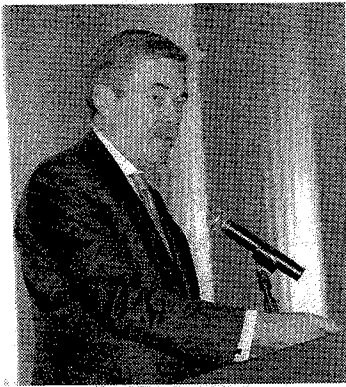


Oregon Legal Aid Honors Robert Stoll

By Campaign for Equal Justice



Robert Stoll received the Campaign for Equal Justices' (CEJ) top honor, the Henry H. Hewitt Access to Justice Award.

The award recognizes an individual who, through strong leadership, consistent effort and commitment to the ideal of equal justice under the law, has made a substantial contribution to legal aid for low-income Oregonians.

Stoll, a 1968 graduate of Harvard Law School, frequently tops the list of distinguished trial lawyers, both nationally and in Oregon. A founding member of the Portland law

firm Stoll Berne, Stoll has been a true leader in advocating for legal services for people living in poverty. He has been a member of the CEJ Advisory Committee since 1994, and his firm was one of the first to achieve 100% participation in the campaign. Stoll's commitment goes beyond financial support. In the mid-1990s he teamed up with legal aid lawyers to improve the legal system for individuals with disabilities. Since then, he has generously given his time and expert knowledge to help legal aid resolve other complex systemic cases.

In accepting the award, Stoll thanked the 100 legal aid attorneys practicing in Oregon who serve over 20,000 low-income clients each year. He stated, "As lawyers, we have the privilege of being in the profession which provides the framework within which our society operates to resolve disagreements: without a legal system, there would be chaos and brute strength would rule alone... .If the legal system is to really work for our society, it

must be accessible to all of our society, not just corporations and other wealthy organizations and individuals..."

Stoll noted that the poverty population in Oregon has grown to nearly 19% of Oregon's overall population, and that there are now nearly 700,000 people who qualify for the services of legal aid. He pointed out that due to lack of resources, "there are high priority cases in every county in the state where a fully eligible Oregonian has to go to court without a lawyer."

Stoll urged Oregon lawyers to continue and increase their work towards improving access to justice by providing pro bono services and contributing to the CEJ. To this end he stated, "I am

"If the legal system is to really work for our society, it must be accessible to all of our society... ."

humbled by what the legal aid lawyers do for all of us, and for our society: they are holding things together. I hope you are humbled by their example also, and that you will give generously. If you do so, we can increase the number of legal aid lawyers in this state and help make our legal system open to all."

C THE LAWYERS'
CAMPAIGN FOR EQUAL JUSTICE