

# 2001 PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO SERVICE AWARDS' RECIPIENTS

## THE PRESIDENT'S PRO BONO SERVICE AWARDS



The State Bar Board of Governors established the President's Pro Bono Service Awards in 1983 to provide statewide recognition of attorneys for outstanding provision of pro bono legal services to the poor. Awards categories beginning 2001 were reconfigured to fully ensure that lawyers from a wide scope of settings be recognized for their extraordinary provision of pro bono legal services to low income individuals or organizations whose primary purpose is to serve the poor.

These awards are given for pro bono contributions provided during 2000.

The following factors are taken into consideration in the selection process:

- \* breadth and impact of nominee's work
- \* nominee's practice setting
- \* nature of pro bono program through which the work is done
- \* evidence of nominee's commitment to pro bono work
- \* nature of services contributed

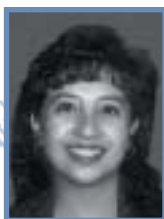
### CORPORATE



**Charles W. Bowman**  
San Francisco

Mr. Bowman, an international tax research manager, has advised and represented low-income clients, predominately those with HIV/AIDS, cancer and the disabled, with their tax problems for the past 12 years through the Bar Association of San Francisco Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) and its Homeless Advocacy Project (HAP) and the AIDS Legal Referral Panel. Mr. Bowman helped write the tax law section of HAP's Advocates Manual and was instrumental in establishing a pro bono panel of tax lawyers. He continues to serve as a mentor and recruiter of fellow tax attorneys for VLSP's Low-income Tax Clinic.

### GOVERNMENT



**Jasmin D. Flores**  
San Diego

While employed with the Office of the District Attorney in the Child Support Enforcement Office, Ms. Flores initially volunteered with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program's (SDVLP) AIDS Law Team during law school and continued to apply her experience as an attorney in 2000. She provided a variety of consultations to indigent clients in the areas of debtor relief, family law, estate planning, landlord/tenant, contracts, domestic violence and SSI Appeals through SDVLP's AIDS Law Team, SSI Appeals Project, Domestic Violence Prevention Project, and Family Law Access Project. Additionally, she mentored and trained other attorneys and law students at the clinic on procedural and legal issues, enabling them to effectively interview, advise and serve more clients in need of legal assistance.

### SMALL LAW FIRM



**Kemnitzer, Anderson, Barron, & Ogilvie, LLP**  
San Francisco

This six-attorney firm has been assisting the Bar Association of San Francisco Volunteer Legal Services Program's (VLSP) consumer project since 1985. Kevin Mallon, Mark Anderson, and Bryan Kemnitzer are recognized for their contributions to the community in the areas of Lemon Law, collection defense and auto issues. Kevin Mallon successfully negotiated a cash settlement for a low-income disabled woman being unfairly sued by a towing company. Steve Kassirer and Kevin Mallon volunteered weekly at the East San Jose Community Law Clinic providing consultations to hundreds of low-income clients. The firm consistently provided volunteer attorneys to staff the consumer advice clinics. Mark Anderson also provided legal advice at VLSP's monthly Legal Advice and Referral Clinic held at San Francisco's Public Library.

### MEDIUM LAW FIRM



**John Sullivan Kenny**  
(Moss & Enochian, LLP)  
Redding

John S. Kenny, a municipal law and land use practitioner at Moss and Enochian, a twelve attorney firm, served as an important contributor in the collaboration between Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) and Northern Valley Catholic Social Service (NVCSS), an agency that provides social services and housing programs for six rural counties. Mr. Kenny provided legal advice to the elderly, disabled, mentally ill, and low income families with housing issues, impacting hundreds of individuals. Mr. Kenny's review of contract negotiations assisted NVCSS to provide affordable homes, including the expansion of a 14,000 square foot mental health and vocational training facility in Redding and the opening of new branch offices in Red Bluff, Shasta Lake City, Yreka and Weed this year. He received the 2000 Shasta Voluntary Legal Services Program Pro Bono Award.

### LARGE LAW FIRM



**Thomas J. Nolan**  
(Howrey, Simon, Arnold & White, LLP)  
Los Angeles

Thomas Nolan, managing partner of Firm Wide Operations for Howrey, Simon, Arnold & White, (an international firm of 480 attorneys with 140 in California) successfully co-counseled with Inner City Law Center in representing 57 tenants (including 33 children) in a Los Angeles slum building. As the lead trial attorney, Thomas Nolan obtained a multi-million dollar settlement for all families involved, most of whom are non-English speaking immigrants. The settlement is one of the largest ever awarded in Los Angeles County for a slum lord case. Thanks to the devotion of the firm to this case, these families reside in a fully rehabilitated building owned by a new landlord and the children now have college trust funds.

### RECENTLY ADMITTED



**Shaye Larkin**  
San Francisco

Shaye Larkin, a solo practitioner specializing in bankruptcy and landlord/tenant law, has been practicing for a little over two years. Ms. Larkin joined the AIDS Legal Referral Panel (ARLP) in 1999 and has successfully provided direct representation for HIV/AIDS clients in the areas of credit and bankruptcy, landlord/tenant, family law wills and power of attorney. She also provided direct representation for clients of the Bar Association of San Francisco's Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) and successfully obtained political asylum and work authorization for an HIV positive VLSP client. Ms. Larkin received the ARLP 1999 Attorney of the Year Award.

### RETIRED



**Frank Horowitz**  
Chico

Frank Horowitz, a retired Deputy City Attorney for Los Angeles County, joined the Legal Services of Northern California (LSNC) Butte Regional Office Housing Assistant Project in August of 2000 when the project was in jeopardy of closing. He provided direct legal assistance to low-income individuals and families with issues of housing and tenancy in the rural counties of Butte, Glenn, Tehama and Plumas. His commitment, energy and expertise made him a reliable consultant and counselor to several LSNC staff. Mr. Horowitz recently started working for the California District Attorney's Association in Sacramento as the State Project Director for DUI Prosecution's Training.

### DISTINGUISHED PRO BONO SERVICE



**Debora S. Vierra and Laura V. Bartels**  
Fillmore

Debora S. Vierra founded the Santa Clara Valley Legal Aid clinic in 1996 when she was a new admittee and was joined shortly thereafter by Laura V. Bartels, a partner with the Fillmore law firm of Taylor, Scoles and Bartels. With few resources or funding, the clinic operates every Thursday evening from a community storefront in a low-income neighborhood of Fillmore, a remote agricultural community twenty miles from Ventura. The clinic provides free legal counseling in a wide variety of legal matters for many, including non-English speaking migrant farm workers and working class families. Staffed by volunteer attorneys, a Spanish-speaking translator and community representatives, the clinic also provides educational seminars on legal topics for the general public. Ms. Vierra and Ms. Bartels are in private practice and have been active volunteers with the Ventura County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyers Program since 1997.

### SOLO PRACTITIONER

**Stephanie M. Simpson**  
Northridge

Well past retirement age, Ms. Simpson devoted more than one-half of her professional life to providing pro bono representation to elderly, indigent and disabled clients in administrative appeals for denial of SSI disability claims and in appeals to the United States District Court. She was successful in more than 90% of the cases she handled and also continues to guide young lawyers and law students. Ms. Simpson has volunteered thousands of hours with Bet Tzedek Legal Services for the past twenty years to ensure that indigent clients do not lose their sole source of income or health care.