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Administrative Office of the Courts Attorney Wins Legal Aid's Award of Merit

Awards to Be Presented Today in Los Angeles

San Francisco—The Legal Aid Association of California (LAAC) today will present its Access to Justice Commission Joint Court–Based Award to Bonnie Rose Hough of the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC). The ceremony will begin at 5:30 p.m at the [2008 Pathways to Justice Conference](#) in Los Angeles.

The LAAC's Annual Awards of Merit and Awards Reception is an annual event that recognizes the importance of legal services and court personnel and honors those who have made special contributions to the field during the last year.

Ms. Hough was recommended by more than 30 colleagues and peers for her long-term commitment to increasing access and delivery of legal service for the poor and self-represented litigants. Her work in developing, enhancing, and increasing access to legal services has been so effective and innovative that many states have adopted similar strategies and programs throughout the nation.

“Millions of people have benefited from Bonnie's creative strategies, collaborative efforts, energy, compassion, inspiration, and leadership,” said Diane Nunn, director of the CFCC. “She is a state treasure and living proof that one person can make a difference.”

Ms. Hough is a managing attorney with the Administrative Office of the Courts' Center for Families, Children & the Courts. The focus of her work is on helping courts meet the needs of self-represented litigants. She has worked to increase access to the courts for low-income persons for more than 10 years. She is currently staff to the Elkins Family Law Task Force, which was formed in May 2008 and is charged with reviewing the practices and procedures in family law proceedings and recommending

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changes to increase access to justice; ensure due process; and provide for more effective and consistent rules, policies, and procedures for family law cases.

Ms. Hough's work on the [California Courts Self-Help Center](#) helps to provide equal justice and access to the law by providing information about how to access court services, explaining what happens at court, providing information about court procedures, finding forms, and providing links to other useful resources.

The Legal Aid Association of California is the statewide membership organization of legal services organizations in California that provides key support to the legal aid community through relevant and affordable trainings, statewide coordination efforts, innovative uses of technology, and advocacy on issues of concern to legal services programs, including the need for additional funding.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.