

For Immediate Release

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EAST BAY COMMUNITY LAW CENTER  
ANNOUNCES BERKLEY LAW FOUNDATION  
POST-GRADUATE GRANT RECIPIENT

Berkeley, California, May 14, 2002 — The East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) is delighted to announce the selection of Ms. Tirien Steinbach as the recipient of a Post-Graduate Berkeley Law Foundation Grant for her work on the Suitcase Clinic Legal Services Project. This year-long grant is made possible through the generous contributions of UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law (Boalt Hall) alumni to the Berkeley Law Foundation. The grant is designed to fund innovative legal projects serving underrepresented communities.

Ms Steinbach will work within EBCLC's Employment and Income Support Unit, providing a wide range of legal services to homeless and low-income people at several homeless drop-in clinics. At these sites, Ms. Steinbach will supervise law students and volunteer attorneys to provide referrals, advocacy, and direct representation to clients facing a broad range of legal issues. In particular, Ms. Steinbach's project focuses on combating the criminalization of homeless and poor people, and attempts to fill important gaps in services for the low-income client community. For instance, Ms. Steinbach will provide advocacy and representation for clients in the areas of criminal records expungement and criminal citation defense, for which people do not have a right to counsel and, therefore, are not eligible for public defender services.

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Ms. Steinbach, who is from the Bay Area, received her J.D. from Boalt Hall in 1999. At Boalt Hall, Ms. Steinbach was active in the public interest and student of color community, where she served as co-president of the Berkeley Law Foundation Student Steering Committee and Vice President of Recruitment for Law Students of African Descent. Additionally, Ms. Steinbach worked at numerous criminal defense and public interest organizations throughout law school, including the Federal Public Defender, the San Francisco Public Defender, Juvenile Division, the Contra Costa Public Defender, and the Youth Law Center. Upon graduating from Boalt Hall, Ms. Steinbach was a NAPIL Fellow for two years at the California Appellate Project. Through her NAPIL project, Ms. Steinbach gathered thousands of documents about the California Youth Authority to be used by attorneys as mitigating evidence in appealing death sentences in California.

The East Bay Community Law Center was founded by Boalt students in 1988 with the dual mission of providing high quality legal services to low-income clients in Alameda County and clinical legal education opportunities for law students. EBCLC is now the largest provider of free civil legal assistance to the poor in Alameda County, with services including eviction defense and housing advocacy, employment and income support, HIV/AIDS law, and community economic development. EBCLC's clinical legal education program, which recently was recognized by UC Chancellor Robert Berdahl as a notable University-Community Partnership Project, exposes law students to the needs of low-income communities and provides them with the skills to make a difference in the lives of real clients. The overall goal of EBCLC's work is to help make the lives of Bay Area community members more healthy, secure, productive, and hopeful.

For more information about the Suitcase Clinic Legal Services Project, please contact the East Bay Community Law Center at (510) 548-4040.

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[Photo attached]