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**AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S  
GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR LAWYERS DIVISION  
ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF NATIONAL AWARDS  
*Awards to be given to Greeley, Colorado alternate defense counsel;  
Irving, Texas city attorney; and Legal Aid of the Bluegrass  
at the ABA Annual Meeting in August***

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 25, 2005 –The American Bar Association's Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division today announced the recipients of its three annual awards for outstanding work in the government and public sector. The awards will be presented August 5 at the Westin River North Hotel from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. during the ABA Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The 2005 Dorsey Award, honoring an outstanding public defender or legal aid lawyer, will be presented to Bryan D. Shaha, Alternate Defense Counsel of the State of Colorado.

Shaha has spent almost his entire 33-year legal career in public defense. In 1972, he began his career as a staff attorney with Colorado Rural Legal Services. He represented indigent clients in landlord-tenant disputes, social services matters and bankruptcies. Shaha joined Colorado's new State Public Defender System when it was created in 1974, as Deputy State Public Defender. He remained there until 1996, excluding five-years defending the criminally accused in private practice. When the Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel began operation in 1997, Shaha was named Alternate Defense Counsel. Demonstrating enormous dedication and serving as a role-model to lawyers in his community, Shaha ensures that indigent criminal defendants with conflicts of interest with the State Public Defender system are provided outstanding legal representation.

Honoring an outstanding government or public sector law office, the 2005 Hodson Award will be presented to Legal Aid of the Bluegrass.

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass (LABG) is a non-profit legal aid society that serves northern, eastern and central Kentucky counties with nearly 140,000 residents living in poverty. For the past seven years, LABG continued to provide high quality advocacy as its poverty population and coverage area increased from eight to 33 counties, while its budget relative to its poverty population did not correspondingly increase. LABG provides assistance in family law, consumer protection, housing, domestic violence and elder law matters, and responds quickly and effectively to crises. In 2003, Kentucky promulgated regulations making Medicaid eligibility requirements much stricter. As a result, about 3,500 low-income, frail and elderly persons were in real danger of losing their benefits and being evicted from the nursing homes. Due to the work of LABG and other groups, the regulations were ultimately declared illegal and the 3,500 persons at risk did not lose their benefits.

The 2005 Nelson Award, which recognizes superior contributions to the ABA by a public lawyer, will go to David C. Caylor, City Attorney of Irving, Texas.

Caylor performed outstanding service to the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division as a council member and chair of the Ethics Committee. During the ABA's most recent review of the model rules of professional conduct, Caylor served as the Division's liaison to the various ABA entities conducting the review. He attended numerous meetings, performed research, and kept the Division informed while serving as a voice for public lawyers, particularly during discussions about revising Model Rule 1.11 (*Special Conflicts of Interest for Former and Current Government Officers and Employees*). Caylor has served as the City Attorney of Irving, Texas, since 1998.

For more information on these awards or the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division, call Sarah Hilton at 202/662-1024 or visit <http://www.governmentlawyer.org>.