

For Immediate Release

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EAST BAY COMMUNITY LAW CENTER
ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENT OF THE INAUGURAL
SHARTSIS, FRIESE & GINSBURG PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP

Berkeley, California, June 1, 2004 — The East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) is delighted to announce the selection of Myvan Khuu as the recipient of the first annual Shartsis, Friese & Ginsburg Public Interest Fellowship. This year-long fellowship is made possible through the generous support of the San Francisco law firm of Shartsis, Friese & Ginsburg LLP, and represents the first year of a three-year commitment on the part of the firm to support the provision of direct legal services to clients in the Bay Area.

Ms. Khuu will work in EBCLC's Employment and Income Support Unit, providing services primarily to Southeast Asian families who are being improperly denied welfare benefits due to their disability or language access needs. Ms. Khuu, who is fluent in Vietnamese, will provide a full range of legal assistance to this vulnerable population that is being disproportionately impacted by California's implementation of federal welfare reform.

Ms. Khuu is a 2004 graduate of Santa Clara University School of Law; she attended UC Berkeley as an undergrad, receiving a B.A. in English and Art History in 2001. While in law school, Ms. Khuu worked at the East San Jose Community Law Center assisting low-income clients with consumer protection and debtor's rights issues; served as a research assistant to Professor Stephanie Wildman, Director of Santa Clara's Center for Social Justice and Public Service; and participated in the law school's Street Law Program teaching youth law to senior high school students. During her first summer in law school, Ms. Khuu worked in the Tam Chung Law Firm in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. During her second summer she interned in the Dispute Resolution Program Services of Santa Clara County, where she has continued to volunteer as a mediator.

Says Ms. Khuu: “I am very excited to start this fellowship. Although there is a lot of interest in reaching out to the large Southeast Asian community in the Bay Area, it is not often supported by adequate resources. I am delighted about the project’s emphasis on serving this community, and I look forward to this amazing opportunity to give something back.”

The East Bay Community Law Center was founded by law students at Boalt Hall School of Law 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 and a nationally-recognized poverty law clinic, with services including eviction defense and housing advocacy, employment and income support, HIV/AIDS law, and community economic development. The overall goal of EBCLC’s work is to help make the lives of Bay Area community members more healthy, secure, productive, and hopeful.

Shartsis, Friese & Ginsburg LLP, founded in 1975, is a mid-sized San Francisco law firm that concentrates on litigation and business and real estate transactions. The firm has provided financial support to EBCLC since its founding in 1988.

For more information about the Shartsis, Friese & Ginsburg Public Interest Fellowship, please contact Jeff Selbin at the East Bay Community Law Center at (510) 548-4040, or Amy Hespenheide at Shartsis, Friese & Ginsburg at (415) 421-6500.

[Photo attached]

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