



Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles



Volume 21, No. 7

March 2016

WLALA E-Newsletter



Congratulations to **Selma Moidel Smith**, past president (1947 and 1948) and honorary life member of WLALA, on receiving the Inaugural Life Fellows Achievement Award from the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation: “This award recognizes a lifetime of extraordinary leadership, not only within the legal profession, but throughout the larger community and beyond.”

The award was presented by Judge Bernice B. Donald of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (Memphis) at a special reception in Selma's honor during the ABA Midyear Meeting in San Diego on February 7, 2016 — at which all of the music consisted of Selma's own compositions. (See next page)

THE FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION

LIFE FELLOW ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

2016 Selma Moidel Smith

We look forward to presenting the inaugural Life Fellow Achievement Award to Ms. Smith at a very special reception in her honor on Sunday, February 7, 2016.

Life Fellow Achievement Award

This award recognizes a lifetime of extraordinary leadership, not only within the legal profession, but throughout the larger community and beyond



SELMA MOIDEL SMITH

Selma Moidel Smith, admitted to the bar in January 1943 at the age of 23, is legendary. The Women Lawyers Association of Los Angeles awarded her its first and only honorary life membership in recognition of her years of commitment and service, including two terms as president. The National Association of Women Lawyers has honored her with its Lifetime of Service Award and in 2005 with the creation of its annual

Selma Moidel Smith Law Student Writing Competition in women and the law. In 1953, Selma was appointed a charter member of the National Board of the Medical College of Pennsylvania, serving two years as president.

At the American Bar Association, Selma is one of 100 women lawyers selected nationwide for the Women Trailblazers in the Law Oral History Project (at www.americanbar.org). In the Senior Lawyers Division, she served as editorial board chair of *Experience* magazine and on the governing council and in other offices. She is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation.

Internationally, her paper on legal education (advocating clinical training in law schools), presented by invitation at the 1948 Conference of the International Bar Association at The Hague, was adopted by resolution. She has held many posts with the International Federation of Women Lawyers. She was decorated with La Orden del Mérito Juan Pablo Duarte by the Dominican Republic in 1956.

Selma is editor-in-chief of *California Legal History*, the annual journal of the California Supreme Court Historical Society, where she is a board member. In 2007, she initiated a law student writing competition in California legal history which she continues to conduct each year. At her 95th birthday celebration in April 2014, the Society renamed the competition in her honor. Selma is listed in *Who's Who in America* and in the first and later editions of *Who's Who of American Women* (1958) and *Who's Who in American Law* (1977).

Selma is also a composer, with more than 100 piano and instrumental pieces, and is listed in the *International Encyclopedia of Women Composers* (1987). Her music has been performed at the National Museum of Women in the Arts in Washington, D.C., and by the Los Angeles Lawyers Philharmonic at Walt Disney Concert Hall.

The Fellows of the American Bar Foundation

To honor our esteemed group of Life Fellows,
you and a guest are cordially invited to attend the
Life Fellows Champagne Toast
during the 2016 ABA Midyear Meeting in San Diego, CA

Featuring presentation of the inaugural Life Fellows Achievement Award to

Selma Moidel Smith

Lawyer, Editor-in-Chief of *California Legal History*, Composer, and Life Fellow of the ABF



Sunday, February 7, 2016

5:00pm—6:00pm

Mission Beach A/B/C

Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego

1 Market Place

This is a complimentary event, but requires RSVP and ticket.

RSVP to The Fellows Office

fellowsevents@abfn.org or (800) 292-5065