

For Immediate Release
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East Bay Community Law Center receives Berkeley Community Award

Berkeley, California, October 22, 2004 - At an annual dinner attended by more than 400 people last night, including prominent members of the local legal community, the East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) received the Berkeley Community Award from the Berkeley Community Fund (BCF). Each year BCF recognizes two organizations for their exemplary achievements in improving the quality of life in the community. EBCLC was nominated for this prestigious award by longtime friend and supporter United States District Court Judge Thelton Henderson.

In his nomination, Judge Henderson wrote, "As a long-time resident of Berkeley and a graduate of UC Berkeley and Boalt Hall School of Law, I know the positive impact that EBCLC has had on the lives of many individuals, families and agencies in our city. EBCLC's exceptional work in providing legal services to low-income people helps to narrow the inequities within our community. Given EBCLC's strong ties to a wide range of stakeholders in Berkeley and its proven track record, I have no doubt that it will continue to provide critical services to Berkeley's low-income community."

In accepting the award, EBCLC Executive Director said, "It is an honor to be recognized by our local community foundation. With BCF's support of our program and other critical services in this time of great need, we move one step closer to our goal of making the community more healthy, secure, productive, and hopeful."

The East Bay Community Law Center was founded by law students at 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 practical training 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, decriminalization of poverty and homelessness, HIV/AIDS and health law, and community economic development.

The Berkeley Community Fund was founded in 1992 by local visionaries who shared a concept of a community based on social justice, hope, and equality, and a belief in returning something to the community that had fostered their own success and growth. Today this legacy continues, as the Fund taps the creative talents of individuals, the strengths of local institutions and the material wealth of the community.