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**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR LAWYERS DIVISION
ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF 2008 NATIONAL AWARDS**

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 5, 2008 –The American Bar Association's Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division today announced the recipients of its three annual awards for outstanding work in the government and public sector. The awards will be presented at a reception on August 8, 2008 in New York City at the InterContinental Barclay New York hotel from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m.

The 2008 Dorsey Award, honoring an outstanding public defender or legal aid lawyer, will be presented to Jeremy Lane, Executive Director, Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, and Julie Levin, Managing Attorney, Legal Aid of Western Missouri.

When Jeremy Lane graduated from Fordham University School of Law in 1968, he went into private practice on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan. In 1969, a friend invited him to join his Legal Aid office in Queens. He accepted the invitation and found his calling. Six months later, he moved to Minnesota and began a career of fighting for the disadvantaged with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid (MMLA). Lane became Managing Attorney of the Minneapolis office in 1976, and was named Executive Director in 1981. For 38 years, Lane has fought for victims of discrimination and harassment in Minnesota, especially in housing. According to *Minnesota Lawyer* magazine, the name 'Jeremy Lane' is synonymous in the Minnesota legal community with fighting for the disadvantaged and highlighting the importance of access to justice.

Lane is an active member of the bar, serving on the Board of Governors of the Minnesota State Bar Association, and the Diversity Committee and Governing Council of the Hennepin County Bar Association. He is also a longtime member of the Board of Directors of the Loan Repayment Assistance Program – Minnesota, serving as Vice President since 1990. Lane served on the National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) Board of Directors from 1992 to 1999, and has served on the NLADA Insurance Program Board of Directors since 1996. In 2007, he was named to the U.S. District Court Magistrate Judge Merit Selection Panel. Lane is on the Board of Directors for the Minnesota Volunteer Attorney Program and the Minneapolis Youth Diversion Project, and on the University of St. Thomas School of Law's Board of Governors. Since 1981, he has been on the Greater Twin Cities United Way's Council of Agency Executives.

Julie Levin's work with Legal Aid of Western Missouri (LAWMO) transformed public housing in Kansas City. In 1989, Levin filed a lawsuit in Federal District Court against the Housing Authority of Kansas City (HAKC), on behalf of

tenants of the Theron B. Watkins housing development. *Tinsley v. Kemp*, 750 F.Supp. 1001 (W.D. Mo. 1990), was one of the first cases to allege that HAKC's failure to maintain hundreds of public housing units constituted *de facto* demolition of those units and violated Fair Housing laws. *Tinsely* led to \$143 million of construction and renovation of high-quality, public and affordable housing in Kansas City and inspired many similar class action suits. Levin frequently lectures and writes about housing law, is Chairperson of the Missouri State-Wide Legal Services Housing Task Force, coordinates the Public Housing Working Group for the National Housing Law Project and serves on its Council of Advisors.

Levin joined LAWMO in 1977 as a staff attorney. In 1979, she moved to the Housing Litigation Unit, and in 1982 she became Managing Attorney of the Central Office. Levin exhibits great energy and a "can do" attitude as she supervises the legal work of 19 attorneys and 11 paralegals, oversees intake, reviews cases, serves as a housing law resource, and handles federal housing litigation. Since 1979, she has litigated numerous federal class action and individual lawsuits, and argued *Wimberly v. The Labor and Relations Commission of Missouri* before the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Hodson Award honors an outstanding government or public sector law office. The 2008 Hodson Award recipient is Lawyers For Children, Inc. of New York City. Lawyers For Children (LFC) is dedicated to advocating on behalf of children in foster care in New York City, urging reform of the foster care system, and providing services to children in foster care. For 24 years, LFC has helped these children find the safety, love and true sense of family that should come with every childhood.

LFC was founded in 1984 to address the lack of legal representation for children voluntarily placed in foster care. Since then, LFC has become a leading child advocacy organization in New York, representing over 40,000 children. LFC supports its mission of directly representing children in foster care with targeted services and a legal rights handbook for adolescents aging out of foster care, and with impact litigation such as *Nicholson v. Williams*, a class action suit that forced the NYC Administration for Children's Services to do case-by-case evaluations to determine if removal is necessary rather than automatic if a parent is a victim of domestic violence. LFC also advocates for immigration rights, mental health services, and child sexual abuse evaluations and education. LFC has been recognized for its best-practices advocacy model in which attorneys are paired with social workers to represent each and every LFC client.

The 2008 Nelson Award, recognizing superior contributions to the ABA by a public lawyer, will go to Oregon Court of Appeals Judge Ellen F. Rosenblum. Judge Rosenblum joined the ABA in 1975 and was first elected to the ABA House of Delegates in 1988. She marks 20 years of service in the House this year. From 1995 to 1998, she represented four western states on the ABA Board of Governors. From 2001 to 2005, she served as Secretary. During her two terms on the Board,

Judge Rosenblum chaired the Program and Planning Committee; served on the Executive and Operations Committees; served as ex officio member of the ABA Rules and Calendar Committee; served on the ABA Standing Committee on Constitution and Bylaws; and was a liaison to several ABA sections.

Judge Rosenblum served on the ABA Coalition for Justice's State Justice Initiatives Conference and on the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession; as Special Advisor to the Standing Committee on Judicial Independence; on the Executive Director Search Committee; as Advisor to the Joint Commission to Evaluate the ABA Model Code of Judicial Conduct; and as Chair of the Fellows of the American Bar Foundation.

Presently, Judge Rosenblum is Chair of the Special Committee on Bioethics and Law; Judicial Division representative to the World Justice Commission; Section of State and Local Government Law council member; and Diversity Committee member of the Tort, Trial and Insurance Section. She helped plan and organize the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division's 2007 Fall Meeting in Portland, Oregon, serving as the moderator of an ethics panel.

Outside the ABA, Judge Rosenblum is 2008 Conference Chair for the National Association of Women Judges, serves on Oregon Judicial Department committees, and is a founding board member of the Oregon Women Lawyers and Lane County Women Lawyers. She has served as President of the University of Oregon Law School Alumni Association, the U.S. District Court of Oregon Historical Society, and a local chapter of the American Inns of Court. She has also served on the boards of Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, the National Judicial College, Congregation Beth Israel, the American Judicature Society, the Oregon State Bar, the Oregon Halfway House, and the Oregon Law Institute. Judge Rosenblum frequently writes and speaks on the topics of trial and appellate practice, evidence, work-life balance and ethics.

For more information on these awards or the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division, call Sarah Hilton at 202/662-1024 or visit www.governmentlawyer.org.