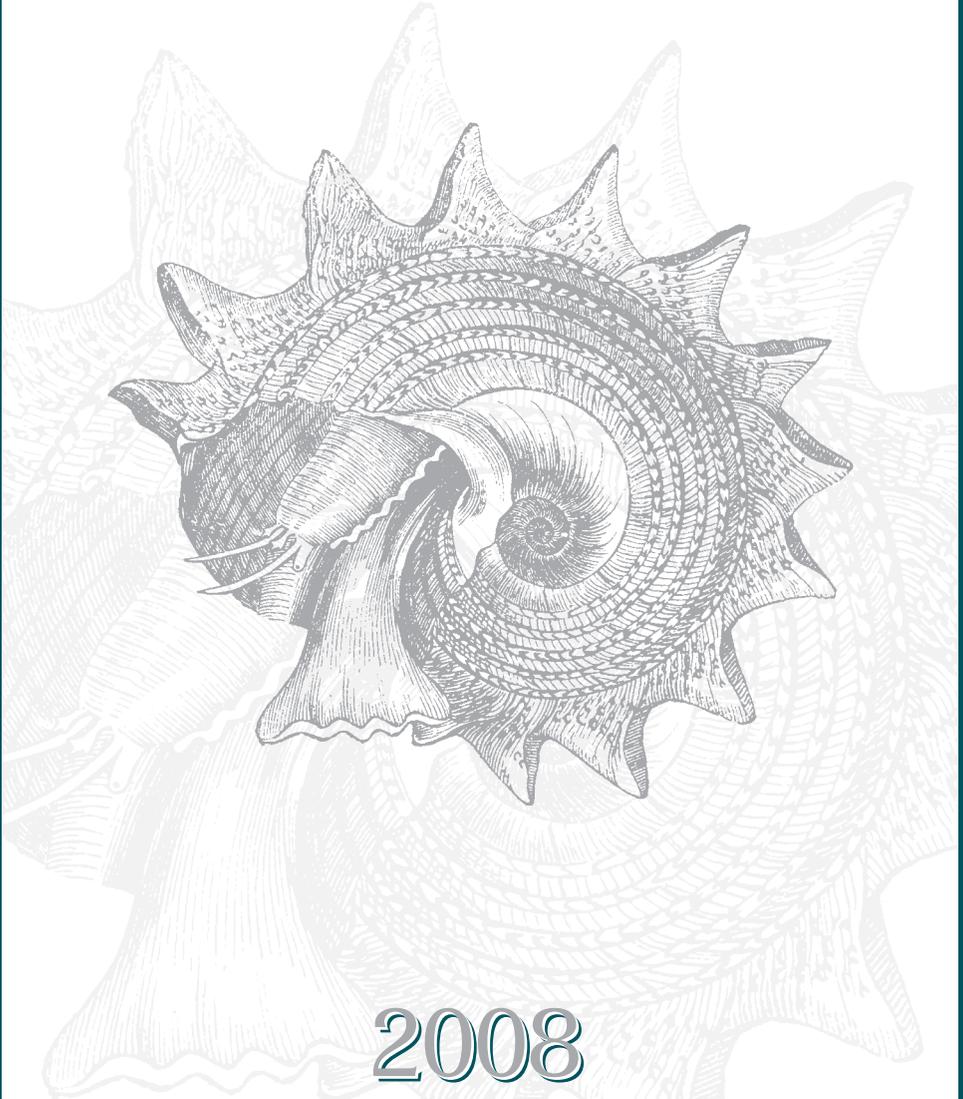


CALIFORNIA YOUNG LAWYERS ASSOCIATION  
THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA



2008  
Jack Berman  
Award of Achievement



## Natalie Prescott

As an associate at a large firm, Natalie Prescott devoted over 500 hours to pro bono work in 2007, in addition to her billable-hour requirements. In her first year of practice, she worked on a large number of pro bono matters, co-chaired a jury trial, wrote numerous appellate briefs, argued before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and attended court hearings on behalf of many indigent clients.

In 2007, Ms. Prescott represented victims of Hurricane Katrina in collaboration with the Mississippi Center for Justice. Her efforts included negotiations with FEMA, informal appeals of FEMA Denials of Assistance, and legal research relating to FEMA appeals. Having previously lived in New Orleans and having had family and friends affected by the hurricane, Ms. Prescott found this work especially rewarding and worthwhile.

As a Ninth Circuit pro bono attorney volunteer, Ms. Prescott also represented indigent immigrants before the court. One of her clients sought asylum, alleging torture by the Nigerian government for reporting crimes against humanity. Ms. Prescott spent hundreds of hours working on this appeal. Last September, as a first-year associate, she argued her client's case before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

In 2007, Ms. Prescott also drafted a brief to a California appellate court, advocating on behalf of The Animal Legal Defense Fund. The appeal in this case helped raise the public awareness of animal abuse and harmful conditions to which some California farmers subject farm animals. That same year, Ms. Prescott also assisted the American Civil Liberties Union in its efforts to bring California municipalities in compliance with state reporting laws. These efforts were successful, and the ACLU was able to obtain records from the municipalities that previously withheld them.





Finally, in 2007, Casa Cornelia Law Center asked Ms. Prescott to represent four of its clients - all young children and adolescents - in seeking relief before an immigration judge. Some of these children, who tried to enter the United States illegally to reunite with their parents or to find work, have suffered abuse, poverty, and violence in their home countries. Ms. Prescott interviewed the children, reviewed their legal records, and helped them obtain favorable relief from the immigration court.

In addition to her pro bono efforts, Ms. Prescott demonstrated a strong commitment to public service by donating significant time and money to Meals on Wheels – an organization, which helps seniors stay independent. She had also previously volunteered at the Southeast Mississippi Legal Services and received several pro bono awards while in law school. In 2007, *Daily Transcript* named Ms. Prescott one of San Diego's Best Young Attorneys.

Ms. Prescott received a B.A., *summa cum laude*, from University of Southern Mississippi; an M.A. from Tulane University; and a J.D., *cum laude*, from Duke University School of Law, where she served as an Editor-in-Chief of *Duke Journal of Comparative & International Law*. In September 2007, Ms. Prescott left private practice to clerk for The Honorable Roger T. Benitez of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. When in private practice, she represents clients in the areas of general and commercial litigation, appellate practice, product liability, and insurance. Her co-authored book, "*Nail Your Law Job Interview: The Essential Guide to Firm, Government, Clerkship, In-House, and Lateral Interviews*" will be published in 2009.

Natalie Prescott's service to the profession and her drive to help indigent clients are a shining example for young lawyers. The California Young Lawyers Association and The State Bar of California salute Natalie Prescott 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.



*The State Bar  
of California*

**Office of Legal Services,  
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