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**LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO HOST
25TH ANNUAL SERVANT OF JUSTICE AWARDS DINNER
ON APRIL 29, 2014**

WASHINGTON, D.C., FEBRUARY 25, 2014 – The Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia is pleased to announce that it will host its annual Servant of Justice Awards Dinner on April 29, 2014 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year’s Dinner will be particularly momentous, as it marks both the twenty-fifth anniversary of this important community event and the tenth anniversary of the Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project. Last year’s Dinner raised more than \$880,000 for the District’s oldest and largest general civil legal services program.

The Servant of Justice Awards Dinner brings together hundreds of leading attorneys in the D.C. area to honor the cause of access to justice and celebrate those who contribute their time and resources to representing the District’s most vulnerable residents. This year’s Dinner will honor two of the District’s finest advocates with the Servant of Justice Award, Legal Aid’s highest honor.

The first award will be given posthumously to Barbara McDowell, the Founding Director of Legal Aid’s Appellate Advocacy Project. The Project, which is now named in Barbara’s honor, was established in 2004 to pursue an affirmative poverty law agenda before the District’s highest court. Since the Project’s inception, Barbara and others at Legal Aid have litigated precedent-setting poverty law cases helping thousands of D.C. residents. Barbara was a hero to those who had the privilege of knowing her. A brilliant brief writer and oral advocate, Barbara chose to use her extraordinary talents on behalf of the most vulnerable among us. Before joining Legal Aid she was a partner at Jones Day and an Assistant to the Solicitor General of the United States, in which role she argued eighteen cases before the U.S. Supreme Court.

From 2004 until her untimely passing in 2009, Barbara handled more than seventy matters at Legal Aid and won important cases establishing the rights of low-income individuals and families in the areas of housing, public benefits, consumer, and family law. In particular, Barbara’s advocacy led to significant rulings that a domestic violence perpetrator is presumed to be “less fit” for purposes of awarding custody than the victim, *see P.F. v. N.C.*, 953 A.2d 1107 (D.C. 2008), and that landlords must provide reasonable accommodations under the Fair

Housing Act to tenants with mental or physical disabilities and respond to reasonable requests for accommodation from such tenants, *see Douglas v. Kriegsfeld Corp.*, 884 A.2d 1109 (D.C. 2005) (en banc). Legal Aid is proud to honor her posthumously for her tremendous work. Barbara's life-long friend, Professor Sally Gordon, the Arlin M. Adams Professor of Constitutional Law and Professor of History at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law, will present the award. Jerry Hartman, who was Barbara's devoted husband, will accept the Servant of Justice Award on Barbara's behalf.

The second recipient will be Donald P. Salzman, who serves as Pro Bono Counsel at the Washington, D.C. office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. In this role, Don coordinates the pro bono efforts of nearly three hundred attorneys in Skadden's D.C. office, directly supervises many Skadden associates on their pro bono work, and spends a substantial amount of time representing indigent clients on civil and criminal cases in D.C. and other jurisdictions. Prior to joining Skadden, he spent nearly fifteen years in the Montgomery County Office of the Public Defender (OPD), where he tried more than sixty-five felony jury trials and countless misdemeanor cases. While at OPD, Don launched an innovative pro bono collaboration with major D.C. law firms to train their lawyers to represent OPD clients in jury trials. Don also served as a visiting professor at Georgetown University Law Center in its Criminal Justice Clinic, and has helped train many Legal Aid and other D.C. legal services lawyers over the years in trial and advocacy skills.

Since joining Skadden, Don has emerged as a leader in both civil and criminal access-to-justice issues in the District. Don has played a critical role in many collaborations with Legal Aid, including Skadden's loaned associate program—in which Skadden lawyers spend six months at Legal Aid working full-time representing Legal Aid clients on housing law cases—as well as Skadden's Pro Bono Children & Families Impact Project—a unique partnership between Skadden, D.C.-based legal services groups, and in-house corporate legal departments helping survivors of domestic violence achieve justice in the D.C. Courts. Skadden Partner and Impact Project leader Michele Roberts will present the award to Don.

“We're so pleased to be able to honor Barbara and Don at this year's Dinner,” said Eric Angel, Legal Aid's Executive Director. “Barbara was a pillar of the D.C. legal community and a shining example of someone committed to making justice real for everyone, regardless of income. Don is an indispensable partner in the D.C. legal services community and a vital link between the worlds of public and private practice. He has dedicated his life to ensuring that no one is deprived of his or her rights without competent representation.”

Legal Aid also is pleased to announce that this year's recipient of the Klepper Prize for Volunteer Excellence is Stefanie A. Doebler, Special Counsel at Covington & Burling LLP. The Klepper Prize recognizes attorneys early in their careers who have made a significant volunteer contribution to the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia and our client community. Stefanie has been participating in Legal Aid's annual Medicare Part D Initiative since its inception. For over seven years, including this past open season in November and December 2013, she has helped many senior and disabled clients navigate the complex Medicare Part D system to ensure that they continue to receive their prescription medications without interruption.

Stefanie truly stands out because of her long-standing commitment to this project, the quality of her work, and her exceptional skill and willingness to work with clients who are most in need of help. As Eric Angel put it, “The decision of the Klepper Honoree Committee was unanimous that Stefanie’s work was worthy of extraordinary recognition. We are so appreciative of all she has done for D.C.’s low-income community since the very inception of Legal Aid’s Part D Initiative.”

For information about how to sponsor and/or attend this year’s Dinner, please contact Gregg Kelley at GKelley@legalaiddc.org or (202) 661-5964.

Information about prior Servant of Justice Awards Dinners and additional information about the Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project can be found on Legal Aid’s website (www.LegalAidDC.com).

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For more than 80 years, the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia has been ensuring that the American system of justice works for everyone, especially those living in poverty. Legal Aid is a nonprofit law firm that, with the support of the private legal community, represents clients who have no other means of obtaining legal assistance in civil cases. Since its founding in 1932, Legal Aid has worked to help thousands of low-income D.C. residents keep their homes, stabilize their families, access health and government benefits, and feel safe in their communities. Please read our blog: MakingJusticeReal.org.