



*The State Bar
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California Young Lawyers Association
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CALIFORNIA YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA



2006
Jack Berman
Award of Achievement

Christine A. Hayashi



Christine A. Hayashi has served in a multitude of roles for the Disability Rights Legal Center (DRLC) in Los Angeles during the first five years of her practice of law. In 2000, Ms. Hayashi began her association with the DRLC by working as a law student extern for the Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC). She had such a rewarding experience as an extern that she joined the staff of the CRLC after graduation. Ms. Hayashi's service has provided the cancer community, which includes people with a cancer diagnosis, their families and caregivers, health care

professionals and others coping with cancer, with substantive legal information that advances their ability to handle legal issues that can intersect with the disease. During her tenure, Ms. Hayashi reached hundreds of people and advanced the growth of the CRLC.

Her work through the DRLC, both as an employee and subsequently as a dedicated volunteer, has expanded the capacity of the Center to serve people with disabilities and has raised awareness in the community, and in the bar, about discrimination against people with disabilities, and specifically about the rights of people with cancer. As President of the DRLC's Young Professionals Board, and now as a member of the DRLC's Board of Directors, Ms. Hayashi continues to raise awareness, facilitate substantive legal education, and promote activism in the legal community, particularly in lawyers who have served less than six years.

In 2002, when Ms. Hayashi opened her own practice in special education law, her commitment and the impact of her service to the community of people with disabilities was not diminished. As a special education law attorney, she advocates for children with disabilities and their parents who have not been able to obtain appropriate special education and related services. She represents students and their families at Individualized Education Program (IEP) meetings with school districts as well as in formal mediation and in state due process hearings. Unable to independently obtain the special education services to which they are entitled under the law, these students and their parents rely on Ms. Hayashi's advocacy to help them secure an appropriate education, giving the students a better chance to learn and to succeed.

Ms. Hayashi joined the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies faculty in the Michael D. Eisner College of Education at California State University, Northridge (CSUN) in 2001. She teaches courses in school law and the administration of special education and lends her disability rights perspective to this work.

As a member of the 2004-2006 Executive Committee of the Los Angeles County Bar Association Barristers, Ms. Hayashi brings her commitment, knowledge, and passion about the disability rights community to Bar Association members who can then bring that awareness to their own work and leadership roles in the community. Her work with the Barristers includes hosting joint 'elimination of bias' CLE sessions with the DRLC and assistance to the Barristers Pro Bono Domestic Violence Project, a program that provides legal services to families struggling with violence and abuse.

Ms. Hayashi earned her Juris Doctorate degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles and received Masters Degrees in both education and educational administration from California State University Northridge. Prior to becoming an attorney, Ms. Hayashi was an elementary school and middle school principal. She also served as an educational consultant, providing teacher/staff development workshops in reading and reading assessment, and has written several reading tutor textbook ancillaries for a leading publisher.

The California Young Lawyers Association and The State Bar of California salute Christine A. Hayashi for her 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 died tragically in the 101 California Street shooting in San Francisco on July 1, 1993.

