

Albuquerque lawyer honored with award



FEFERMAN:
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Feferman generous with time, advice

Journal Staff Report

Albuquerque attorney Richard N. "Rick" Feferman not only returns phone calls to aspiring consumer lawyers, he also has been generous with his time in doing pro bono legal work in a technical area of law, his colleagues say.

"He has won ground-breaking consumer fraud cases, substantial awards for his deserving clients,

and mentored countless consumer advocates dedicated to helping victims of marketplace abuses," said National Consumer Law Center executive director Willard Ogburn in presenting the Vern Countryman Consumer Law Award.

The award was given by the center at its annual conference in Washington, D.C. For more than 35 years, Feferman has helped low-income families and other consumers in the Southwest.

The State Bar of New Mexico, Equal Access to Justice, Legal Aid and Law Access New Mexico will honor Feferman from 8 to 10 a.m.

Friday at State Bar headquarters, 5121 Masthead NE.

The Countryman award goes to a legal services or other attorney whose special contributions to the practice of consumer law have strengthened and affirmed the rights of low-income people in the United States.

"This is the Nobel, the Pulitzer, the Oscar, the Emmy, and the Grammy in my chosen field," Feferman said. "I couldn't be more pleased, and I am very grateful."

His law firm, Feferman & Warren, handles individual and class action consumer cases throughout

New Mexico, and some cases in Arizona and Colorado. Many are federal lawsuits against car dealers, abusive debt collectors, and predatory lenders.

In 1999, the firm was nominated for trial lawyers of the year by Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, for its \$669,000 jury verdict against a New Mexico car dealer for odometer fraud and abusive debt collection practices.

In 2004, Feferman won a bench trial where the judge awarded punitive damages of \$250,000 against Fleetwood for mobile home sales fraud.