

PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ABA NAMES LAWYERS FOR CHILDREN OF NEW YORK CITY AS 2008 HODSON AWARD WINNER FOR EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE BY A PUBLIC LAW OFFICE

April 29, 2008: In a letter dated April 21, 2008, the American Bar Association's Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division notified Lawyers For Children (LFC) that the organization was the winner of the prestigious Hodson Award¹ for its exceptional performance as advocates for children in New York City's family court system. The award will be formally presented to LFC on August 8, at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association in New York City.

Lawyers For Children has been a pioneer in the field of children's rights, combining its creative approach to individual representation with impact litigation and educational outreach to create a powerful advocacy strategy that is at once far-reaching and deeply concentrated. Lawyers For Children's Executive Director, Karen Freedman commented, "this tremendous honor is one that Lawyers For Children proudly shares with the State of New York, our remarkable staff, distinguished Board, many generous supporters and, most of all, our extraordinary young clients."

Since its inception in 1984, LFC has represented over 40,000 children in foster care and high conflict custody cases. LFC's innovative strategy of pairing every client with both a lawyer and a social worker to advocate on their behalf has resulted in a widely recognized and successful child advocacy model, ensuring that every child's rights are protected, and that their voices are heard. LFC's unique set of special projects provide expert advocacy for clients with a variety of specific needs—including immigrants; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning clients; victims of sexual abuse or domestic violence; clients who are aging out of foster care; and, clients with mental health needs.

Alongside this individual advocacy, LFC has pursued an extraordinarily successful campaign of impact litigation to ensure that all children in foster care receive optimal care and services, and to implement standards that mitigate the trauma that children suffer when removed from their homes.

LFC also empowers its clients and other children in the foster care system with information through its series of legal rights handbooks and resource guides, entitled *You Are Not Alone*. More information about LFC is available at www.lawyersforchildren.org

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¹ According to the ABA, "the Hodson Award, named in honor of the distinguished public service career of the late Major General Kenneth J. Hodson, a former Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army, and a founding member of the Division, recognizes sustained, outstanding performance or a specific and extraordinary service by a government or public sector law office (it is not an award for an individual). Eligible nominees include all government (including military) or public sector law offices (e.g., legal aid bureaus, public defender offices and other legal organizations funded by the Legal Services Corporation) at the federal, state and local levels. To be eligible, nominees must receive funding from a government entity. Departments or units within offices are also eligible."

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