



Press Release

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PUBLIC COUNSEL NAMES CLINIC IN HONOR OF SKADDEN, ARPS, SLATE, MEAGHER & FLOM LLP IN RECOGNITION OF THE FIRM'S GENEROUS ENDOWMENT GIFT

***- World's Largest Pro Bono Public Interest Law Firm Receives Major Gift To Endow Nationally
Recognized Guardianship & Conservatorship Clinic Serving Children and Seniors -***

Los Angeles, CA – Public Counsel, the largest *pro bono* public interest law firm in the world, announced today that it will name its nationally recognized Guardianship & Conservatorship Clinic in honor of the international law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, which made a gift of \$200,000 to endow the program. The Clinic will now be known as the Skadden, Arps' Guardianship & Conservatorship Clinic.

Public Counsel created the Clinic program in 2001 to respond to the growing backlog of caregivers who were unable to obtain legal guardianship or conservatorship necessary to adequately provide for children or senior citizens in their care. The problem is most critical for children because their guardians must have legal authority to make decisions about their education, medical needs and where the child shall live. If a legal guardianship is not established, these children are at significant risk of becoming part of the foster care system because there may be no other way to ensure that their basic needs are met.

Each year, dozens of attorneys, paralegals and other staff from Skadden, Arps provide hundreds of hours of *pro bono* assistance to Public Counsel and its clients. "It is one of the most meaningful ways in which we give back to the community. Our decision to endow the Guardianship & Conservatorship Clinic was a natural extension of our work with Public Counsel and we hope it inspires others to also consider making similar gifts," said Rand S. April, Public Counsel Board member and the Managing Partner of Skadden, Arps' Los Angeles office.

The Clinic serves an average of 20 families daily and creates guardianships for more than 1,200 vulnerable children and conservatorships for as many as 300 senior citizens annually. Housed in donated office space in the Los Angeles County Superior Court building in downtown Los Angeles, the Clinic is staffed with one full-time attorney from Public Counsel with support from *pro bono* attorney and paralegal volunteers, law school students and other college volunteers.

In addition to the endowment, Skadden, Arps staffs the Clinic weekly. This commitment was made possible by the tremendous response of Skadden, Arps' attorneys and paralegals to the firm's request to support and staff the Guardianship & Conservatorship Clinic. "It is an incredibly

rewarding experience for our attorneys and paralegals to assist the people who come to the Clinic for help. Most of them are grandparents, family members or friends who have voluntarily stepped forward to care for a child because his or her parents are unable, unwilling or unavailable to do so. They are making considerable sacrifices in order to take on this tremendous responsibility, and it is our pleasure to provide them with assistance and support,” said Stacy Horth-Neubert, the *pro bono* coordinator at Skadden, Arps.

Public Counsel Chairperson Karlene Goller, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel of the Los Angeles Times said, “All of us are deeply grateful to Rand and his colleagues at Skadden, Arps for this extraordinary gift and for their enduring commitment to providing *pro bono* legal services. By helping to ensure equal access to justice for everyone, they are strengthening the very fabric of our community.”

The gift is associated with Public Counsel’s facilities endowment campaign, which was launched in conjunction with the acquisition of its new headquarters office building in the mid-Wilshire area of Los Angeles. The gift will be credited towards a generous challenge/matching grant Public Counsel received from the W.M. Keck Foundation in late 2006.

A special dedication ceremony is planned for Monday evening March 19th at Public Counsel headquarters in Los Angeles. “Skadden, Arps’ generous gift helps ensure a future of justice, hope and opportunity for the thousands of families, children and seniors served by the Clinic annually,” said Daniel Grunfeld, President and C.E.O. of Public Counsel. “Without the Clinic, their needs would go largely unmet, thereby depriving an already disadvantaged population of their essential rights.”

About Public Counsel

Public Counsel is the largest public interest *pro bono* law office in the world. It is a beacon of hope and justice for those who have nowhere else to turn. Last year, with the help of more than 3,600 volunteer lawyers, law students, social workers and others, Public Counsel provided more than \$63 million worth of free services to over 26,500 people including abused and abandoned children, families living in abject poverty, homeless veterans, the neglected elderly and weary refugees. Since it was founded in 1970, Public Counsel has recruited and trained over 35,000 volunteers and delivered over a quarter of a billion dollars in free assistance.

Nationally, Public Counsel has been a leader in developing model programs and assisting other *pro bono* public interest law firms to bring these programs to their communities. In addition to serving the vast Los Angeles metropolitan region, Public Counsel is actively helping to strengthen *pro bono* public interest law internationally. In 2000, Public Counsel was instrumental in creating the *Instituto Pro Bono* in Brazil, that country’s first public interest *pro bono* law firm. Since that time Public Counsel has played a central role in nurturing other *pro bono* programs in Brazil, Argentina, Europe, Africa and Australia.

About Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP

Serving clients in every major international financial center, Skadden, Arps is one of the world’s leading law firms, with 22 offices and approximately 2,000 attorneys. Skadden, Arps represents a broad spectrum of clients including approximately 50 percent of the Fortune 250 industrial and service corporations, as well as financial and governmental entities, small high-technology start-up companies, and cultural, educational and charitable institutions. For almost 60 years, the firm has advised such entities in many of the most significant corporate and litigation matters worldwide.

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