Barbara L. Krier, Esquire  
Senior Assistant Public Defender  
York County Public Defender’s Office  

2009 Child Advocate of the Year  
Pennsylvania Bar Association – Children’s Rights Committee  

We are pleased to announce the recipient of this year’s Child Advocate of the Year Award is Barbara Lee Krier. Ms. Krier is the senior assistant public defender in the York County Public Defender’s Office. She has worked there since 1988 with the responsibilities of supervising the Juvenile Unit, representing juveniles in delinquency court proceedings at the trial and appellate level. She served as first assistant public defender in the York County office from 1982 until 1985, as well. Prior to that, she was a law clerk to the Honorable Emanuel Cassimatis, a former recipient of the Child Advocate of the Year Award. In addition to her role as senior assistant public defender, she was also elected in 2005 to serve on the York City School Board. In that capacity, she has served as York City School District representative on the Lincoln Intermediate Unit and the York County High School Board of Directors. She is a member of the MacArthur Foundation Models for Change, Mental Health/Juvenile Justice Workgroup, Juvenile Defenders Association of Pennsylvania, Pa. Association of School Boards, York County Bar Association, Pa. Association of Court Management and the Youth Advisory Board of York County Juvenile Court.

Nominated by Suzanne Smith, an attorney with the York firm of Kearney & Marshall, Ms. Krier is described as a zealous advocate for all of her clients. She has consistently made sure that proper procedures are followed and the treatment needs of her clients are adequately met. This is particularly important for those individuals charged with sexual offenses due to Act 21, which calls for an indefinite involuntary commitment for individuals in the juvenile system who meet the criteria defined in the Act. She monitors all of those clients in York County and makes sure that the procedures as outlined in the Act are properly followed. She also monitors other offenders in the juvenile system, even when not represented by the public defender’s office, in order to assure that proper procedures are followed throughout the juvenile system.

Bruce P. Blocher, chief public defender, described Ms. Krier at the forefront of new developments in juvenile law – litigating legal issues when she perceives that any new laws are unfair or unconstitutional and not serving to rehabilitate the children. She has also been instrumental in starting up a number of alternative treatment courts for juveniles, such as the drug court and the JUMP court, a mental health treatment court for juveniles. He feels that she is deserving of the award because she has stood up for the rights and interests of the most underprivileged children for the last 20 years.