



Santa Barbara  
County Bar  
Association

ATTACHMENT 2  
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AUG 03 2011

MAYOR & COUNCIL  
SANTA BARBARA

August 3, 2011

The Hon. Helene Schneider, Mayor  
Santa Barbara City Council  
75 E. De La Guerra  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Mayor Schneider:

As President of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association, I am honored and pleased to offer the endorsement of the Santa Barbara County Bar Association for the naming of the new terminal at the Santa Barbara Airport in honor of the late John T. Rickard. It would indeed be fitting to honor a man whose life was so dedicated to the community that he loved.

To the bench and bar, Judge Rickard was known as a brilliant lawyer and judge. During his career, he was revered as the consummate lawyer by his clients and colleagues alike, dedicated, bright and creative. I have learned from talking to lawyers who appeared before him that he was the judge to appear before, smart, and dedicated to his job. He listened and was fair to the citizens who had matters before him. Trial lawyers universally label him as a "great judge", not just good. Indeed, shortly after his passing, the Bar Association established the Judge John T. Rickard Judicial Service Award in his honor, which is awarded from time to time to the very finest Santa Barbara County judges. Judge Rickard is the only judge in the last century in this county to be honored in this way by the Association. He remains the gold standard, universally admired by his colleagues.

His role in establishing the airport cannot be understated. As a lawyer and eventually mayor, beginning in 1953, Mr. Rickard was instrumental in securing rights in the tidelands along Santa Barbara's shores to protect them from oil development, utilizing state legislative approval in the process. As mayor, he spearheaded efforts to annex the property that eventually became the airport. The City owned part of the land and the United States Marine Corps deeded the rest to the City. When the County Board of Supervisors opposed the inclusion of the airport property in the City's Master Plan, Mayor Rickard devised a plan whereby the previously obtained tidelands strip along the shore was annexed, and then eventually the airport property itself.

This brilliant plan launched a protracted legal battle which continued after his term as mayor. However, the City eventually prevailed and property was annexed, establishing jurisdiction over the airport property. There is no doubt that Mayor Rickard's legal acumen and thought process was the key to this successful effort. Without his vision and creativity, Santa Barbara simply would not have the airport we have today. Indeed the process was brilliant enough to cause the state legislature to thereafter prohibit the use of tidelands for annexation purposes ever again.

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Above all, lawyer/mayor/judge John T. Rickard loved the community he served. His long dedicated service to the citizens of Santa Barbara resulted in the acquisition of the land for the Municipal Golf Course, McKenzie Park and Shoreline Park, to name but a few accomplishments. He was twice President of Fiesta, and the very first President of the Trust for Historic Preservation. In his 14 years of service as a superior court judge, he earned the undying respect of all those who appeared before him for his integrity and fairness, and above all, his dedication to our system of justice.

In closing, I urge that the Mayor and City Council initiate proceedings to name the new terminal at Santa Barbara Airport in honor of John T. Rickard. I can't think of a better way to thank John T. Rickard for his dedicated service to the citizens of Santa Barbara.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mack S. Staton', written in a cursive style.

Mack S. Staton, President  
Santa Barbara County Bar Association