



## NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release  
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### **Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County Recognizes Four Extraordinary Leaders Committed to Justice at its 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Luncheon**

#### ***Justice Carlos R. Moreno (Ret.) Delivers Keynote Address***

**San Mateo, CA** – Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County has named a team consisting of Intel Corporation and Baker & McKenzie LLP, and individuals Craig McCulloh and Niki Okcu as this year's award winners honoring their dedication to justice for all the children, families and seniors in San Mateo County. The awards will be presented during a luncheon at The Four Seasons Hotel in East Palo Alto on April 21, 2011.

**The Intel Corporation and Baker McKenzie LLP**, will jointly receive the Guardian of Justice Award for the creation of a corporation/private law firm pro bono model that works to protect the rights and needs of special education children attending local schools in the community. This team model has achieved excellent results, not only for special needs children, but for families who have learned to advocate on behalf of themselves and their children. "That is the ultimate goal of this program," said Keith Wurster of Baker & McKenzie LLP, "to give the parent confidence to advocate on behalf of their child in the future."

**Craig McCulloh**, of San Mateo County Aging and Adult Services, will receive the Natalie Lanam Achievement Award for his 17 year collaboration with Legal Aid and his steadfast commitment to advocating for the legal rights of seniors and people with disabilities. "The law is all about advocacy and empowering people. It can help people access services and remove barriers," said Craig, "that's what I am all about, helping people become empowered - focusing on abilities rather than disabilities."

**Niki Okcu**, of Cotchett, Pitre & McCarthy LLP, will receive the Dorothy M. Wolfe Award for recognition of her two year, relentless and tenacious pursuit to gain justice for Pauline Reade, an 89-year old woman who was about to lose her home as a result of a conman. Niki states, "Pauline's case, no doubt, will be one of the most rewarding cases of my entire career. I go to sleep at night knowing I saved Pauline's home and made a difference in her life."

In addition to the awards ceremony, Legal Aid is privileged to have Justice Carlos R. Moreno (Ret.) deliver the keynote address sharing his reflections of life on the Bench.

"Each and every one of the award recipients is an inspiration to Legal Aid and deserves to be commended for their service." said Lauren Zorfias, Executive Director of Legal Aid. "We are forever grateful for their passion, dedication and skills they have unselfishly contributed to the community through our programs."

#### **About The Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County:**

The Legal Aid Society is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free legal services to disadvantaged people in San Mateo County. Since its founding in 1959, Legal Aid has improved the lives of over 175,000 low-income clients in matters involving housing, employment, education, consumer law, family law, and health and government benefits. [www.legalaidsmc.org](http://www.legalaidsmc.org).

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