



Supreme Court of California

350 McALLISTER STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-4797

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE
CHIEF JUSTICE OF CALIFORNIA

(415) 865-7060

April 25, 2022

California Lawyers Association
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Appellate Lawyer's Hall of Fame Award — Support for nomination of Hal Cohen

I write to enthusiastically endorse the nomination of Harold (Hal) Cohen to be honored by the California Lawyers Association with its Appellate Lawyer's Hall of Fame Award.

I have previously recounted — published and for all to see — my deep respect, admiration, and personal gratitude, for Hal's five decades of unparalleled service to the California Supreme Court, and indeed, to the development of the law in California and beyond. (See Dear, *Hal Cohen: Tributes to the California Supreme Court's Most Extraordinary and Influential Staff Attorney* (Fall/Winter 2020) 11, 18 <<https://www.cschs.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2020-CSCHS-Review-Fall-Hal-Cohen.pdf>> (as of April 24, 2022).)

As I said in that article, echoing the similar comments of many others, including Bernie Witkin, retired Chief Justice Ronald M. George, retired Justices Joseph R. Grodin, Kathryn Mickle Werdegar, and Joyce Kennard (and venerable past and current staff attorneys of the California Supreme Court):

“During Hal's tenure at the Court, he served 36 justices, including six who were, at one time or another, chief justices. Viewed another way: Hal served under 30 percent of the Court's 117 justices, and for 30 percent of the Court's 170-year history. Like my colleagues before and presently, I have been exceptionally fortunate to benefit from his extraordinary legal talents and his gracious disposition, as so well recognized and described by many others.

“Every superlative in this article describing Hal Cohen is an understatement. Full stop. He is truly a human marvel who possesses unparalleled intellect, poetry of the pen and what seems like infinite exacting knowledge of the law, chapter and verse. And yet, for all his extraordinary and awesome gifts, as recognized by some of the most critical analytical thinkers in the law, Hal is patient with and kind to us mere mortals. When I first met Hal in 2011, I recognized immediately that he is a legal giant among giants and I thank the universe that I had almost ten years to learn from him.”

Hal’s contributions to the court and the law will live on, not only in the 127 volumes of *California Reports* published while he worked for the court, but also in the example, and indeed guidance, that he has left for us.

In closing, I strongly concur with my esteemed colleague, former Chief Justice Ronald M. George: “I do not know of any individual more deserving of inclusion in the Appellate Lawyer Hall of Fame than Hal Cohen.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Cantil-Sakaue". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

TANI G. CANTIL-SAKAUYE