



Kurt W. Melchior
Retired President, Board of Trustees
The San Francisco Law Library

The San Francisco Law Library announces the retirement of its long-time Board President, Kurt W. Melchior.

Mr. Melchior has been a member of the San Francisco Law Library Board of Trustees since 1980, and its President since 1984. Founded in 1870, the Law Library is the oldest county law library in California. It was originally established in 1865 as a private membership library by leading members of the San Francisco bar, but within five years the legal community had expanded so greatly as a result of the boom in San Francisco's economy that the membership library became a public law library. Since that time, the library has been governed by leading members of the bar, the San Francisco Superior Court Presiding Judge, and the Judges of the Superior Court Appellate Department. The Law Library serves the bar, the public, the judiciary and City departments and agencies.

Under Mr. Melchior's leadership, the Law Library converted from a 19th century institution to a 21st century library when its bookkeeping, catalog and library systems were converted from manual ledgers to automated systems and electronic resources were added to supplement the extensive print collection. Mr. Melchior has led the board in efforts to develop a permanent and appropriate facility for the Law Library and its superb Rare Books Collection, which had been housed in temporary and inadequate quarters in recent years. Mr. Melchior appointed the Law Library's first woman law librarian, Marcia R. Bell, in 1991. He has also worked hard to diversify the Board by appointing as trustees women, small-firm attorneys and people of color.

Mr. Melchior, a partner and general counsel at Nossaman LLP, has established himself as one of the state's pre-eminent trial lawyers. He has more than 50 years of experience in litigation and has been counsel of record in more than 70 published cases. Mr. Melchior was inducted into the California Bar Association's Trial Lawyer Hall of Fame and received a lifetime achievement award, which was presented in recognition of his stature in the legal profession and his contributions to the community.

Mr. Melchior received his undergraduate degree, as well as a master's degree, from the University of Chicago and earned his LL.B. at Yale Law School. He has served as Vice President of the State Bar of California; Member of the Board of Governors; Member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Specialization; and was for 20 years a Senior Delegate of the State Bar of California to the House of Delegates, American Bar Association. In his longstanding commitment to community involvement he has served, among others, as President of the San Francisco Bilingual School, the

Oakes Children's Center, the San Francisco Association for Mental Health, and on numerous other boards and committees.

Jill Rowe, a partner of Venable, will succeed Mr. Melchior as President of the Board of Trustees. Gay Crosthwait Grunfeld of Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld LLP will continue to serve as Vice President and Farschad Farzan will continue to serve as Treasurer. Kathy Fisher and Kathleen Lucas will continue to be members of the Executive Committee. The Board of Trustees is planning a suitable commemoration in appreciation of Mr. Melchior's long-time service. While those planning efforts are underway, the Board wishes to express its deep appreciation for Mr. Melchior's dedication, commitment, and unparalleled service to the San Francisco Law Library.