

AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

18th Annual Awards Luncheon



Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County

PROGRAM

WELCOME

Mary H. Lin

President, Legal Aid Board of Directors
Bay Wealth Legal Group

Karen N. Ballack

Co-Chair Awards Luncheon Committee
Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

Michèle M. Bissada

Co-Chair Awards Luncheon Committee
Flicker, Kerin, Kruger & Bissada LLP

RECOGNITION OF JUDGES

Hon. John L. Grandsaert

San Mateo County Superior Court

OPENING REMARKS

Hon. Beth L. Freeman

U.S. District Court, Northern California

CLIENT VIDEO PRESENTATION

BREAK

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Introduction by **M. Stacey Hawver**, Executive Director

Gregg Alton

Executive Vice President,
Corporate and Medical Affairs
Gilead Sciences

PRESENTATION OF 2015 ANNUAL AWARDS

The George R. Corey-Linda M. Gemello Award

M. Stacey Hawver, Executive Director

The Guardian of Justice Award

Janet Seldon, Director of Pro Bono

The Dorothy M. Wolfe Award

Shirley Gibson, Directing Attorney

The Natalie Lanam Achievement Award

Claire Ramsey, Staff Attorney

CLOSING REMARKS

LEGAL AID SOCIETY
OF SAN MATEO COUNTY

In 2014, your support enabled Legal Aid to assist thousands in accessing justice.

Keynote Speaker



Gregg Alton

*Executive Vice President,
Corporate and Medical Affairs
Gilead Sciences*

Gregg Alton joined Gilead Sciences in 1999. From 2000 to 2009 he served as General Counsel. In his current role, Mr. Alton is responsible for legal affairs, government affairs, medical affairs, public affairs and emerging market activities.

Mr. Alton is a member of the boards of the AIDS Institute, BayBio, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Oakland and Celladon Corporation.

He is also a member of the U.S. Government's Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Intellectual Property Rights, the advisory boards of Pharmozyme, Inc., UCSF Global Health Sciences, the board of trustees of Partners in Health and the Dean's Advisory Council at Stanford Law School.

Mr. Alton received a bachelor's degree in legal studies from the University of California at Berkeley, and holds a JD from Stanford University.



Gilead Sciences, Inc. is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and commercializes innovative medicines in areas of unmet medical need. We strive to transform and simplify care for people with life-threatening illnesses around the world. Gilead's portfolio of products and pipeline of investigational drugs includes treatments for HIV/AIDS, liver diseases, cancer and inflammation, and serious respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

In 2014, with your support, Legal Aid helped over 1,200 families to receive assistance with housing problems.

Jenny Horne

George R. Corey-Linda M. Gemello Award

The George R. Corey-Linda M. Gemello Award is presented each year in recognition of a Legal Aid staff attorney who exemplifies Legal Aid's commitment to work every day to obtain justice for all.



The George R. Corey - Linda M. Gemello Award arises out of a separate fund established with a generous gift by Joe Cotchett and the law firm of Cotchett Pitre & McCarthy LLP. The fund was established in honor of the Cotchett firm's dear and respected friends George R. Corey and Linda M. Gemello, both of whom are leaders in the San Mateo County legal community and ardent believers in the mission of the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County. For decades George and Linda have been Legal Aid advisors, supporters and volunteers. Both have great pride in and respect for the staff attorneys who work so hard to improve the lives of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons.

A special feature of the fund is that the income it generates is to be used to give an annual special award to a Legal Aid staff attorney to, in Joe Cotchett's own words, "assist these incredible people that work every day for justice for all."

This year's award winner embodies the essence of the George R. Corey - Linda M. Gemello award. Jenny Horne graduated from Stanford Law School in 1993. She was the Associate Editor of the Stanford Law Review and the Co-Coordinator of the Domestic Violence Clinic. In 1994 she started at the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County as a Skadden fellow and founded the Teen Parents' Project. Jenny provides free legal advice and representation to low-income San Mateo County pregnant and parenting teens in areas such as domestic violence, family law, public benefits, education, guardianship, emancipation, and immigration. Over the past ten years, she has spent an increasing amount of time providing immigration assistance including help with U VISAs, SIJS, VAWA, and DACA to teen parents, their families, and abused, neglected, or abandoned youth.

Jenny regularly engages in community outreach and collaborates with the local Teen-Age Parents High School programs. She is a frequent speaker at the local middle schools and high schools where she is asked to address such issues as date rape, rights to attend school when pregnant and the importance of staying in school. She also educates guidance counselors and public health nurses to recognize signs of domestic violence in teenage girls and to refer these at-risk teens to her. Jenny works closely with teachers, counselors, and public health nurses, who frequently contact her on behalf of students who face legal problems.

Jenny's work on behalf of her teen parent clients makes a substantial difference in their quality of life. She empowers them to make decisions for themselves and their children that will enable them to stay in school and create a positive future for their families. Recognized for her work throughout San Mateo County, Jenny was inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame in 2007; received the Silver Award from the Peninsula Partnership Council's first biannual Children's Report Initiative in 2002; and in 1999, received a Commendation from the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors and the San Mateo County Perinatal Council for services provided to San Mateo County school-age parents. Jenny is also on the faculty of the Practicing Law Institute.

Jenny is a San Mateo County resident who lives with her husband and two daughters. She feels strongly about her commitment to the community in which she lives and works, and we are proud to honor that commitment with the George R. Corey-Linda M. Gemello Award.

In 2014, your support allowed Legal Aid to help over 100 special-needs children access education and disability benefits.

Morgan Lewis

Guardian of Justice Award

The Guardian of Justice Award is given each year in recognition of volunteers whose efforts are steeped in a commitment to justice for all the children, families and seniors in our community.



*Back Row: Mike Schlemmer; Ahren Hsu-Hoffman; Melinda Riechert [Silicon Valley Managing Partner]; David Simson; Jami McKeon [Chair of the Firm]; Jake Minne
Front Row: Corey Houmand; Lindsey Shinn; Scott Tester*

Morgan Lewis's deep commitment to equal justice for all can be seen in their extensive pro bono work, especially in their work with victims of elder abuse and survivors of domestic violence. They are a reliable pro bono partner in Legal Aid's county-wide Domestic Violence Collaborative. By way of example, attorney Ahren Hsu-Hoffman joined Legal Aid's pro bono program after seeing the great need for lawyer assistance in domestic violence cases. "I think it's the chance to help someone get through a really tough time that makes it worth getting involved in these cases." In fact, Morgan Lewis accepted an average of one new case every week when Legal Aid was struggling to find attorneys to help survivors of domestic violence late last year.

As Silicon Valley lawyers whose main area of practice include areas such as patent litigation, transactional work, and employment law, the pro bonos at Morgan Lewis have not only learned new areas of law, but have also become powerful advocates for victims of abuse during permanent restraining order hearings. They've enabled numerous survivors of domestic violence to have the added security of income and reasonable parameters for visitation, where appropriate, and are helping individuals and families escape the stresses and dangers of domestic violence.

Morgan Lewis's commitment to pro bono work is reflected in the enthusiasm of its attorneys and staff. With 44 Morgan Lewis attorneys contributing to Legal Aid's local pro bono program, the firm has shown exemplary dedication to some of our community's most vulnerable residents. Attorney Corey Houmand is proud to work for a firm with such a serious commitment to pro bono work. "I am very grateful to have received the full support of Morgan Lewis and its resources in taking on these representations, and hope to continue taking them on well into the future." Attorney Scott Tester also continues to take pro bono cases from Legal Aid, after first working with Legal Aid's pro bono program as a Summer Associate in 2010. "My first volunteer experience was shadowing a more senior associate at a housing clinic and found it both engaging and rewarding." Morgan Lewis's Pro Bono Liaison, Michael Schlemmer, similarly got his start as a Summer Associate, and has been taking pro bono cases ever since. "I am fortunate to work for a firm that encourages pro bono work. It is a pleasure to give back to society through pro bono work and - of course - financial contributions to organizations like Legal Aid."

With cases that can take anywhere from 2 to 100 hours, the pro bono attorneys at Morgan Lewis have consistently stepped forward to support the mission of Legal Aid, and the best interests of their clients. Last year Morgan Lewis gave nearly 2,000 hours to Legal Aid casework! Morgan Lewis continues to be a strong supporter of Legal Aid, the Domestic Violence Collaborative, and the domestic violence and elder abuse clients they see. We are honored to present the Guardian of Justice Award to Morgan Lewis.

In 2014, with your support, Legal Aid provided more than 1,100 seniors help with consumer law and elder abuse issues.

Jeff Hyman

Dorothy M. Wolfe Award

This award is in memory of a woman whose passion for justice for all inspired her to become one of the earliest champions of Legal Aid.

The Dorothy M. Wolfe Award is given each year to honor efforts that reflect a similar commitment to justice for all the children, families and seniors in our community.



Jeff Hyman has been doing pro bono work since he got his bar license, donating up to 500 hours per year to pro bono work early in his career.

As in-house counsel at Intel, Jeff discovered it was harder for corporate counsel to engage in pro bono work, leading him to form a team and create Intel's pro bono program, which is still thriving today.

When Jeff's work took him to Apple, he started a pro bono program there, and then joined forces with Symantec and HP to create the Bay Area Corporate Pro Bono Co-Op which went on to enable several other well known Valley legal teams to seamlessly start doing pro bono work.

It was through the Intel and Apple programs that Jeff made lasting connections to the Legal Aid Society, especially through attorneys Brooke Heymach and Shirley Gibson, for whose programs Jeff became a pro bono volunteer. Over time, Jeff donated hundreds of hours to Legal Aid's pro bono program, and even served on Legal Aid's Board from 2010 - 2014.

In early 2014, Shirley approached Jeff about a case representing more than a dozen mobile home park residents at Pacific Skies Estates in Pacifica. The park owners were seeking permission from the City to raise these tenants' rents by nearly \$1,200 - as much as a 175% increase in monthly rent. In order to avoid that increase, the residents would need to oppose it by engaging in a complex administrative law proceeding and hearing. Jeff agreed to co-counsel the case with Shirley and they went to hearing just a few weeks later.

Rent control proceedings like this one are incredibly complicated, relying on a complex web of constitutional law, statutory interpretation and detailed accounting and economic analysis that is challenging for most attorneys to comprehend. In fact, no such petition had ever been filed in the history of Pacifica's rent control law. This particular petition consisted of over 500 pages of financial statements and calculations, and was based on a methodology so obscure that even the park owners' own accountant could not explain it coherently at the hearing.

When the park owners' initial effort was defeated - thanks to Jeff and Shirley's excellent representation of the residents - the park owners returned a few months later with yet another petition demanding an only slightly less absurd rent increase, and Jeff once again stepped up and helped Legal Aid represent the residents. After the second hearing, the judge completely agreed with the residents' legal position and approved an increase of just \$136, an amount the residents felt all along was both fair and correct.

In contrast, the original increase requested by the park owners would have displaced all of the residents whom the rent control ordinance was designed to protect, including seniors, veterans and disabled residents who have lived in this park for decades. Jeff's contribution of more than 150 hours to co-counsel with Shirley on this case positively impacted each tenant occupying a rent controlled space in the mobile home park, and set an important precedent in the area.

Legal Aid is grateful to Jeff for his work ensuring justice for all the clients he's helped over the years, and for being a champion of pro bono work among corporate counsel. We are pleased to be able to present the Dorothy M. Wolfe Award to Jeff Hyman.

*In 2014, your support allowed Legal Aid to recover
\$300,000 in benefits for needy families.*

Irene Fernandez

Natalie Lanam Achievement Award

This award is named for a leader whose volunteer efforts on behalf of the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County were inspired by her commitment to justice for all.

The Natalie Lanam Achievement Award is given each year to honor efforts that reflect a similar commitment to justice for all the children, families and seniors in our community.



Irene Fernandez, a social worker for Adult Protective Services (APS), is a fierce advocate for the rights of her clients, many of whom are monolingual Spanish-speaking. Her goal has always been to do the best she can for her clients, who often come to her overwhelmed and looking for help and support. She is proud to be able to help them, and to work with Legal Aid to address legal issues her clients are facing.

Irene came to the U.S. with her family when she was 30. Embracing longstanding beliefs to support the poor, the disadvantaged and the disabled, she began working with low-income seniors: helping them manage their day-to-day activities, and acting as their caregiver, housekeeper, and even their driver. One day while she was working with one of her seniors, a social worker arrived. It was then that Irene learned about this challenging but rewarding field, and began dreaming of a career in social work. After her children

had graduated from college, they encouraged her to pursue her goals, and in 2003 Irene realized her dream by graduating from UC Berkley with a Masters of Social Work.

Armed with the knowledge and tools to understand and address her clients' issues, Irene has become a member of the county's Multidisciplinary Team, dealing with elder abuse cases, and is seen throughout the sector as a "problem solver" for her colleagues and clients. She has not only worked to connect her underserved clients with the appropriate legal services available at Legal Aid, but has also become a resource to the Legal Aid attorneys themselves; when a Legal Aid attorney has a question about services or resources for one of their senior clients, they call Irene. Clients' legal problems do not exist in a vacuum, and frequently Legal Aid attorneys have questions about available county services, referrals, and specific questions about the role of APS, especially in cases of elder abuse. Irene has made herself available to answer questions like these, in order to support the work of Legal Aid and to ensure the best outcome for clients.

One of the greatest services that Irene has provided to Legal Aid is being a reliable team member: Irene provides the support and direction that so many of her clients need to navigate the maze of social systems in order to help address clients' various issues. This frees up Legal Aid attorneys to focus on legal work. As many Legal Aid attorneys can attest, public interest law can sometimes be a balancing act between legal work and social work. Some clients simply need more support than others, and nearly every Legal Aid attorney has made phone calls or checked in on clients' progress in spite of the non-legal nature of these inquiries. Irene consistently takes care of these issues: making appointments for her clients with social services agencies, driving her clients to the appropriate offices to make sure they arrive on time, and often translating for her clients.

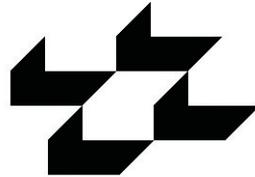
In spite of her large caseload, Irene is a reliable resource, advocate, and supporter of Legal Aid and its clients. It is with pleasure that we present the Natalie Lanam Achievement Award to Irene Fernandez.

*In 2014, with your help, Legal Aid assisted
over 350 adults with disabilities to access benefits.*

Our Sponsors

WITH GRATITUDE we acknowledge the 2015 leaders of our community who improve thousands of lives through justice.

Senior Partner



**Corey, Luzaich, de Ghetaldi,
Nastari & Riddle LLP**
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18th Annual **And Justice For All** Awards Luncheon Committee expresses its gratitude for the special consideration provided by the following: Copenhagen Balloons | Mr. Tracy Mercer, General Manager at the Four Seasons Hotel Silicon Valley at East Palo Alto | Photography by Sandy Backman | The Recorder

Why I Give



"Nelson Mandela said, 'A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest.' I give to Legal Aid because our society has a responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to adequate legal representation. We will not live up to our principles until we meet this obligation."

James E. Lyons
Retired Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

"I donate to the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County because there are many individuals and families on the Peninsula who are in urgent need of legal services but cannot afford an attorney. Without Legal Aid, these individuals and families would not have any way to access our justice system."

Valerie McConnell
Associate
Jones Day



"My firm's commitment to supporting pro bono legal services is built on a belief of the importance of access to justice for all. Organizations such as Legal Aid make a huge difference in people's lives, and I am proud to support it."

Jeffrey Selman
Partner
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Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County is a private, nonprofit law firm created in 1959 to provide free civil legal services to low-income residents of San Mateo County who are particularly vulnerable due to age, disability, language, or family violence.

Legal Aid's mission is to help disadvantaged people improve their lives through equal access to justice.

Legal Aid provides individual representation, community education, systemic advocacy and strategic collaborative approaches to address legal issues and resolve problems in important areas of basic need including health, housing, income and freedom from violence. Legal Aid is an integral part of San Mateo County's safety net, collaborating with community agencies, local government, health care providers and many others to provide coordinated services to low-income residents.

Legal Aid leverages its resources by recruiting, training, and supervising hundreds of pro bono attorneys, paralegals and law students who provide thousands of hours of free legal service each year.

DONATE ONLINE! You can improve lives through justice with just one click. Make your generous gift to Legal Aid by going to www.legalaidsmc.org and clicking "donate now." Thank You.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

OF SAN MATEO COUNTY