

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ILLINOIS EQUAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION ELECTS NEW OFFICERS FOR FY 2010

Five New Members Join Board

(CHICAGO).....The Illinois Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF), the not-for-profit entity responsible for distributing and monitoring the state appropriation for civil legal aid for low-income families and individuals, announces its leadership team for fiscal year 2010.

At its June 23, 2009 Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously elected Carolyn H. Clift, Senior Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer of Health Care Service Corporation, as the organization's fifth President. Ms. Clift succeeds Christine M. Ory of the Law Offices of Christine M. Ory, PC as President.

Also elected to leadership positions are: as Vice President, the Honorable Karen Hasara, former Mayor of Springfield; as Treasurer, Daniel Broadhurst of Huron Consulting Group; and as Secretary, Margaret A. Daley of Duff & Phelps.

The Board also elected five new members: Rich Levin, most recently Managing Director at Citigroup; the Honorable Patricia Reid Lindner, former Illinois State Representative and an original sponsor of the Illinois Equal Justice Act; Faustin A. Pipal, Jr., Partner at Pipal & Berg LLP; Jennifer A. Shaw of Jennifer A. Shaw, P.C.; and Lisa C. Snow, Principal at Davis & Hosfield LLC. All new members are eligible to serve two three-year terms.

These new members join the officers listed above as well as the following Board directors: Timothy L. Bertschy of Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, PC; William L. Broom of Barrett, Twomey, Broom, Hughes & Hoke, LLP; James B. Buda of Caterpillar; Marc Firestone of Kraft Foods, Inc.; Dana I. Green of Walgreens; Victor P. Henderson of Holland & Knight; Carla R. Michelotti of Leo Burnett Worldwide Inc.; Christine M. Ory of the Law Offices of Christine M. Ory, PC; Michael A. Pope of McDermott Will & Emery; John C. Sciacotta of Shefsky & Froelich; and Joseph J. Torres of Winston & Strawn.

State funding for civil legal aid is appropriated through the Illinois Equal Justice Act and housed in the Attorney General's budget. The Act, approved by the General Assembly and signed into law in 1999, recognizes the State's responsibility to ensure equal access to the legal system. It sets forth a wide range of innovative, cost-effective initiatives to help low-income people understand the legal system and resolve their routine legal problems more effectively. The Act also created the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation to distribute the State's appropriation for civil legal aid to not-for-profit organizations throughout the state.

For fiscal year 2009, the IEJF awarded over \$3.3 million in grants to 22 not-for-profit organizations providing civil legal assistance to low-income families and individuals throughout the state. The state appropriation for fiscal year 2010 has been reduced by 50% to \$1.75 million. To learn more about the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, visit www.iejf.org. To learn more about the Equal Justice Illinois Campaign, a bi-partisan effort to increase the state appropriation for civil legal services for the poor, visit www.equaljusticeillinois.org.

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