

Press Release

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East Bay Community Law Center

SELECTED TO RECEIVE THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S HIGHEST PROFESSIONALISM AWARD

Berkeley, California, July 10, 2002 — The East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) is delighted to announce its selection as one of two winners of this year's E. Smythe Gambrell Professionalism Award. The national honor, conferred by the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Professionalism, recognizes projects "contributing to the understanding of professionalism among lawyers." In its award notice, the committee stated that it "was particularly impressed with the depth and excellence of [EBCLC's] program and your obvious commitment to professionalism."

The East Bay Community Law Center was founded by students from UC Berkeley's 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's direct legal services to the low-income community include housing, income support, HIV/AIDS, and economic development. EBCLC's rigorous clinical program exposes law students to the needs of low-income clients and communities, and provides them with the skills to make a difference in the lives of real clients.

According to EBCLC Executive Director Jeff Selbin, "The award is the culmination of more than four years of collaboration between Boalt Hall and EBCLC to integrate more fully and directly ethics and professionalism issues into the clinical work of law students. The primary focus of the effort has been to offer students a unique opportunity to learn professional responsibility in the context of taking responsibility for the problems of real clients. None of this would have been possible without the support of Boalt faculty, the commitment of EBCLC staff, and the talent of our law students."

The Gambrell Awards were established in 1991 and are named for E. Smythe Gambrell, ABA and American Bar Foundation president from 1955 to 1956. Gambrell founded the Legal Aid Society in Atlanta, where he practiced law from 1922 until his death in 1986. The formal presentation of the award, which includes a \$3,500 stipend, will take place at the joint luncheon of the National Association of Bar Executives, National Conference of Bar Presidents and the National Conference Bar Foundation, on Friday, August 9, 2002, at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C. More information about the award is available at: <http://www.abanet.org/cpr/gambrell.html>.

A copy of the successful project description is available upon request. For more information about the East Bay Community Law Center, please contact Executive Director Jeff Selbin at (510) 548-4040.