

BAR BRIEF

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BEVERLY HILLS BAR ASSOCIATION

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SERVING WEST LOS ANGELES

February 1990

Public Counsel

William O. Douglas Dinner on March 22

Public Counsel, the public interest law firm, founded by the BHBA in 1970, will hold its 14th annual dinner on Thursday evening, March 22 at a new location, the Beverly Hilton Hotel. In recognition of the twentieth anniversary of its founding, a new award, the Founder's Award, will be presented to its first president, Frederick M. Nicholas.

Fred Friendly, a former president of CBS News, current director of Columbia University Seminars on media and society, will receive the William O. Douglas Award. This award is given annually to recognize individuals who have exemplified principles for which Justice Douglas stood.

Mr. Nicholas has been a very active BHBA member serving for many years as the honorary chairperson of the annual luncheon honoring the California Supreme Court. Mr. Nicholas serves as chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the LA Museum of Contemporary Art, chairperson of the Walt Disney Concert Hall Committee of the Music Center, vice president and a director of the ACLU Foundation and a member of the executive committee of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Since its inception, Public Counsel has become one of the largest private providers of legal services for the poor in the nation. It has enlisted over 3800 attorneys, many who are members of the BHBA, to provide pro bono services to community groups and to poor individuals with problems involving home equity fraud, consumer finance, landlord/tenant problems, housing discrimination, child care, political asylum and legalization, homelessness and many other matters.

The proceeds provide Public Counsel with a substantial portion of its annual budget. Purchasers of tables of ten are listed as dinner sponsors. Tickets are \$300 each and a table is \$3,000. Steven A. Nissen is executive director of Public Counsel. BHBA President Kathryn A. Ballsun is an honorary dinner co-chair.