Marsha Levick is Recipient of the Children’s Rights Committee Child Advocate of the Year Award

The PBA Children’s Rights Committee presented its 11th Annual Child Advocate of the Year Award to Marsha Levick at the Committee’s Spring 2008 CLE on Current Issues for Child Advocates in Mechanicsburg.

Levick is the co-founder and legal director of the Juvenile Law Center (JLC), a nonprofit public interest legal center dedicated to protecting and advancing children’s rights. She is a local, state and national leader for reform of the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. She was nominated by Jason Kutulakis of Abom & Kutulakis and Laval S. Miller-Wilson of the JLC.

In addition to co-founding the JLC, Levick has worked as legal director and executive director of NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund (NOW LDF), serving as the manager and public face as it pursued a litigation docket of Title VII, affirmative action, family law and sex discrimination in insurance cases. She returned to the JLC 13 years ago and has been a strong presence inside and outside of the office. Miller-Wilson said in his nomination letter that “[h]er legal acumen and leadership directing JLC’s advocacy is spectacular. JLC would be a much different and lesser organization without her. Her professional excellence in advancing the rights of children speaks for itself.” Levick is also described as a “brilliant lawyer,” demonstrating her skills in the areas of federal and state court litigation, amicus briefs and family court cases.

Levick is committed to encouraging the next generation of child advocates by teaching younger attorneys and law students working at the JLC, and through her mentoring and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania Law School and Temple University Beasley School of Law. She also encourages and assists practicing attorneys by participating in trainings at the Pennsylvania Bar Institute at the PBA Children’s Rights Committee CLEs.

Levick serves as chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association Public Interest Section, and formerly served as co-chair of the Juvenile Justice Subcommittee of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court’s Committee on Racial and Gender Bias. On a national level, she helped create the National Juvenile Defender Center to improve the quality of indigent juvenile defense. She is described as a “national leader in the fight for juvenile justice reform.”

The Child Advocate of the Year Award was established to recognize the accomplishments of lawyers and judges who are advocates for children within the commonwealth or who are involved with child advocacy.

Marsha Levick (second from right) is joined by her family upon receiving the 11th Annual Child Advocate of the Year Award from the Children’s Rights Committee.