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GLORIA MOLINA NOMINATES JUSTICE CARLOS R. MORENO TO CITIZEN'S COMMISSION ON JAIL VIOLENCE

Moreno's 25-Year Career as Jurist Included 10 Years on CA Supreme Court

LOS ANGELES (November 1, 2011)—Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina announced today that the Honorable Justice Carlos R. Moreno has graciously agreed to serve as her appointee to the Citizen's Commission on Jail Violence, which was formed in response to allegations that Sheriff's Deputies working in county custody facilities engaged in unnecessary use of force—and that complaints about such behavior were systematically downplayed, ignored, or covered up.

"Justice Moreno's breadth of experience, intellect, integrity, and judicial temperament will be a vital and necessary component in the success of the commission's work of reviewing use of force by deputies in the jails and recommending appropriate corrective action," Molina said. "I am honored to recommend his appointment to the Citizen's Commission on Jail Violence, particularly since he has personally visited some of our county jail facilities—including Twin Towers, Men's Central Jail, and the Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood—as well as several state and federal prisons."

Nominations to the Citizen's Commission on Jail Violence must be made today. Final approval will take place at the Tuesday, November 8, 2011 Board of Supervisors meeting next week.

Justice Moreno's long and distinguished career as a jurist spans over 25 years and culminated with his appointment and service as an Associate Justice of the California Supreme Court from 2001 to 2011. Currently, Justice Moreno is Of Counsel with the highly regarded law firm of Irell & Manella LLP.

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Justice Moreno obtained his undergraduate degree from Yale University in 1970 and his Juris Doctorate from Stanford University in 1975. He began his legal career in the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office prosecuting criminal and civil consumer protection cases. Justice Moreno also handled legislative and politically sensitive matters as Special Counsel to the City Attorney. He then joined a private firm, Mori & Ota (which later became part of Kelley, Drye & Warren) representing business clients in its general commercial litigation practice.

In 1986, Governor George Deukmejian appointed Justice Moreno to the Municipal Court, Compton Judicial District, where he handled general criminal matters and supervised the court's civil department. In 1983, Governor Pete Wilson appointed Justice Moreno to the Los Angeles County Superior Court, where he presided over felony trials in downtown Los Angeles. In 1998, President Bill Clinton appointed Justice Moreno to the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. In 2001, Governor Gray Davis appointed Justice Moreno to the California Supreme Court, during which time he authored 144 majority opinions. He has made important judicial contributions in many areas of the law, including arbitration, class action, and custody matters involving same sex couples.

Justice Moreno's civic involvement has included Chairing the California Blue Ribbon Commission on Children in Foster Care; Co-Chairing the Child Welfare Council, a statewide group addressing ways to improve California's foster care system; and serving as President of the Mexican American Bar Association. He has served on the board of the Association of Yale Alumni and on the Board of Visitors of Stanford Law School. He currently serves as a director of the Arroyo Vista Family Health Center, the Western Justice Center Foundation, and several other community boards.

His accolades include receiving the Criminal Justice Superior Court Judge of the Year Award from the Los Angeles County Bar Association in 1997—and, in 2010, he received the association's Career Achievement Award. Justice Moreno received an honorary degree from Southwestern University School of Law in 2002 for his devotion to the justice system, young people and the community.

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In 2003, the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles honored Justice Moreno with the Roger J. Traynor Appellate Justice of the Year Award. In 2009, he was awarded the Yale Medal—the highest award Yale bestows on its alumni.

Justice Moreno is married to his wife, Christine Moreno. They have two children and, in 2009, adopted their niece who is autistic and developmentally delayed. Justice Moreno will be 63 this November 4.

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