

# Justice Waller receives Judicial Innovation Award

May 14, 2004

Mississippi Supreme Court Presiding Justice William L. Waller Jr. of Jackson is the recipient of the 2004 Judicial Innovation Award presented by the Hinds County Bar Association and the Jackson Young Lawyers Association.

The award was announced in Jackson on May 6 at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Evening Honoring the Judiciary. The dinner and reception honored federal judges, state appellate judges and members of the chancery, circuit and county courts in Hinds, Madison and Rankin counties. Gov. Haley Barbour was the evening's keynote speaker.

Stuart G. Kruger presented the award as one of his final duties as outgoing president of the Hinds County Bar Association. Kruger said that Justice Waller was chosen to receive the award because of his dedication to improving the legal system and the administration of justice through his work as chair of the Supreme Court Rules Committee.

Kruger said, "When notified of his selection for the award, Justice Waller humbly requested that the entire committee receive the award instead. While we recognize that all of the committee members were deserving, Justice Waller's leadership and service were the overriding

factors leading to his selection."

The other members of the Rules Committee are Presiding Justice Kay Cobb of Oxford, Justice George C. Carlson Jr. of Batesville and Justice Jess H. Dickinson of Gulfport.

Presiding Justice Waller said, "This is a great honor that I am very humbled to receive. The Rules Committee has worked countless hours to adopt rules to insure the fair and efficient administration of justice in the courts of our great state. We are doing everything possible to improve public confidence in our court system without regard to any special interests."

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