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NEWS RELEASE

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RENAMING OF LAW LIBRARY IN HONOR OF BERNIE WITKIN

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors has approved renaming the Alameda County Law Library as the Bernard E. Witkin Alameda County Law Library. Supervisor Mary King presented a formal resolution on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to Mrs. Alba Witkin, surviving wife of the late Bernard ("Bernie") Witkin, who passed away in 1995. The Law Library's Board of Trustees approved the renaming during its meeting on October 29, 1996, and there will be no net County cost resulting from this change.

Bernard E. Witkin, LL.B. graduate of Boalt Hall in 1928, was widely praised by his colleagues as a giant in the legal profession. Bernie Witkin sought every opportunity to share his enormous wealth of knowledge about California law as a lecturer and a speaker, especially with the California Continuing Education of the Bar. He was instrumental in establishing the California Center for Judicial Education and Research in Berkeley, and conducted numerous bar review courses during his lifetime.

Bernie Witkin was the author of an extensive and continuing series of treatises on decisions of the California Supreme Court. His published works are so authoritative that they have been widely used not only in California, but in many other states as well. As a measure of the gentleman's character, Bernie Witkin was almost as widely known for his philanthropic largesse as for his tremendous contributions to jurisprudence.

The new name will apply to the first and second floors of the County's 12th and Oak building, at 125 12th Street, where the Law Library is located. The third and fourth floors will continue as separately named entities since they are not affiliated with the Law Library. The Law Library's new official name will soon be prominently displayed at the 12th Street entrance to the building.

The Law Library is privileged to bestow honor upon Bernard E. Witkin by dedicating the library in his name. It is particularly fitting that Bernie Witkin's name be attached to an institution committed to learning and furthering knowledge, since those were the hallmarks of his own life.

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