

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS EQUAL JUSTICE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES OFFICERS FOR FY 2009

New Member Marc Firestone Joins Board

(CHICAGO).....The Illinois Equal Justice Foundation (IEJF), the not-for-profit entity responsible for distributing and monitoring the state appropriation for civil legal aid for low-income families and individuals, announces its leadership team for fiscal year 2009.

At its June 5, 2008 Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously re-elected Christine M. Ory of the Law Offices of Christine M. Ory, PC as the organization's fourth President. Ms. Ory is a founding Board member of the IEJF and succeeded Victor P. Henderson of Holland & Knight as President in 2007.

Also re-elected to leadership positions are: as Vice President, Carolyn H. Clift of Health Care Service Corporation; as Treasurer, Daniel Broadhurst of Huron Consulting Group; and as Secretary, the Honorable Karen Hasara, former Mayor of Springfield.

The Board also elected one new member: Marc Firestone, Executive Vice President, Corporate & Legal Affairs, and General Counsel of Kraft Foods, Inc., who is eligible to serve two three-year terms. Mr. Firestone earned his Bachelor of Arts in Romance Languages and Philosophy from Washington & Lee University and received his Juris Doctor from Tulane University School of Law.

Mr. Firestone joins the officers listed above as well as the following Board directors: Timothy L. Bertschy of Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, PC; William L. Broom of Barrett, Twomey, Broom, Hughes & Hoke, LLP; James B. Buda of Caterpillar; Margaret A. Daley of Duff & Phelps; Dana I. Green of Walgreens; Victor P. Henderson of Holland & Knight; Claire A. Manning of Brown, Hay & Stephens, LLP; Carla R. Michelotti of Leo Burnett Worldwide Inc.; Michael A. Pope of McDermott Will & Emery; John C. Sciacotta of Shesky & Froelich; and Joseph J. Torres of Winston & Strawn.

State funding for civil legal aid is appropriated through the Illinois Equal Justice Act and housed in the budget of the Attorney General. The Act, approved by the General Assembly and signed into law in 1999, recognizes the State's responsibility to ensure equal access to the legal system. It sets forth a wide range of innovative, cost-effective initiatives to help low-income people understand the legal system and resolve their routine legal problems more effectively. The Act also created the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation to distribute the State's appropriation for civil legal aid to not-for-profit organizations throughout the state.

For fiscal year 2009, the IEJF has awarded over \$3.3 million in grants to 22 not-for-profit organizations providing civil legal assistance to low-income families and individuals throughout the state. To learn more about the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation, visit www.iejf.org. To learn more about the Equal Justice Illinois Campaign, a bi-partisan effort to increase the state appropriation for civil legal services for the poor, visit www.equaljusticeillinois.org.

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