

## THE HONORABLE ALAN C. TORGERSON

Alan C. Torgerson graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1970 and practiced in Chicago before moving to New Mexico in 1974. One of the founding directors of the law firm of Miller Stratvert (formerly Miller Stratvert & Torgerson), his contributions to the profession and to the Bar have been numerous.



Torgerson has been a leader in the Bar since early in his career, serving as President of the State Bar's Young Lawyers Division in 1977-1978. While President of the Young Lawyers Division, Torgerson was instrumental in establishing the Mock Trial Program for local high school students. Torgerson also served on the Board of Directors and was President of the Albuquerque Bar Association in 1984. During his service with the Albuquerque Bar Association, Torgerson was responsible for originating a Judicial Poll as a means of evaluating the performance of judges and assisting voters in judicial elections. Despite initial opposition by the bench, the Judicial Poll evolved into a Judicial Survey that included an evaluation of all state and federal judges.

Torgerson was President of the New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association from 1978-1980. His contributions on behalf of the defense bar included organizing the first *amicus curie* brief and the first continuing legal education program sponsored by the New Mexico Defense Lawyers Association. Torgerson also spent a great deal of time lobbying and testifying before legislative committees on behalf of the defense bar

during the 1980's. He has been a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, the American Trial Lawyers Association, and a Master Bencher in American Inns of Courts. He is also listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, published by Woodward/White, Inc. and an A rated lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell. He has been a frequent speaker at continuing legal education seminars in New Mexico on topics related to trial preparation, the trial of civil lawsuits, mediation and professionalism.

Torgerson served on the New Mexico Board of Bar Commissioners from 1984-1994, and was President of the State Bar of New Mexico from 1992-1993. He also served on the Board of Directors and as President of the New Mexico State Bar Foundation. Torgerson has been a recipient of numerous awards and has been recognized by the State Bar for among other things his contributions in helping to draft the Minimum Continuing Legal Education Rules; Statement of Principles between attorneys and physicians; creation of the Special Summer Clerkship Program for disadvantaged law students; creation of the Legal Assistant Division of the State Bar; and frequent involvement in continuing legal education programs. Torgerson was also instrumental in developing the Client Protection Fund in the 1990's, a fund to reimburse clients affected by lawyer dishonesty. He has also been recognized for his fund raising on behalf of the Equal Access to Judicial Fund and for the construction of the State Bar Center. At the 1999 State Bar Convention, Torgerson was honored with a Century of Achievement Award. This award was presented to one or more judges or attorneys for each decade who demonstrated unquestionable legal expertise and knowledge, exemplary professional and ethical commitment, service and leadership to the profession and voluntary service to the community.

Torgerson has also been active in the Federal Bar, having served on a committee that drafted Standards of Attorney Conduct and Rules of Disciplinary Enforcement. He has also served as a member of the Federal Court Committee on Admissions and Grievances and on the U.S. Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel. Torgerson has also been appointed to numerous Judicial Nominations Commissions for state and local judges. He has also served as a Hearing and Review Officer for the Disciplinary Board of the New Mexico Supreme Court. In addition, Torgerson has served as the State Bar of New Mexico's delegate to the American Bar Association and as Chancellor of the Jackrabbit Bar Association. He is currently on the Executive Committee of the Commission on Professionalism of the State Bar of New Mexico.

Torgerson was appointed to the Federal Bench as a U.S. Magistrate Judge in March 2003. He has served as Chairman of the Local Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure Committee and is the current Chairman of the Local Federal Rules of Civil Procedure for the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico. He has also served as the 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit Director for the Federal Magistrate Judge's Association. Torgerson has also been a presenter at judicial educational seminars sponsored by the Federal Judicial Center and an instructor at the Department of Justice National Advocacy Center.

Also involved in many community activities, Torgerson has served on the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness & Health, the Board of Directors of the New Mexico Council on Crime and Delinquency, the Attorney General's DWI Task Force and the Albuquerque Boys and Girls Club. He was also a high school and college football and basketball official for over twenty years.