



CITY OF OAKLAND
newsrelease
Office of the City Attorney

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Contacts: Erica Harrold, Communications Director
(510) 599-6874
Megan Taylor, League of California Cities
(562) 628-8202

Oakland City Attorney John Russo Lauded as "Champion of Democracy" and Acknowledged by Latino Caucus at League of California Cities Convention

Long Beach, CA – Today Oakland City Attorney John Russo was awarded the "Champion of Democracy" award at the League of California Cities (LCC) 106th Annual Conference for his work to strengthen local democracy. The League of California Cities is an association of city officials who work together to enhance their knowledge and skills, as well as combine resources so that they may influence policy decisions that affect cities. Approximately 1600 city officials gathered at the Long Beach Convention Center for the opening session.

Russo was presented the award by League President and Mayor of Riverside Ron Loveridge. "I have learned throughout my 25 years of elected office that there are some people who are indeed transformational leaders," said Loveridge. "Today it is my deep honor to recognize a leader of our organization who lead the transformation of the League into a more effective and respected force in Sacramento."

The award was created in recognition for Russo's work to promote local democracy and place Proposition 1A on the ballot. Russo was acting President of the LCC from 2002-03 during which he played a key role in the creation of Proposition 1A, the constitutional protection for local revenues which restricts the Legislature's ability to raid local tax dollars. The award will in future be given at least annually to League members and others who make significant contributions to protecting local democracy.

This evening at the Latino Caucus's gala event Mr. Russo will be given an award acknowledging the role played as past president to build diversity in the organization's committees. John Arriaga of Sacramento leads the 400 member Latino Caucus of the League of California Cities. He will present the award during the evening's festivities.

In March of this year, California Lawyer Magazine named Oakland City Attorney John Russo as Attorney of the Year for Government/Public Policy. The CLAY (California Lawyer Attorney's of the Year) Award recognized City Attorney Russo for his advocacy and innovation in public law while saving taxpayer money. In addition, last year in November The California First Amendment Coalition (CFAC), a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and defending the people's right to know, awarded City Attorney John Russo with the prestigious "Beacon Award" in recognition of his dynamic leadership and commitment to promoting public access to government at the local and state level.

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