the Incoming 2021
CAALA Officers and Board of Governors

“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”
Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg

There is no time like the present to celebrate such an important and powerful organization as we leave an extraordinary year behind and embark on working to restore the lives of our citizens and society.

Congratulations to incoming President Genie Harrison, the 2021 CAALA Executive Committee and the Board of Governors, along with all of tonight's Award Recipients and Honorees.



10940 Wilshire Blvd. 17th Floor, Los Angeles CA 90024
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To Our Award Recipients:
Judge Brazile
Dale Galipo
Sophie Etemadi &
Justice Ginsburg

Congratulations on your
accomplishments
and well-deserved recognition.

The entire BD&J family



The VALDEZ TEAM
CONGRATULATES
The CAALA OFFICERS
& BOARD OF GOVERNORS
& THE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Trial Lawyer of the Year
DALE K. GALIPO

THE LAW OFFICES OF DALE K. GALIPO

RISING STAR AWARD
SOPHIE ETEMADI

ARASH LAW

Trial Judge of the Year
HON. KEVIN C. BRAZILE
PRESIDING JUDGE,
LA COUNTY SUPERIOR
COURT

Appellate Justice of the Year
HON. RUTH BADER GINSBURG
U.S. SUPREME
COURT, POSTHUMOUSLY

DOUGLAS
SILVERSTEIN
PRESIDENT
ELECT

GENIE
HARRISON
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MINH
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HON. RUTH BADER GINSBURG

ROGER J. TRAYNOR MEMORIAL AWARD

APPELLATE
JUSTICE
OF THE
YEAR



“The late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg receives our Appellate Justice of the Year Award. Without her, I would not be here today.”

Those words are from CAALA President Genie Harrison, but it is no understatement to say that not only CAALA’s female leaders, but all of the women of CAALA likely would not be here – in the practice or at the levels to which they have risen – but for the indomitable RBG.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was born in Brooklyn, New York in 1933 and died on September 18, 2020 at age 87. She was the second woman to be appointed to the US Supreme Court and served there for 27 years. President Clinton nominated her, and she took her seat August 10, 1993. Prior to joining the Supreme Court, she had already reached a level of notoriety unparalleled by any other Supreme Court Justice. She served as the main litigator and legal strategist to dismantle gender discrimination in the law and inspired countless women to pursue legal careers. Ginsburg is considered “the most important woman lawyer in U.S. history.”

As the founder of the Women’s Rights Project at the American Civil Liberties Union Ginsburg won five of the six gender discrimination cases she argued before the US Supreme Court and litigated hundreds more. She crafted a litigation strategy “to build brick upon brick to create a stable structure demonstrating the unconstitutionality of gender discrimination. She often picked cases involving discrimination against men to show that gender discrimination hurt everyone.

The Chief Justice of the United States, John Roberts, said the nation had “lost a jurist of historic stature” He added that “future generations will remember Ruth Bader Ginsburg as a tireless and resolute champion of justice.”

CAALA is proud to honor this iconic jurist, champion of civil rights and inspiration for all people who believe in equality under the law.





SOPHIE ETEMADI

RISING
STAR
AWARD



Sophie Etemadi is the recipient of the Rising Star award that recognizes significant accomplishments of a member who has practiced law for less than 10 years. Honorees represent the best ideals of CAALA—service to the organized trial bar, outstanding legal accomplishments and standing and reputation in the community.

“*Cabezas v. Meza; Keolis Transit America* was the trial that took everything I had. This was an auto v. auto, L4-5 lumbar fusion and future cervical surgery case, with clear liability but damning accusations of serious medical fraud. It was a grueling trial with a lot of unnecessary complications that we inherited from two prior firms.

The main defense in the case was the allegation of medical fraud. This stemmed from a demand letter sent by prior counsel that included not only Plaintiff’s pain management records as they truly existed after her treatment, but also an amended version, now conveniently including complaints of severe back pain as well. Worse yet, the records were electronically signed on the same date the demand letter was generated.

In the one-month period between associating into the case and our trial date, I took and defended 11 expert depositions. I remember many nights where I would get two experts’ files, stay up late reviewing and preparing, then get up early to knock out a 9am deposition in Orange County and a 5pm in the valley.

In the trial I argued MILs, gave the opening statement, directed and crossed 10 doctors and the Defendant, and double-crossed the pain management doctor. I also gave the closing argument. My co-counsel Ibiere Seck picked an amazing jury for us and did an incredible direct of our Plaintiff and damages witnesses.”



-Sophie Etemadi

Congratulations!

CAALA Award Recipients

DALE K. GALIPO

2020 TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

SOPHIE ETEMADI

2020 RISING STAR AWARD

HON. KEVIN BRAZILE

2020 TRIAL JUDGE OF THE YEAR

HON. RUTH BADER GINSBURG

2020 APPELLATE JUSTICE OF THE YEAR



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congratulations

to CAALA's outgoing and incoming presidents

JEFFREY RUDMAN

2020 PRESIDENT

GENIE HARRISON

2021 PRESIDENT

and to the 2020 CAALA Honorees

DALE K. GALIPO

TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR

SOPHIE ETEMADI

RISING STAR AWARD

HON. KEVIN BRAZILE

TRIAL JUDGE OF THE YEAR

HON. RUTH BADER GINSBURG

APPELLATE JUSTICE OF THE YEAR

THE DE RUBERTIS LAW FIRM, APC

trial lawyers

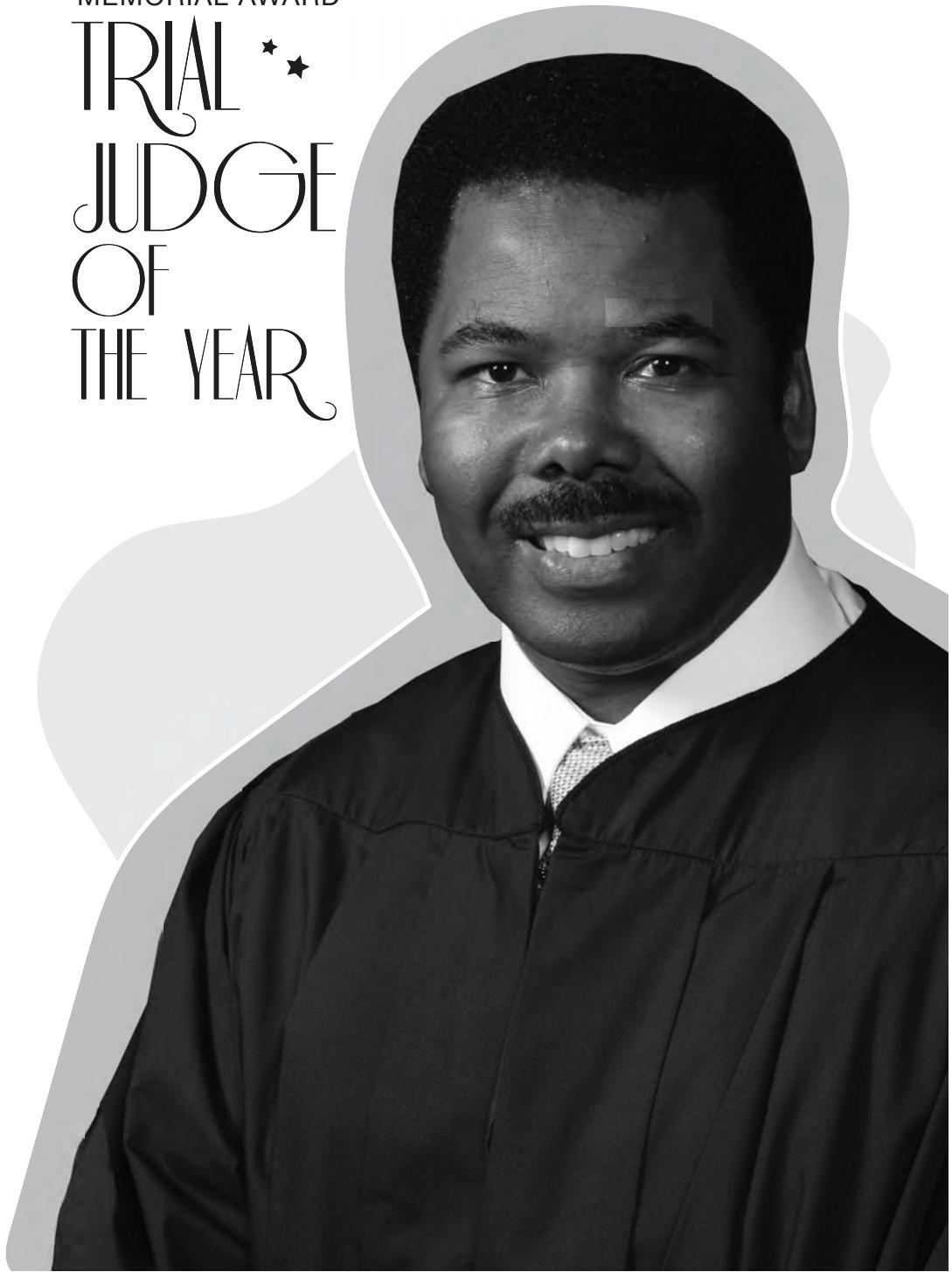
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HON. KEVIN C. BRAZILE

ALFRED J. MCCOURTNEY
MEMORIAL AWARD

TRIAL * *
JUDGE
OF
THE YEAR

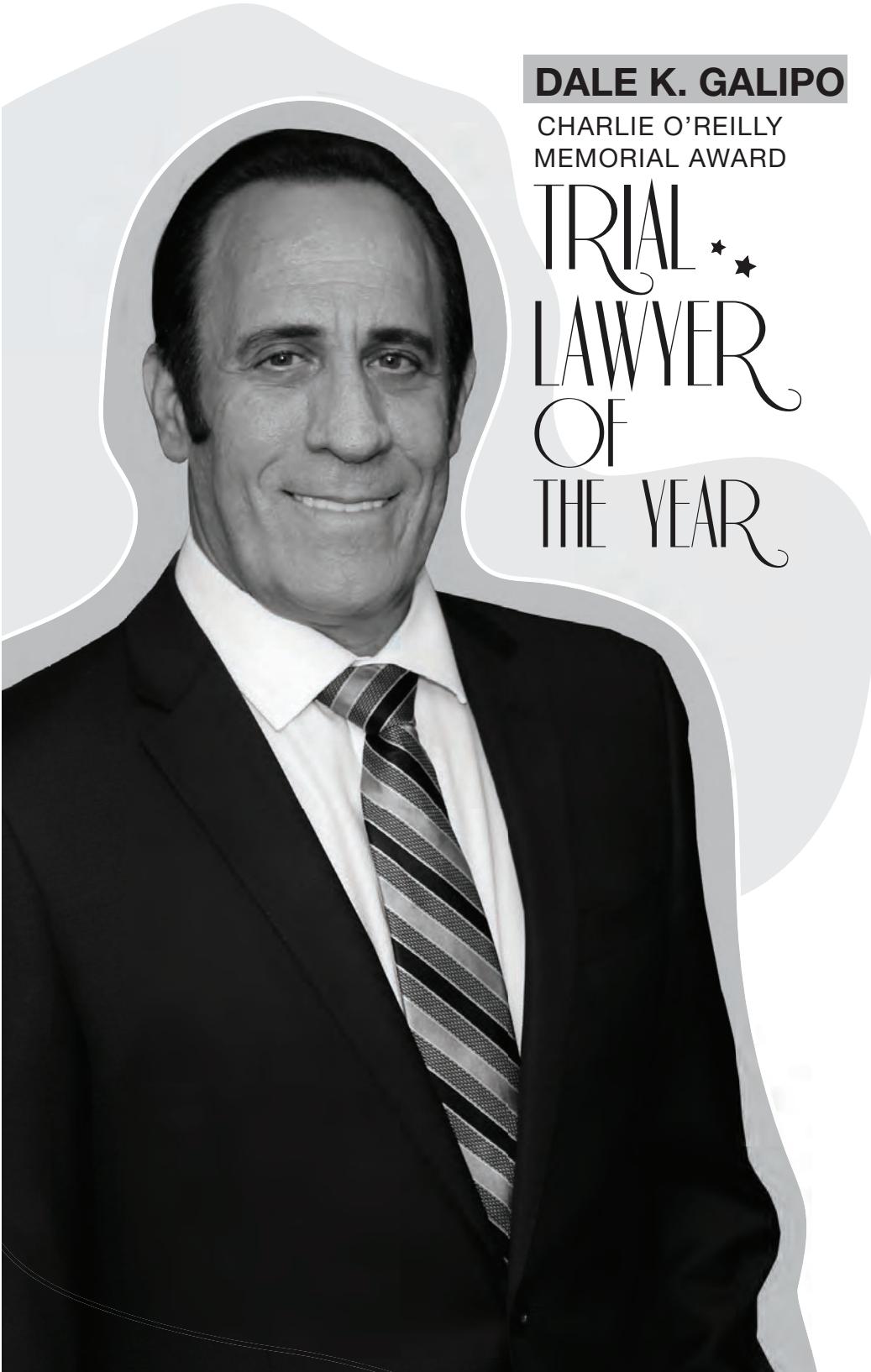


Judge Kevin C. Brazile is the 49th recipient of the Alfred J. McCourtney Memorial Award presented to the Trial Judge of the Year. The award recognizes a jurist who exemplifies the ideals of the civil justice system—a commitment to fairness, respect and compassion for litigants and dedication to the highest professional standards.

That description has defined the award for 48 years and Judge Brazile certainly meets those standards. However, following the Pandemic Year of 2020, it is appropriate to amend the description of Judge Brazile's award to include that it also recognizes a Judge who demonstrates courage, famously defined by Ernest Hemingway as "grace under pressure." Those words describe Judge Brazile who recently completed his second year as Presiding Judge of the world's largest Court and has the distinction of being the first African American presiding judge in the history of the Court. He graduated from UCLA and the UCLA School of Law. In 2002, he was appointed to the Bench by Governor Gray Davis.

In 2019 Judge Mary Thornton House (Ret.) wrote in LACBA's Los Angeles Lawyer magazine that Judge Brazile's term as an LASC leader "started somewhat quietly in October 2016 when he was elected assistant presiding judge, second in command to then Presiding judge Daniel Buckley." Judge Brazile's two-year term as Presiding Judge concluded anything but quietly, however, when nearly overnight, the Pandemic brought the Court to a standstill and the entire legal community turned to Judge Brazile for direction and leadership. Only weeks after the Pandemic struck, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye said "We are at this point truly with no guidance in history, law or precedent."

In a year like no other, Judge Brazile led the Court with courage, dedication, determination and grace as he met unprecedented challenges on a daily basis. In recognition of his leadership, the CAALA Trial Judge of the Year is the Hon. Kevin C. Brazile. ★★



DALE K. GALIPO

CHARLIE O'REILLY
MEMORIAL AWARD

TRIAL *
LAWYER
OF
THE YEAR

Dale Galipo is the recipient of the Charlie O'Reilly Memorial Award/Trial Lawyer of the Year that recognizes the highest accomplishments of the men and women of our association and the plaintiff trial bar.

“In prevailing in the case of *Valenzuela v City of Anaheim*, I was not only able to make a difference in the lives of two beautiful young children, the son and daughter of the decedent, Fermin Valenzuela, but also succeeded in having the City of Anaheim change their policy on the carotid restraint. Although the decedent had been incarcerated on 10 prior occasions and did not see his children very often, I obtained a \$13.2 million verdict on their behalf. The jury unanimously found that the involved police officers used excessive force against the decedent in violation of the Fourth Amendment by the inappropriate application of a carotid restraint and that the actions of the officers caused his death. The jury also found the supervisor who was telling the involved officer to “hold the choke” was liable under a theory of supervisory liability. Importantly, the jury made a specific finding that the City of Anaheim’s policy on the carotid restraint was unconstitutional. As a result, their policy on the carotid restraint has been changed to that it may only be used in very limited circumstances, which will hopefully save lives in the future.

It has become my passion to help victims of police abuse. I am proud to stand up against social injustice and police abuse of power to not only get justice in the courtroom on behalf of the victims, but also to help make changes in police policies and police officer training. It is a privilege to be a civil rights attorney and vindicate the constitutional rights of the many less fortunate who are the victims of police abuse. In the Valenzuela case, even though the decedent was under the influence of drugs and semi-homeless, he did not deserve to have deadly force used against him.”





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Congratulations

*To the 2020 Award Winners for
outstanding commitment & excellence*

DALE K. GALIPO

Trial Lawyer of the Year

SOPHIE ETEMADI

Rising Star

Hon. KEVIN BRAZILE

Trial Judge of the Year

Hon. RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Appellate Justice of the Year



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**Congratulations to the 2020
Award Recipients**

**Trial Lawyer of the Year
Dale K. Galipo Esq.**

**Trial Judge of the Year
Hon. Kevin C. Brazile**

**Rising Star Award
Sophie Etemadi, Esq.**

**Appellate Justice of the Year
Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg**

*Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul –
And sings the tune without the words -
And never stops – at all*

Emily Dickinson

Our congratulations to
Hon. Kevin Brazile,
Sophie Etemadi
&
Dale K. Galipo
You have brought hope and
justice to many.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg
Requiescat in pace
We will always miss you.

Jeff Rudman thank you for all
you did in a year like no other.
And to Genie Harrison and all of
the officers, may 2021 bring
hope to reality.

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FRAENKEL LLP

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Congratulations

TO THE INCOMING 2021 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO DORDICK LAW'S

ELIZABETH HERNANDEZ -

and TO ALL THE HONOREES

Trial Lawyer of the Year

DALE K. GALIPO

Rising Star

SOPHIE ETEMADI

Trial Judge of the Year

HON. KEVIN BRAZILE

*Thank you for your tireless work and
passion on behalf of our profession.*

- Gary A. Dordick



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of Trial Advocates

*Logos represent a collection of awards and memberships of one or more Wilshire Law Firm attorneys



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CAALA 2020

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AND RELENTLESSLY
FIERCE. SOPHIE
REPRESENTS THE NEW
GENERATION OF TRIAL
LAWYERS! CONGRATS!
-ARASH KHORSANDI



RISING STAR SOPHIE ETEMADI, ESQ.



ARASH LAW

ARASHKHORSANDI
INJURY LAWYERS

A QUICK LOOK BACK BEFORE MOVING ON

David Hoffman, Esq. 1993 CAALA Board of Governors, Emeritus



For nearly all of us, this has been the most trying and frightening year we have faced our whole lives.

There is a new hyper-awareness, if not alarm, about personal safety that was unthinkable a year ago. Personal protective equipment – PPE – is ubiquitous, and we are reluctant to shop for food much less go into office buildings.

All for good reason.

Many good people have been infected or worse with Covid-19. Others cannot cope with adjustments that are necessary to function in a Covid-pandemic world. Many businesses have been driven out of existence.

Nothing can be taken for granted this year, so I ***celebrate*** the reader: our ***CAALA lawyers***, our ***bench officers***, ***members of the bar*** and our ***elected representatives*** who have come together tonight for a celebration of transition and hope for the coming year.

CAALA weathered 2020 because its Executive Director and the very dedicated staff who run the largest trial bar in the United States have re-tooled on the fly, seamlessly and selflessly. It has been a sacrifice for them to maintain our high standards, but they have exceeded all expectations.

It is their good faith and tenacity that makes our brand, CAALA, unique. I celebrate our most valuable persons this year:

**Margie Ruiz + Martha Ruiz
Liz Hagan + Kwedi Moore
Jordan Smith + Bill Smith
Stuart Zanville**



SURGEONS ON A LIEN

congratulates the
2020 Award Recipients!

Surgeons On A Lien thanks the CAALA
Officers and Board of Governors.
Your dedication and hard work
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HON. RUTH BADER GINSBURG
Appellate Justice of the Year,
Posthumously

SOPHIE ETEMADI
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CONGRATULATIONS
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&

BEST OF LUCK
*to the 2021 CAALA Officers
and Board of Governors!*

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Congratulations

To

Hon. Kevin Brazile

Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg (Posthumously)

Dale Galipo

Sophie Etemadi

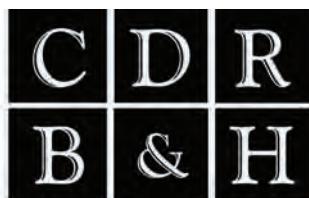


President Jeff Rudman

and the

2020 Officers and Board of Governors

You Lead By Example



CHEONG, DENOVE,
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& HAPUARACHY

Dear Genie,

Congratulations!

We look forward to a successful
year under your leadership.



Dear Liz Hernandez,

Congratulations on your election to be
CAALA's Secretary for 2021.

It will be an honor to serve alongside
you.

Shawn McCann

Thank you Jeff Rudman
for your outstanding leadership
and dedication through such a
challenging year.

Shawn McCann &
the entire BD&J family



*Genie,
Congratulations on becoming
President of CAALA.*

*With love and admiration,
Ben and Armi Lizardi*

CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL THE BOARD MEMBERS
AND WINNERS



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Thanks to Jeff Rudman for his devoted leadership
in an historically difficult year

Congratulations to Genie Harrison
We're lucky to have you as
CAALA's 2021 President

Congratulations to each of CAALA's
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CONGRATULATIONS

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GENIE HARRISON!

**WE'RE SO PROUD THIS
MOMENT IS FINALLY HERE!**



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S
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SOPHIE, AND JUDGE BRAZILE.



Congratulations to this year's amazing honorees:

Trial Lawyer of the Year: Dale K. Galipo

Rising Star: Sophie Etemadi

Trial Judge of the Year: Hon. Kevin Brazile

Appellate Justice of the Year: Hon. Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Your example is humbling and inspiring.

*And a huge congratulations to President Genie Harrison.
CAALA will thrive under your leadership!*

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4 CORNERS
Deposition Summaries

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&

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL
officers & award recipients!



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**TO THE CAALA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

★★★ THANK YOU ★★★

For your leadership, dedicated service and
contributions to the CAALA community

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