

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HIV & AIDS Legal
Services Alliance

**HALSA TO BE HONORED BY L.A. COUNTY COMMISSION ON
DISABILITIES**

LOS ANGELES, OCT. 3, 2008 – The HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance (HALSA) has been selected to receive the Jane Small Advocacy Award at the upcoming Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities’ 17th Annual Access Award Luncheon. The event will be held October 20 at the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens in Los Angeles.

HALSA provides free comprehensive civil legal services to low-income persons living with HIV/AIDS; secures legal victories for those discriminated against in employment, healthcare, housing or schools; and advocates for the rights of people living with HIV in legislation and public policy. The Commission specifically praised HALSA for the exceptional legal services provided to persons living with HIV or AIDS and its commitment and dedication to improving access to primary healthcare and re-entry into the workplace.

“HALSA is a fantastic organization that provides swift, professional services to those living with HIV or AIDS,” said Janet A. Neal, first vice president and events chair for the Commission. “We were extremely impressed with their commitment to get individuals the services they need quickly without drawing out the process or adding cumbersome extra steps, and we are proud to present them with this award.”

Seth Levy, president of HALSA’s board of directors and a partner in the Los Angeles office of Davis Wright Tremaine LLP, expressed gratitude at the recognition. “We’re humbled by this special recognition,” said Levy. “We’re proud of the hard work of our staff and volunteers, and it is an honor to be recognized by the Commission, whose work and mission – like ours – is to help those in need.”

Executive Director Trip Oldfield echoed Levy’s sentiments and vowed continued commitment to the organization’s mission. “This is a tremendous award that reminds us of the

gains we have made in creating access to justice for the impoverished and disabled, but it also reaffirms our belief that our work is far from done,” said Oldfield. “There are more than 100,000 persons living with HIV & AIDS in Southern California, many of whom are dealing with issues of discrimination and barriers to health care and benefits. I want to thank the Commission for their confidence in our efforts.”

About HIV & AIDS Legal Services Alliance (HALSA)

With programs dating back to 1986, HALSA is the only organization of its kind in Southern California dedicated solely to serving the legal needs of individuals and families living with HIV or AIDS. HALSA is considered the national model for its expertise in the fields of discrimination, privacy, immigration, employment, housing, public benefits, and tax issues; and also builds capacity for HIV law as a support center for legal education and technical assistance to law firms, public-interest law and AIDS service organizations, government agencies, and low-income health clinics. HALSA's legal services stop discrimination, save lives, remove barriers to health care, stabilize housing, and enhance re-entry into the workplace. Last year, HALSA provided more than 16,000 hours of free legal education, advice and representation to 1647 low-income HIV+ clients.

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