Solo Practitioner  
Deborah E. Jurgensen  
Ventura  
Deborah Jurgensen is a solo practitioner who devotes half of her time to the 8th Judicial District Pro Bono Program and half to other matters. She has represented pro se defendants on appeal in several cases in the area of family law, employment law, and civil rights.

Limited Active Practice  
Thomas D. Theisen  
San Diego  
Thomas Theisen is a retired patent attorney and a partner in the firm of Coblentz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP (formerly the Enrison Pro Bono Program). In 2005, he was named to the San Diego’s Homeless Advocacy Program (HAP), located at St. Vincent de Paul Village in downtown San Diego. He and the other HAP volunteers provide free legal services to people living on the streets, as well as residents of St. Vincent de Paul and other shelters. Mr. Theisen’s work emphasizes the importance of listening to difficult people, studies of which have many real-life implications, and the importance of being present in difficult situations.

Newly Admitted  
Christina J. Brown  
San Francisco  
Christina Brown, admitted in 2006, is an associate who works closely with the Real Estate and Finance and Competition Departments in the San Francisco office of Nixon Peabody & Murphy LLP and she also serves the firm’s Los Angeles office in its technology and real estate practice groups. She represents an array of pro bono clients and clients throughout California. In addition to her pro bono practice, she volunteers with various legal services organizations and non-profit organizations.

Law Firm Individual  
Harry C. Su  
San Francisco  
Harry Su is a partner at Howrey LLP where their trial and appellate practice focuses on disputes involving intellectual property and other complex commercial matters. He has represented clients in numerous court-ordered jury trials and before arbitrators and mediators. Mr. Su has worked pro bono on several cases for which the firm represented San Francisco’s homeless residents who were charged with “quality of life” violations, such as sitting or sleeping in public. She handled nearly 200 cases and made over 300 appearances and admirably defended her clients by arguing for dismissals and fines suspensions, taking cases to trial. Mr. Su’s involvement in the firm’s community service is one of the firm’s core values.

Law Firm Individual  
Christopher L. Dengler  
San Francisco  
Christopher L. Dengler is a partner at Coblentz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP (formerly the Enrison Pro Bono Program) and has represented pro se defendants on appeal in several cases in the area of family law, employment law, and civil rights.

Law Firm Individual  
Rachel Tessa Gezerseh  
San Francisco  
Rachel Tessa Gezerseh is a partner at Coblentz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP and has represented pro se defendants on appeal in several cases in the area of family law, employment law, and civil rights.

Distinguished Pro Bono Service  
California Western School of Law  
California Western School of Law at the University of San Diego School of Law is the nation’s first, longest established, and one of the nation’s top performing public law schools dedicated to public interest law. For more than 45 years, the school’s legal clinics, staffed by full-time attorneys, have provided more than 450,000 hours of legal services to indigent clients who would not otherwise have access to legal help.

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individuals who were living on the street, in shelters, or in jail, negotiating alternative sentences for clients to perform community service rather than go to prison. She also handled pro bono cases for clients who were charged with crimes related to domestic violence, such as restraining order violations.

The Foster Parents Team of Morrison & Foerster’s Palo Alto office is comprised of attorneys from the firm’s San Francisco office, which is part of the Center for Public Interest Law (CPIL) at California Western School of Law. The CPIL Institute is part of the Center for Public Interest Law at California Western School of Law. The CPIL provides housing, pro bono legal services to tenants who are evicted, and represents tenants in cases where they are denied the protective measures the law provides.

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Pro Bono California 2010

State Bar's Commitment to Pro Bono
Originally adopted by the Board of Governors in December 1999, the State Bar’s Pro Bono Resolution encourages all attorneys to contribute at least 50 hours of pro bono work per year to provide or enable the direct delivery of legal services, without expectation of compensation other than reimbursement of expenses, to indigent individuals, or to not-for-profit organizations with a primary purpose of providing legal services on behalf of the poor or disadvantaged, not-for-profit organizations with a purpose of improving the law and the legal system leading to “increasing access to justice.” In June 2002, the Resolution was amended to reflect an updated and renewed commitment to serving the legal needs of low- and moderate income Californians, and added an option for attorneys to contribute through financial contributions. More recently on July 24, 2010, the Board of Governors approved the inclusion of Rule 1.10 (Voluntary Pro Bono, Public Service) in the proposed and amended Rules of Professional Conduct that will be recommended to the California Supreme Court this year Rule 6.1 encourages all attorneys to aspire to provide or enable the direct delivery of at least 50 hours of pro bono public legal services per year.

California Attorneys Can Make a Difference!
Whether you are newly admitted, a law firm associate, practicing in a government, corporate, academic setting or as a solo, there is a way for you to make a difference in the lives of those who would not otherwise have access to the legal system. With more than 7 million Californians living below 125% of poverty and an estimated 8,995 vulnerable Californians who qualify for legal aid, every one legal aid staff attorney’s help is needed now more than ever. If you are interested in doing pro bono work, please go to www.calbar.org/probonoresources for more information, including where you can go to provide assistance to low-income tenants and homeowners in foreclosure-related matters. You can also contact the State Bar of California Office of Legal Services staff at 415.538.2219; 415.538.2687 or programming@calbar.ca.gov for more information about pro bono opportunities.

Pro Bono Practice Program (formerly known as the Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program)
If you are an attorney who is otherwise “retired” from the active practice of law in a transition period, or taking a temporary break from the practice of law, please consider doing pro bono work by enrolling in the State Bar’s Pro Bono Practice Program. The Pro Bono Practice Program is an updated version of the former Emeritus Attorney Pro Bono Program that waives the active status membership fee for eligible attorneys who do pro bono work exclusively with a Qualified Legal Services Program or a State Bar certified lawyer referral service (no fee panel). The nature and scope of the pro bono work varies with each legal services program or LRS. An overview of the Pro Bono Practice Program FAQs and application materials are available on the State Bar’s website. For more information about the Pro Bono Practice Program, contact Mike Dayao at michael.dayao@calbar.ca.gov or 415.538.2328.

Wiley W. Manuel Certificates for Pro Bono Legal Services
This certificate program was created in 1999 to recognize lawyers, law students, paralegals, legal secretaries and other volunteers in California who contribute at least 50 hours of pro bono service in a 12 month period. Pro bono coordinators at legal services programs, law schools and law firms can submit an application on behalf of their volunteers. Information about the Wiley W. Manuel Certificates is available on the State Bar’s website.

Please Contribute to the Justice Gap Fund
The Justice Gap Fund implements AB 2301 (2005) which recognizes that a high percentage of the legal needs of low-income Californians are not being met, and authorizes the State Bar to collect contributions from its members to support legal services for low-income Californians. Contributions are voluntary and encouraged from all attorneys. The suggested contribution of $100 can be made annually through the State Bar member fee statement or at any time through the State Bar’s website. More than $2.5 million has been raised since the Fund was launched in 2008. Contributions are tax-exempt to the full extent of the law and recipients are 501(c)(3) non-profit legal services organizations that receive funding from the Justice Gap Fund Trust Fund Program. Please join your colleagues by making a contribution to the Justice Gap Fund.

National Pro Bono Celebration, October 24 - 30, 2010
The National Pro Bono Celebration (www.cellataptoprobono.org) was launched in 2009 and is sponsored by the American Bar Association’s Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service. The Celebration is a coordinated national effort to meet the growing needs of this country’s most vulnerable citizens by encouraging and supporting local efforts to expand the delivery of pro bono legal services, and by showcasing the great difference that pro bono lawyers make to the nation, its system of justice, its communities and, most of all, to the clients they serve. On May 15, 2010, the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California passed a temporary resolution that supports the National Pro Bono Week Celebration, commends California attorneys for their ongoing pro bono contributions, and reminds all State Bar members that by engaging in pro bono work and providing financial support they can make a difference.

For more information posted on the State Bar’s website about pro bono efforts described above, please refer to the following:

Office of Legal Services Center on Access to Justice Staff Mary Lawery Flynn, Director Office of Legal Services maryflynn@calbar.ca.gov Rodney Low, Program Developer r Rodneylow@calbar.ca.gov Theresa Mass, Program Developer theresamass@calbar.ca.gov Sharon Ngim, Program Developer sharon.n gim@calbar.ca.gov Frank Monti, Senior Administrative Assistant frank.monti@calbar.ca.gov Tod Green, Temporary Senior Administrative Assistant tod.green@calbar.ca.gov

The goal of the Office of Legal Services (OLS) is to expand, support and deliver the legal services of low and moderate income Californians.

State Bar’s Office of Legal Services
Center on Access to Justice Program 180 Howard Street San Francisco, CA 94105-1639 415.538.2176 415.538.2552 Fax programdevelopment@calbar.ca.gov www.calbar.ca.gov

President’s Pro Bono Service Awards
The State Bar Board of Governors created the President’s Pro Bono Service Awards in 1983. The awards recognize California attorneys, law firms and associations of California lawyers who have provided or enabled the direct provision of legal services to poor persons, or to organizations whose primary purpose is to provide legal services, without expectation of compensation from the client, in the preceding calendar year. In November 2009, the Board of Governors expanded the list of award recipients to include California law schools accredited by the American Bar Association or the State Bar of California and law students currently enrolled in those law schools. A combined total of up to nine awards shall be given annually in all award categories. Recommendations for the President’s Pro Bono Service Awards are made by the Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services (NDCS) to the Board of Governors. The Board reviews and approves the recommendations.

Howard B. Miller
President, State Bar of California, 2009-2010

The recipients of the State Bar’s 2010 President’s Pro Bono Service Awards represent the very best of our legal profession. Public service-minded California lawyers and law students, now more than ever, are needed to bridge the “Justice Gap.” This year the State Bar honors the extraordinary attorneys who have given their time, talent and passion to those who otherwise could not afford legal services. In addition, the State Bar honors a law school for the first time. We congratulate not only the recipients of the 2010 President’s Pro Bono Service Awards, the Loren Miller Legal Services Award, and the Jack Berman Award for Achievement for Distinguished Services to the Profession and Public, but also their friends and families who supported them in this crucial work.

One of the great challenges in our justice system today is that it offers too little justice to too many people. Two-thirds of Californians who need and are entitled to legal services are unable to afford it. Their only hope is that all California lawyers will follow the lead of these honorees, and dedicate themselves to ensuring that our system serves not just paying clients, but every Californian whose rights depend on the Courts. The lawyers here come from different practice settings—what unites them is their commitment to championing a fair and accessible justice system.

On behalf of the entire State Bar, thank you for setting an example in the profession for us all by reminding us injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Thank you and congratulations.

Honorable Ronald M. George
Chief Justice of California

It is once again a privilege to join in celebrating the recipients of the President’s Pro Bono Service Awards, the Loren Miller Legal Services Award, and the Jack Berman Award of Achievement. The attorneys and law school being honored exemplify the best of the legal profession: they have used their knowledge, skills, and expertise to assist those who otherwise might be shut out of our justice system. Legal aid providers perform exceptional services for those who cannot afford counsel. The Judicial Branch and others have worked to increase funding through the Equal Access Fund, allow those with income limitations to continue to contribute to legal services when they pay their bar dues, and expand opportunities to increase the sums generated by IOLTA accounts. But the need for legal services continues to far surpass available resources. The pro bono contributions made by countless attorneys across California are essential.

Our system of justice must be accessible to all or justice for each of us is at risk. These awards recognize some of those who have gone the extra mile to make a difference such as restoring government assistance to persons with disabilities, fighting evictions to prevent homelessness, or helping individuals and their children escape the cycle of domestic violence.

The combined legal aid and pro bono services provided by California’s lawyers make our state a better place. We are indeed fortunate that so many lawyers freely give of their time and talent. Honoring them helps remind us that as members of the legal profession, each of us is obligated to work not simply for the bottom line, but for the improvement of the administration of justice for all.

On behalf of the entire California judicial branch, I congratulate each of these award recipients. Thank you for inspiring us to do more.