

RESOLUTION NUMBER R- 295995

ADOPTED ON JAN 28 2002

WHEREAS, San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn has established an Attorney of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, this Award acknowledges and rewards the Civil Division Deputy City Attorney whose professional accomplishments and abilities and whose contributions to the community best demonstrate and fulfill the goals of the San Diego City Attorney's Office; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Civil Division are to protect the quality of life and the public funds of the people of San Diego by defending and prosecuting civil lawsuits, and advising and counseling the City; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Division provides legal services to the public with professionalism, integrity, and excellence, focusing on (1) ethical, just and effective lawyering; (2) early intervention and proactive problem solving; and (3) promoting public awareness of legal issues affecting the people of San Diego; and

WHEREAS, the award recipient for the 2001 Attorney of the Year Award, Michael R. McGuinness, has been selected from an outstanding list of nominees; and

WHEREAS, Mike received a B.A. Degree from the University of Connecticut in 1984; a J.D. Degree from California Western School of Law in 1987; and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1987, the United States District Court, Southern District of California in 1987, the United States District Court, District of Connecticut in 1993, the United States Court of Appeal, Ninth Circuit in 1991, and the United States Supreme Court in 1992; and

WHEREAS, Mike served as a Senior Legal Intern in the Fall of 1987 and was appointed as a Criminal Division Deputy City Attorney in December 1987; and

WHEREAS, Mike distinguished himself as a Criminal Division Deputy before transferring to the Civil Litigation Division in February 1989 where he has practiced in all types of tort cases specializing in police misconduct litigation before being appointed to establish and lead the Construction Litigation section where he has become a trusted advisor/confidant to the clients he serves; and

WHEREAS, as a successful construction litigator, Mike must be able to forge alliances with parties, work well with everyone involved, including adversaries; and

WHEREAS, Mike successfully litigated a number of very important cases in the year 2001 including a non-suit on a \$1.7 million claim and negotiating a settlement approximating \$500,000 in liquidated damages for the City in another case; and

WHEREAS, in the few years that Mike has been leading the Construction Litigation section, it has recovered millions of dollars in damages from contractors as well as successfully defending the City against millions of dollars in claims; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his litigation skills, Mike leads his group by example, personally demonstrating the work ethic he requires from his team, and treating his entire team, top to bottom, with such a high level of respect that members of his team find their work both fulfilling and enjoyable; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the City of San Diego, that this Council, for and on behalf of the people of San Diego, hereby recognizes and commends Michael R. McGuinness on the occasion of his selection by San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn as the recipient of the 2001 Attorney of the Year Award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that January 28, 2002 is hereby proclaimed to be "MICHAEL R. MCGUINNESS DAY" in The City of San Diego.

APPROVED: CASEY GWINN, City Attorney

By Stuart H. Swett
Stuart H. Swett.
Senior Deputy City Attorney

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