

California attorney earns major recognition from Shanghai Government

Attorney Thomas Klitgaard was awarded the Magnolia Silver Award by the Shanghai Municipal Government at a ceremony at the city's Xi Jiao State Guest House on Sept. 9. According to the Award's certificate, Mr. Klitgaard was recognized for his "valuable support to Shanghai's development and outstanding contributions to [our] friendly cooperation." Among the 46 award recipients from 19 countries, Mr. Klitgaard was one of only six Americans as well as the only attorney.

After China's reform and opening-up, the Magnolia Silver Award was founded in 1989 as a way to acknowledge and appreciate the contributions made by individuals of Shanghai's expatriate community. It is one of the highest awards that can be given by the Shanghai government to a foreigner. Along with Mr. Klitgaard, this year's recipients included the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Dell (China) Co. Ltd., the Chairman of Shanghai General Motors Co., Ltd., the Managing Director Greater China for The Walt Disney Company, the Chairman of Kirin (China) Investment Company, the Chairman of Komatsu (China) Limited, the President of Sony (China) Company, the Chief Executive Officer of Infosys Technologies (China) Company Limited, and the General Manager of Roche Diagnostics (Shanghai).

"I am deeply humbled by the Award and its significance," said Mr. Klitgaard. "My designation was Guest Professor, Shanghai Economic College. I operated the beginning and end stages of an important business management training program with the College and other Shanghai educational institutions for specially selected upcoming Chinese managers."

Mr. Klitgaard is a partner with the San Francisco law firm Dillingham & Murphy, LLP. In his professional life he is a domestic and international arbitrator and mediator with an emphasis on Asia and a practicing lawyer with an emphasis on intellectual property and commercial litigation. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor of Asian Law at the University of San Francisco.

Mr. Klitgaard received his law degree from Boalt Hall after which he was a Law Clerk for the United States Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas and later a partner in Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro and General Counsel of Tandem Computers Incorporated and Sega of America, Inc.

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