

**At the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Night --  
Nevada District Judge Cheryl B. Moss receives a Lifetime Golden Pearl Award,  
Professional Achievement Category**

**By Johnny M. Pecayo**

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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, October 26, 2013 – At the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Night of the Filipino American Heritage Foundation, held at the Grand Ballroom of the Treasure Island Hotel here, seven distinguished individuals, a newspaper publication and a non-profit organization were honored and recognized for their outstanding achievements in their respective fields of service, notable among whom was the Golden Pearl Award, professional achievement category, bestowed upon Nevada District Judge **Cheryl B. Moss**. It was an award of distinction as a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Founded by Dr. Romualdo Aragon, Jr., the Filipino American Heritage Foundation-Nevada (FAHF-NV) has been holding this annual event for the last six years.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual event drew a good crowd of Filipino American businessmen and professionals, and earned congratulatory messages from elected officials and dignitaries.

**Greetings from Elected Officials and Dignitaries**

“Our Administration recognizes the overseas Filipino communities’ vital involvement in nation-building, and I am proud to say that our countrymen truly reflect the heritage by achieving their goals through passion and excellence, thereby elevating our culture’s presence in a robust, multicultural milieu,” **Philippine President Benigno S. Aquino III** wrote.

**U.S. Senator Harry Reid** commended FAHV-NV, citing that “the event gives us the opportunity to recognize the achievements, contributions and historical presence of Filipinos in the community.”

**Governor Brian Sandoval** of the State of Nevada commended the organizers who worked diligently to put together this successful event. “Nevada’s diverse heritage has been greatly enriched by the pioneers of the Filipino community (since October 1587) and their commitments to our communities and state.”

He added: “As Governor of the State of Nevada, I extend to you all my best wishes on this occasion, and I wish you all the warmest of greetings as you join together to celebrate the Filipino American History Month.”

**Mayor Carolyn G. Goodman** of the City of Las Vegas wrote: “This nationwide celebration was established by the Filipino American National Historical Society to recognize the achievements, contributions and the historical presence of Filipinos since October 1587 in what is now the United States of America.”

Philippine Ambassador to the United States of America, **Jose L. Cuisia, Jr.** is glad to note that FAHV-NV recognizes the large presence of Filipinos in the United States, and promotes the unique colors and richness of Filipino culture and heritage among all Americans of whatever race, color or creed. He stated: “This year’s awardees are the living embodiment of the contribution of Filipinos to the welfare of mainstream American society.”

“It is my singular pleasure to commend FAHF-NV for maintaining its noble tradition of organizing this annual event not only to showcase the beauty, richness and diversity of Philippine culture, but also to recognize outstanding Filipino Americans on their dedication to the welfare of our Kababayans,” wrote **Consul General Ma. Hellen Barber de la Vega** of the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles, who graced the occasion along with her husband.

**Judge Cheryl B. Moss – Lifetime Awardee**

“I am truly grateful and thankful to Dr. Romualdo Aragon, Founder and President of the Filipino American Heritage Foundation, for the distinct honor accorded me as a “Lifetime Achievement awardee,” Judge Moss told the *MANILA-U.S. TIMES* during an interview held at the Treasure Island Hotel, immediately after the presentation of awards, hosted by Beverly of ABS-CBN International with special guests, Janine Tugonon, 1<sup>st</sup> Runner-up Miss Universe 2012; and Tara Star, Miss Universal Dream 2013, and Miss Paradise United States 2013.

Judge Cheryl Moss was the first Filipina in Nevada history to be elected as a District Court Judge in November 2000. She has won three contested elections since then.

Judge Moss is the first judge in Nevada to institute problem-solving in gambling, child custody and divorce cases, which

she accomplished in her first year on the bench.

Judge Moss is the first and only judge to graduate from the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Program in August 2007.

She graduated with honors from the George Washington University, Washington D.C. with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. Judge Moss then attended the Columbus School of Law, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., where she graduated in the top 25% of her class and was a National Team Leader in the law school's Moot Court Team for the Spong National Competition.

After law school, Cheryl served as judicial law clerk to the Honorable John H. Bayly, Jr., Superior Court of the District of Columbia. She also served as an intern in the United States Attorney's Office, Misdemeanors Branch, Washington, D.C. Her legal career between 1986 and 2000 included working in law firms in Washington, D.C. and Las Vegas, as well as her own law office, Cheryl B. Moss, Chartered. Judge Moss was admitted to the Nevada State Bar in 1997. In 1999, while in solo private practice, she received the Shining Star Award from the Clark County Pro Bono Project for her representation of low-income clients.

Judge Moss is a member of the Nevada District Judges Association, the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, the Nevada State Bar, and the Clark County Bar Association. She is licensed to practice law in Nevada, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. Judge Moss also serves on the Board of Trustees of the Clark County Library.

Judge Moss is a recipient of an award for the **100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the U.S.**, held in San Francisco, California in September 2011.

She received in 2009 the prestigious **Shannon L. Bybee Award** from the Nevada Council on Problem-Solving Gambling, for her professional and personal interest in solving the gambling problem and her dedication to raising awareness of this anathema to society.

Judge Moss is a member of a Civil Order Enforcement Task Committee working on procedures in helping parents enforce their custodial or visitation rights with the assistance of the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, helping and guiding parents to obtaining emergency court hearing dates before a Family Court Judge.

Judge Moss also volunteers her time judging in local and statewide competitions such as the UNLV Law School Moot Court Competition, the High School Mock Trial Competition, and the Trial By Peers Program.

#### **Other Awardees**

**Cora Oriel**, president of the Asian Journal Group of Companies in Los Angeles, FAHF Presidential Awardee.

Marie Montera, News 3 Anchor, KSNV/DT-Las Vegas, Golden Pearl Awardee, along with Dr. Rhigel Alforque Tan, David Tupaz, Dr. Noel Fajardo, Chef Rudy Janeo, Jr., and Kristina Marie Ilagan.

Las Vegas Philippine Medical Mission, Inc., headed by President Minda Banaria, received the Community Service Award.

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Captions:

**DISTRICT JUDGE Cheryl B. Moss proudly shows off the Plaque of Recognition as a "Lifetime Achievement" awardee, professional achievement level. – MUST Photo**

**JUDGE CHERYL B. MOSS of the Eighth Judicial District Court in Nevada, with Johnny M. Pecayo, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the MANILA-U.S. TIMES, Management Consultant, and immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Makati Legazpi (RY 2012-2013). – MUST Photo by Jim Castillo**

**JOHNNY M. PECAYO, Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the MANILA-U.S. TIMES, and Executive Producer of the Eagle Award of Excellence, with Dr. Romualdo Aragon, Founder and President of the Filipino American Heritage Foundation-Nevada. – MUST Photo by Jim Castillo**

