

**Nomination Form****POST Excellence in Training Award****Application for 2015 Nominees**[POST Home](#)
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[Section 1 – Nominee](#)[Section 2 – Nominator](#)[Section 3 – Justification](#)[Section 4 – Documentation](#)**Section 1. Nominee Information**1. Award Category (select one only) ☐ Individual ☒ Lifetime ☐ Organizational

2. Nominee Mildred K. O'Linn

3. Title (if applicable) Attorney, Partner

4. Agency/Organization (if applicable) Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP

5. Mailing Address

6. Contact Numbers

Section 2. Nominator Information

7. Name Adam Dudash

8. Title Police Officer

9. Agency/Organization Alhambra Police Department

10. Mailing Address

11. Contact Numbers

12. Department Head/CEO

13. Signature

Complete all remaining sections. Attach additional pages if needed.[Section 3 – Justification](#)[Section 4 – Documentation](#)[How to Submit](#)POST Marked
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[Section 1 – Nominee](#)[Section 2 – Nominator](#)[Section 3 – Justification](#)[Section 4 – Documentation](#)

Section 3. Justification for Nomination – REQUIRED

14. Describe the individual's or organization's purpose and training responsibility.

Attorney Mildred K. O'Linn is a partner in the Los Angeles office of Manning & Kass, Ellrod, Ramirez, Trester LLP, where she is one of the team leaders for the Governmental Entity Liability Team. Ms. O'Linn has an unparalleled background as an attorney and technical expert in law enforcement civil liability, and peace officer training and tactics.

In addition to her varied civil practice as a trial attorney, Ms. O'Linn was a peace officer for eight years at the Kent State University Police Department. She also served as the Legal and Technical Advisor for the Law Enforcement Television Network, Inc. (LETN).

One of the unique aspects of Ms. O'Linn's background is her extensive defensive tactics knowledge combined with her experience managing a regional police training academy, basic and in-service training programs, and field training officer program. Ms. O'Linn has been certified as an instructor and instructor-trainer in numerous police self-defense systems, including certifications as an International PR-24 Police Baton Instructor, a TASER instructor and a National Instructor in the Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint System, Pressure Point Control Tactics and police physical fitness. Ms. O'Linn has provided training to tens of thousands of law enforcement personnel including use of force instructors, supervisors/management and line personnel from state, local, and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the country in a wide variety of topics including: use of force, civil liability, sexual harassment, preparing to be an expert witness and expert witness testimony, as well as hands on physical skills.

15. Describe the nominee's overall achievement.

Ms. O'Linn has been involved in police training for 28 years.

Since coming to California in 1991, she has served the law enforcement community on a variety of committees and provided training to thousands of peace officers. In 1992, Ms. O'Linn served as a member of both the California POST Use of Force Committee and also served as a member of the California Peace Officers' Association committee to develop a use of force model policy. Between 1992 and 1995, Ms. O'Linn served as a member of the Los Angeles Police Department's Use of Force Training Review Committee and on the Los Angeles Police Department's Civilian Martial Arts Advisory Panel in development of the LAPD's arrest and control curriculum. She has served on numerous California POST committees including: 2012 Ethical Decision-Making Committee; 2014 OIS Committee; 2015 Dog Encounters: Keeping Officers Safe Committee; 2015 Learning Domain 20: Use of Force; 2015 LEOKA. Currently she serves on the Los Angeles County Chiefs of Police Public Outreach Committee and as the 2nd Vice President for the Southern California Chapter of the California Association of Police Training Officers (CAPTO).

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Section 3. Justification for Nomination *continued*

16. Give explanations for each of the following three criteria to support your nomination.

a) Innovation

Recognizing that most law enforcement officers know their jobs, but frequently fail at telling their side of the story, especially with regards to use of force incidents, Ms. O'Linn developed a multi-dimensional training and testing tool for instructors, supervisors, attorneys, and individual LEOs to help articulate the factors for evaluating whether force is objectively reasonable under the totality of the circumstances. The system, known as the "Constitutional Law Crate" © is a series of eleven concepts which can be printed or pasted on the inside and outside surfaces of a crate or file box. The concepts are tied together with a unique, easy to remember formula (See attached). The "Constitutional Law Crate" is an exemplary model of applied adult learning concepts. It has increased the competency and confidence of countless officers by making clear a very complex topic.

b) Impact

Ms. O'Linn is frequently asked to serve as the featured speaker and presenter at statewide symposiums and training conferences such as: CNOA; CA POST Crowd Management; CA POST Instructor Development Symposium; CA POST Training Manager's Workshop; CA POST/OCSD Supervisory Skills Course; CAPTO Training Needs Assessment Workshop; NAFTO; Southern CA Training Managers Workshop; Orange County Training Managers; CA Highway Patrolman's Association Conference; LASD Civil Disobedience Symposium; LASD Use of Force Instructors; and numerous conferences for risk managers, city managers, city attorneys, county counsel and law enforcement executives annually.

As a recognized expert in the use of force, Ms. O'Linn has served as an expert witness in civil litigation and has been called upon by numerous agencies across the country to serve as a consultant on police training issues, policy formulation and procedures and in review of high profile incidents. She also has the distinction of being one of the original founding members of the American Society of Law Enforcement Trainers, serving as the original Legal Advisor and subsequently serving as a member of the Executive Board from 1992 to 2001.

c) Reputation/Recognition

Ms. O'Linn has received awards and acknowledgments for excellence in representation, and for her contributions to the defense of the law enforcement community from various agencies. In particular, in 2005, she was the Los Angeles County Deputy Sheriff's Association's recipient of the Award for Civilian Leadership. In 2006, Ms. O'Linn received a Meritorious Service Award from the City of Gretna, Louisiana Police Department for her assistance to law enforcement in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Ms. O'Linn has been repeatedly recognized as a Southern California Super Lawyer (2004–2015) - an award that goes only to the top 5% of attorneys in the Los Angeles/Orange County Bar and Top Women Lawyers in Southern California (2012–2015). In 2009, Ms. O'Linn was accepted as a member of the distinguished American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), an award only bestowed upon proven trial attorneys. In 2011, she was inducted into the Litigation Counsel of America, an invitation-only trial lawyer honorary society representing less than one-half of one percent of American lawyers.

In 2012, the Orange County Sheriff's Department nominated Ms. O'Linn for Law and Order Magazine Law Enforcement Trainer of the Year Award. Also of note, in 2006, Ms. O'Linn was requested to take over the defense in a highly notable products liability case TASER International just 10 days before trial. In November, 2006, a defense verdict was rendered in that matter on behalf of the LAPD and TASER and the case was selected as one of the top 100 defense verdicts nationally for 2006.

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Application for 2015 Nominees****Section 4. Support Documentation – REQUIRED****17. Provide a brief list of any supporting documents included with this application.**

1. Letter of Endorsement: Jeri Williams, Chief, Oxnard Police Department
2. Letter of Endorsement: Michael Gray, Executive Director, San Diego Regional Training Center
3. Letter of Endorsement: Cathy Scherer, Lieutenant, Irvine Police Department
4. Letter of Endorsement: Ward Smith, Chief, Placentia Police Department
5. Letter of Endorsement: David Lawton, Chief, San Gabriel Police Department
6. Letter of Endorsement: Phillip Sanchez, Chief, Pasadena Police Department
7. Letter of Endorsement: Paul Cooper, Chief, Claremont Police Department
8. Letter of Endorsement: Robert Sharpnack, Chief, Costa Mesa Police Department
9. Letter of Endorsement: Rick Hicks, Coordinator, Criminal Justice Training Center, Golden West College
10. Letter of Endorsement: Jody Gonzalez, Training Coordinator, Costa Mesa Police Department
11. Letter of Endorsement: Bernard Melekian, Undersheriff, Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office
12. Instructional Aid - Class Handout: Constitutional Law Crate

To complete your application:

- 1) Make sure you have filled in all applicable sections.
- 2) Print and sign form.
- 3) Attach all supporting documents.
- 4) Send your completed application to:



**Excellence in Training Screening Committee
c/o California POST
Executive Office
860 Stillwater Road, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95605**

Application questions: 916.227.2808 — Janice Bullard