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LCCR Honors Eight Bay Area Attorneys and Legal Professionals for their Efforts to Advance Civil Rights

Tony West to Keynote 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Luncheon Ceremony, to be Held January 28

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (January 25, 2010)—The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area is recognizing eight San Francisco Bay Area attorneys and legal professionals for their outstanding *pro bono* contributions to civil rights advocacy during its 23rd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Luncheon.

“These honorees have gone above and beyond in dedicating their legal skills, time and energy to bringing help and hope to the disadvantaged communities that our organization serves,” said Lateefah Simon, Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee. “These awards are just a small measure of recognition for their enormous contributions and dedication to *pro bono* work.”

The awards will be presented Thursday, January 28, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco beginning at 11:45 a.m. Tony West, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Division of the United States Justice Department, is delivering the keynote address. Renel Brooks-Moon, the voice of the San Francisco Giants, will serve as mistress of ceremonies. The event includes a performance by the George Washington Carver Elementary School choir.

Charles S. Crompton, partner at Latham & Watkins LLP, will receive the Robert G. Sproul, Jr. Award. The award honors an attorney who has provided *pro bono* legal services and who has influenced his or her firm to provide significant *pro*

bono representation of under-represented groups. Crompton has energized Latham & Watkins' *pro bono* involvement with the Lawyers' Committee, chiefly through contributions to the Lawyers' Committee's Tuesday Night Clinic and the Homeless Rights Project. He has represented countless low-income clients over the years, and has been instrumental in ensuring junior attorneys have the opportunity to do so as well.

Yuval Miller, litigation associate at Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP, will receive the Father Cuchulain Moriarty Award. The award honors an attorney who has made an extraordinary *pro bono* contribution to the Lawyers' Committee's Asylum Project. Over the past two years, Miller has done hundreds of hours of *pro bono* work on Lawyers' Committee asylum cases. Most recently, Miller won asylum for a dissident African journalist who had been detained and tortured for writing newspaper articles critical of his government's human rights abuses.

Susie Moran, nominated by Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, will receive the Anthony F. Logan Award. The award honors the efforts of a non-attorney volunteer who has made an outstanding contribution to public interest law. Moran's contributions to the Asylum Project include translating legal documents for Spanish-speaking asylum clients and serving as a bridge between clients and lawyers. In addition, Moran has volunteered with the Lawyers' Committee's Education Equity Project to improve the quality of local schools, translating a core segment of training materials into Spanish for parents, students and school personnel, and assisting students in filing complaints.

Sara Finigan, partner at Coblenz, Patch, Duffy & Bass LLP, will receive the James T. Caleshu Award. The award honors an attorney who has made an extraordinary *pro bono* contribution to the Lawyers' Committee's Legal Services for Entrepreneurs Program (LSE). Finigan serves as a member of the applicant screening committee for LSE. Having first volunteered with the program nine years ago, Finigan has helped a variety of small businesses establish themselves and has also been key in engaging other members of her firm to take on clients from the LSE program.

Hilarie Atkisson, senior manager of *pro bono* administration, and **David C. Beach**, senior associate at Bingham McCutchen LLP, will receive the Keta Taylor Colby Award. The award honors attorneys who provide outstanding representation to the poor and under-represented through his or her involvement in the Lawyers' Committee's Legal Services Clinic, also known as the Tuesday Night Clinic. Atkisson has been instrumental in sustaining and maintaining Bingham

McCutchen's commitment to the Clinic, managing intake, handing case distribution, and providing administrative support. Beach has been involved with the Tuesday Night Clinic for several years, both representing cases and mentoring and advising junior associates on their clinic cases.

Renee T. Lawson, partner, and **Elham Marder**, associate, at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, are the first-ever recipients of the Jack W. Londen Award, which honors significant contributions to education equality through involvement in the Lawyers' Committee's Education Equity Project (EEP). Lawson has been working with EEP since its inception three years ago. She has personally filed more than 100 complaints regarding school facilities on behalf of community members in West Contra Costa Unified School District, resulting in restored heating to many classrooms and the removal of black mold from student restrooms. Marder has filed complaints to help fix school facilities and has worked on textbook resolutions to help ensure that all students have access to textbooks and instructional materials.

About the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area:

For 40 years, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area has championed the legal rights of people of color, poor people, immigrants and refugees, with a special commitment to African Americans. The Lawyers' Committee is affiliated with the national Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, begun in 1963 at the request of President John F. Kennedy. In 1968, shortly after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., leading members of the San Francisco Bar established the San Francisco office to advance civil rights. The Lawyers' Committee staff, working with hundreds of *pro bono* attorneys, provides free legal assistance and representation to individuals on civil legal matters. The organization also helps advance civil rights by taking on vital cases that impact policy. For more information, please visit www.lccr.com.

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