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Children's Law Center of Los Angeles Names New Executive Director *Leslie Starr Heimov will Head Organization Representing LA's Foster Youth*

LOS ANGELES – The Board of Directors of the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles (CLC) announced today that Leslie Starr Heimov has been appointed Executive Director of the organization, which provides legal representation for abused and neglected children and youth under the jurisdiction of the dependency court. For the past nine months, Ms. Heimov has been Co-Interim Executive Director and Policy Director of CLC.

“Leslie has demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and a deep commitment to an open and collaborative style of management,” Board Chair Edward P. Lazarus said, in announcing the appointment of Ms. Heimov. “The Board is confident that she is the right person to lead CLC's efforts to serve the tens of thousands of children that CLC represents and to enhance the rights of all dependent youth.”

Leslie Starr Heimov joined the Children's Law Center in 1992, serving as a staff attorney and supervising attorney, providing oversight and training to other attorneys while she continued to handle complex and high profile cases. Prior to assuming her current duties, Ms. Heimov, as Special Projects Director, was responsible for handling CLC's legislative and policy agenda, including drafting legislation and working closely with elected officials and other advocates to support legislative reforms.

A long-time advocate for children in foster care, Ms. Heimov was Project Director of the Home At Last initiative funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts. She chaired a countywide Task Force on Pregnant and Parenting Teens and is a founding member of the Task Force to End Homophobia in Foster Care. Ms. Heimov serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Counsel for Children and on the National Advisory Board of the Children's Law Office Project and is a trials skills instructor for the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. She regularly presents to the bench, attorneys, social workers, caregivers and law students on a multitude of topics related to the representation of abused and neglected children.

With a 212 person staff of lawyers, paralegals, and investigators, CLC represents more than 24,000 children in one of the largest foster care systems in the nation. CLC attorneys appear on behalf of children in day-to-day dependency proceedings and also provide representation in related hearings to ensure the well-being and future success of each child.

No child enters or leaves foster care except by order of the juvenile dependency court. Its decisions affect the future of thousands of children and families in Los Angeles. The court decides whether children can safely remain at home or must be placed in foster care, what contact they will have with their parents and siblings, and how their needs can best be met with regard to safety, education, physical and mental health, and other issues.

Children's Law Center of Los Angeles is a nonprofit, public interest legal services organization that provides representation to the majority of children and youth who come under the protection of the Los Angeles County Juvenile Dependency Court system. For more information about the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, visit www.clcla.org.