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Access to Justice Week—celebrating Alberta lawyers

EDMONTON, AB – April 13, 2009 – Legal Aid Alberta (LAA) is pleased to announce Access to Justice Week taking place April 14 -17. The week-long celebration is the continuation of last year's successful Lawyer Appreciation Day which was established to recognize Alberta lawyers who, by accepting legal aid cases, have helped to make the legal system more accessible to Albertans in need.

Lawyers who participate in legal aid share in a common belief in the importance of quality representation and advice at all levels to those who could otherwise not afford it. They have chosen to commit themselves to legal aid work despite the current lack of financial reward, because they want to provide a good quality public service within the justice system. "The dedication and expertise of our roster lawyers makes it possible for Albertans in need to receive the legal services they need to successfully manage their legal issues" says Jacqueline Schaffter, LAA President and CEO.

Private Bar and firm participation in the legal aid system is fundamental to being able to provide access to justice to those who cannot afford it. Access to Justice Week is province-wide with events being hosted in each of LAA's 11 regions. LAA Access to Justice Awards will be presented to one private bar lawyer per region while a separate award, being presented at the Edmonton event, will be given to recognize the efforts of one LAA staff lawyer.

Please visit www.legalaid.ab.ca for a list of the Access to Justice Award winners and more information about events that are happening throughout the province.

*Please note that events are not open to the public.

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About Legal Aid Alberta

Legal Aid Alberta works to provide a continuum of innovative and cost effective legal services for people in need throughout Alberta. LAA was officially established on July 1, 1970 by an agreement between the Law Society of Alberta and the provincial Attorney General. For more information about Legal Aid Alberta and its many services please visit www.legalaid.ab.ca.