



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES NAMES
THE HONORABLE DENNIS M. O'BRIEN CHAMPION OF JUSTICE**

Community Legal Services of Philadelphia Honors the Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives with Champion of Justice Award and Announces Equal Justice Award Winners

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Community Legal Services (CLS) of Philadelphia is pleased to announce that **the Honorable Dennis M. O'Brien, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives**, is the recipient of this year's Champion of Justice Award. Mr. O'Brien will accept the Award and deliver the keynote speech at the annual Breakfast of Champions, on Friday, May 11, 2007, at 8:00 AM, at the Sofitel.

“Speaker O'Brien has provided leadership in the ongoing effort to secure funding for free civil legal services for low-income people across Pennsylvania, and we are grateful for his work. He cares deeply about the most vulnerable people in our society and about access to justice for all,” said **Catherine C. Carr, Esq.**, Executive Director of Community Legal Services, in announcing the Award.

The Breakfast of Champions will also celebrate the winners of the 2007 Equal Justice Awards:

- **Alan Feldman, Esq., of Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelernter, Tanner & Weinstock, immediate past Chancellor of the Philadelphia Bar Association**, who mounted the “Raising the Bar” campaign and raised \$1.4 million for legal services organizations throughout the City this past year.
- **Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll, LLP attorneys Thomas B. Roberts, Esq. and Jordana L. Greenwald, Esq.**, who serve as pro bono co-counsel with Community Legal Services in Kaplan v. Chertoff, a class action that seeks to restore Supplemental Security Income disability benefits for about 50,000 refugees and asylees.
- **Pam Walz, Esq.**, Managing Attorney of Community Legal Services' Elderly Law Project, which specializes in helping seniors address difficulties with Medical Assistance, Medicare, public benefits, and personal home and nursing home care.
- **Joyce Wilkerson, Esq.**, Chief of Staff to Mayor John F. Street, who has been a long-term supporter of legal services throughout her career with the City of Philadelphia.

The Champion of Justice Award and Equal Justice Awards are given annually by Community Legal Services to recognize those who have made extraordinary efforts to ensure equal access to justice through the legal system for all, regardless of income.

The Breakfast of Champions kicks off Community Legal Services' annual Bar Campaign to raise funds from the Philadelphia legal community to support legal services for low-income Philadelphians. In 2006, Community Legal Services' Bar Campaign raised over \$350,000 from law firms to support the provision of legal services to the poor. The goal for 2007 is to raise \$375,000 from Philadelphia area law firms. The Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association sponsors the annual Breakfast of Champions.

Community Legal Services' Bar Campaign is successful because of the efforts of the Leadership Council, which promotes the mission and accomplishments of Community Legal Services to the

legal community and obtains their support for the annual campaign. The Leadership Council for the 2007 Bar Campaign is co-chaired by **Joseph A. Tate, Esq.** *Dechert LLP*, and **Gerald A. McHugh, Jr., Esq.**, of *Raynes, McCarty, Binder, Ross, & Mundy*. Leadership Council members include Michael J. Boni, Esq., *Boni & Zack LLC*; Edward F. Chacker, Esq., *Gay, Chacker & Mittin*; Andrew Chirls, Esq., *Wolf, Block, and Solis-Cohen LLP*; Joseph J. Costello, Esq., *Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP*; Michael D. Epstein, Esq., *Montgomery, McCracken, Walker & Rhoads LLP*; Alan M. Feldman, Esq., *Feldman, Shepherd, Wohlgelemer & Tanner*; Lawrence J. Fox, Esq., *Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP*; Nancy J. Gellman, Esq., *Conrad, O'Brien, Gellman & Rohn, PC*; William T. Hangley, Esq., *Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin*; Alexander Kerr, Esq., *McCarter and English, LLP*; Roberta D. Liebenberg, Esq., *Fine, Kaplan, & Black RPC*; Leslie Anne Miller, Esq.; Wendell Pritchett, Esq., *University of Pennsylvania Law School*; Barbara T. Sicalides, Esq., *Pepper Hamilton LLP*; Joseph A. Sullivan, Esq., *Pepper Hamilton LLP*; Dennis R. Suplee, Esq., *Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis LLP*; Christopher Walters, Esq., *Reed Smith LLP*; Joanne Zack, Esq., *Boni & Zack LLC*.

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For 40 years, Community Legal Services (CLS) of Philadelphia has provided the highest quality legal assistance to low-income Philadelphians who cannot afford legal counsel when they most need it. Created by the Philadelphia Bar Association in 1966, CLS is widely recognized as one of the most sophisticated, respected legal services programs in the nation. It is also the largest and most experienced legal services provider with the broadest scope in Pennsylvania. In the past year alone, CLS has helped over 17,000 Philadelphians, fighting consumer fraud and predatory lending, preventing homelessness, ensuring fair treatment in the workplace, stabilizing families, and protecting women, children and the elderly. Since inception, CLS has served well over a million individuals at the most critical time of their lives. For more information on Community Legal Services of Philadelphia, visit www.clsphila.org.