

The State Bar of California

California Young Lawyers Association

2005 Jack Berman Award

of Achievement for Distinguished Service to the Profession and the Public



Seth D. Levy

Seth D. Levy has been an instrumental force in the delivery of pro bono legal services in Los Angeles through his involvement with the HIV/AIDS Legal Services Alliance (HALSA), the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center, and the Alliance for Children's Rights, as well as through his national efforts with the American Bar Association and his work at private law firms where he continues to practice.

In 2003-04, working through HALSA and the Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers AIDS Legal Services Project, Mr. Levy represented two individuals living with HIV/AIDS in administrative proceedings to appeal the denial of their Social Security benefits. In both cases, he won fully favorable decisions. Mr. Levy continues to work with the HIV/AIDS community as the National Public Service Project Coordinator for the ABA Young Lawyers Division. Under his leadership, the Division's public service efforts are currently focused on enhancing the delivery of legal services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Throughout his law school career at USC and in the years since, Mr. Levy has been a fixture in the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center's Legal Services Department. He continues to be responsible for an aggressive campaign to recruit volunteer law students to assist in the Department's Legal Clinic. He has also supervised many of the Clinic's law student interns, counseled clients in domestic partnership and related issues, and coordinated the preparation of petitions for domestic and workplace violence temporary restraining orders. To further the Center's mission, in 2003-04 Mr. Levy hosted several free CLE sessions at his law firm for members of the legal community to learn about cutting edge issues in sexual orientation law, and recruited fellow attorneys to take pro bono referrals, including an asylum case for a transgender woman from Mexico.

Also in 2003-04, Mr. Levy joined two of his passions, gay and lesbian rights with youth rights, by working with the Alliance for Children's Rights in representing more than ten sets of parents in finalizing the adoption of their foster children from the Los Angeles County foster care system and in addressing related government benefits issues. Many of these parents were same-sex couples. He also assisted in the production of materials to provide lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth with vital information about their legal rights to be free from discrimination. Mr. Levy is currently handling a case with the Alliance for Children's Rights involving an intersex youth who was improperly assigned a female gender shortly after birth.

Mr. Levy is Of Counsel at Davis Wright Tremaine, LLP, where his practice focuses primarily on the representation of academic medical centers, universities, non-profit research institutes and early stage companies in intellectual property matters. He received a B.S. in Agricultural and Biological Engineering from Cornell University and his J.D. from the University of Southern California.

*The California Young Lawyers Association and The State Bar of California salute
Seth D. Levy for his outstanding contribution to the legal profession and to the public.*

In 1992 California Young Lawyers Association established the Award of Achievement for Distinguished Service to the Profession and the Public to recognize the public service of a new or young lawyer. In 1994, CYLA Board of Directors renamed the award in memory of Jack Berman, who demonstrated outstanding service to the profession and the public by providing substantial pro bono legal assistance. Mr. Berman tragically died in the July 1, 1993 101 California Street shooting.