



Association of Adventist Women

# Carolina Castillo Rose

## — Woman of the Year — Professional Life

# 1999

It is hard to tell where the professional and church lives of Carolina Castillo Rose begin and end. Since becoming a Seventh-day Adventist more than twenty years ago, Rose has been championing legislative efforts involving the first amendment.

A 1976 Stanford University Law School alumna, Rose worked in the California State Legislature for seven years where she was chief of staff to Senator Nicholas Petris. When California's attorney general placed the Worldwide Church of God into receivership, effectively taking control of the assets of that denomination, she was instrumental in crafting—and seeing passed—legislation to insure that never again

would the state initiate a hostile takeover of a church.

In response to the threat of a constitutional amendment to rewrite the Establishment Clause, Rose and her business partner, Walter Pontynen, formed the Interfaith Religious Liberty Association. In 1996, the

organization sponsored a President's Day rally in Sacramento with speakers such as Bishop Melvin Talbert, then president of the National Council of Churches, and J. Brent Walker, Esq., legal director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.



In 1983, Rose founded Legislative Research Inc. (LRD), a private

research firm that specializes in providing California and federal legislative histories to attorneys.

“Carolina has long nurtured a conviction that the heart of religious freedom is the gospel....She loves her church and loves the special message that was given to it. She is dedicated to translating that message from its nineteenth-century dialect,” says Alan J. Reinach, Esq., director of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty of the Pacific Union Conference.

Rose’s husband, Larry, is a research scientist in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the University of California-Davis Medical School. They have three children and live in Carmichael, California.

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