



2009 Awards of Merit

Do you know an advocate, volunteer, court staff, or client who deserves recognition for their work?
The Legal Aid Association of California invites you to nominate them for its 2009 Awards of Merit!

Nomination Deadline: March 6th

In 2009, LAAC will present a total of **SEVEN** awards, one in each of the categories below:

1. Attorney
2. Paralegal or Community Worker
3. Support Staff
4. Individual Volunteer
5. Board Member for a legal services program
6. Client of a legal services program engaged in advocacy or assistance to the program
7. **Joint Award with the Access to Justice Commission!** Staff of a trial or appellate level court program (excluding bench officers).

⌘ Award Criteria ⌘	⌘ Court-Based Award ⌘
<p>The LAAC Recognition Committee will review the nominations for the legal-services-based awards and make final selections based on the nominee's contributions in one or more of the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demonstrated commitment to the delivery of legal services to the poor; ➤ Litigation of cases that had a significant impact on legal services clients; ➤ Work with the client community that increased client access to legal services; ➤ Legislative work that resulted in improved legal services or other services needed by legal services clients; ➤ Advocacy efforts that helped meet the legal needs of those traditionally under-represented in our legal system. 	<p>Nominees must be employees of the judicial branch, <u>at the trial or appellate level</u>, excluding bench officers. The nominee must exhibit a demonstrated commitment to increasing access to justice for self-represented litigants, primarily low-income persons. A joint committee with members from the LAAC Recognition Committee and the Access to Justice Commission Awards Committee will review nominees and consider contributions in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Created/promoted strategies to assist self-represented litigants through one-on-one assistance, as well as efforts such as workshops, kiosks, informational materials or innovative technology projects; ➤ Collaborated with legal aid organizations, pro bono groups or law libraries to enhance the scope of service to self-represented litigants; ➤ Streamlined court operations to enhance a litigant's ability to understand and navigate the court process; ➤ Collaborated with local legislators, government entities, and others to obtain funding for access-to-justice projects.

With the exception of the court-based award, only individuals working at LAAC member programs can receive awards. All staff persons at LAAC member organizations are eligible to submit nominations. For the court-based award, LAAC members, judges, court staff, and bar leaders are eligible to submit nominations.

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Nominee Information Sheet

Nomination Category – Please check one.

Attorney Paralegal/Community Worker Support staff Volunteer Board Client Court

(1) Nominee's Information

Nominee's Name: _____

Organization/Firm/Court: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

(2) Nominator's Information

Nominator: _____

Organization/Firm/Court: _____

Address: _____

Telephone _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

(3) Statement Supporting the Nomination: Please attach a brief statement (no longer than 2 pages) explaining why your nominee qualifies for an award. It is helpful to specifically address the nomination criteria for the category for which you are nominating him/her and to give a brief overview of the nominee's work history, other activities, or other recognition that he/she has received. You may also include a resume and up to two letters of support. As always, thank you for your thoughtful nomination!

Send completed forms and supplementary information to:

Attention: Chris Moulton, Program Associate
Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC)
47 Kearny Street, Suite 705, San Francisco, CA 94108
Fax: 415-834-0202

Questions? Please visit www.CALegalAdvocates.org or contact Chris Moulton at (415) 834-0100 x 304 or cmoulton@pic.org

This year's awards will be presented at the 2009 "Connecting the Dots" Annual Stakeholders Meeting on June 10th at the California Endowment Convention Center in Los Angeles.