

## Volunteer Legal Services Program Honors Outstanding Volunteers and Organizations at Annual Party

**March 15, 2012 – San Francisco** – BASF's Volunteer Legal Services Program (VLSP) celebrated its most exceptional volunteers at its annual Appreciation Party on March 14.

More than 200 people were in attendance at the event, which was held at the Green Room of the War Memorial and Performing Arts Center in San Francisco. Judge Edward Chen, United States District Court; Presiding Judge Katherine Feinstein, San Francisco Superior Court; Supervising Judge Patrick Mahoney, Unified Family Court of the San Francisco Superior Court; Judge Ronald Quidachay, San Francisco Superior Court; and BASF President Kelly Dermody were on hand to pass out the awards.

The top 10 percent of VLSP's volunteers were honored with Outstanding Volunteer in Public Service certificates. Additionally, VLSP recognized three individual volunteers, a law firm and a corporation with special awards. The James P. Prevolos Award for Outstanding Pro Bono Services in Family Law was presented to Kevin Duffy. Over 100 VLSP clients have been served by Duffy, either through his representation or by his mentoring volunteers who have represented them.

The 2011 Housing Justice Award was presented to Jerome Schweich. Schweich has been a long-time volunteer for VLSP and in 2011, he tried two cases and represented 12 clients. Additionally, Schweich is a regular volunteer at VLSP's legal advice section at Project Homeless Connect.

The 2011 Outstanding Law Firm in Public Service Award was presented to Morrison & Foerster. During the 2011 calendar year, the value of the firm's donated hours to VLSP clients totaled nearly \$900,000.

Morrison & Foerster attorneys volunteered with a range of VLSP projects in 2011. Additionally, the firm is always a strong partner to VLSP, stepping up to provide support with trainings, taking part in VLSP fundraisers, and working to place challenging matters.

The Association of Corporate Counsel's San Francisco Bay Area Chapter (ACC-SFBA) received the Outstanding Corporation in Public Service Award. VLSP recognized the ACC-SFBA for its dedication to providing pro bono assistance for low-income and underserved clients. The ACC-SFBA regularly partners with VLSP on projects to support the community. Among its contributions, the ACC has worked with VLSP's CORP project to provide legal health checkups to nonprofits in the community. This work strengthens the capacity of the nonprofits, which in turn serve those in need. Volunteers from more than 25 different corporate departments participated in this work with VLSP through the ACC-SFBA in 2011.

## **Volunteer Legal Services Program Honors Outstanding Volunteers and Organizations at Annual Party (continued)**

The Community Service Award was presented to Claudio Bluer, principal of Austral Housing Inspections. Bluer has tirelessly come to the aid of many VLSP volunteers by providing pro bono housing inspections and testifying as an expert witness in unlawful detainers. Many of his inspections have been the pivotal turning point in settlement for VLSP volunteers.

A special thank you to HP, Farella, Braun + Martel, Haight Brown & Bonesteel, Jones Day, Morrison & Foerster and O'Melveny & Myers for their sponsorship of the annual VLSP party.

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The Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) is a nonprofit voluntary membership organization of over 8,000 attorneys, law students and legal professionals in the Bay Area. Founded in 1872, BASF is one of the largest and most dynamic metropolitan bar associations in the U.S., with a long and distinguished record of community action, public service and service to the legal profession.