



**Children's Law Center**  
of Los Angeles

***NEWS RELEASE***

For further information contact:  
Miriam Aroni Krinsky: (323) 980-1712

## **Los Angeles Attorney Named American Bar Association Child Advocate of the Year**

*Sarah Vesecky recognized for representation of children in dependency court proceedings and statewide work on education issues for foster youth.*

LOS ANGELES, CA: Sarah Vesecky, a dependency trial attorney and education specialist with the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles, has been named a recipient of the 2004 Child Advocacy Award from the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division. The award for "distinguished service on behalf of children" will be presented in Atlanta during the ABA Annual Meeting in early August.

Ms. Vesecky has devoted her career to working as a passionate and dedicated advocate for abused and neglected children in the Los Angeles Dependency Court system. More recently, she expanded her efforts to advocate for the education needs of youth in foster care throughout California. The award recognizes her accomplishments on local education issues as well as statewide reforms including last year's passage of AB 490, a statewide enactment that creates new education rights and enhances school stability for all foster children.

In supporting Ms. Vesecky's nomination, Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg, the author of AB490, remarked, "Ms. Vesecky's dedication to improving the lives of California's abused and neglected children through effective policymaking stands out as an example to any young advocate coming up behind her."

Ms. Vesecky always knew she wanted to devote her life to helping children. As a UCLA undergraduate, she interned at the Children's Defense Fund in Washington DC. While attending law school at USC, she worked with homeless and run-away youth, among other programs, and was awarded the Miller-Johnson Equal Justice Prize for exceptional commitment to civil and social justice. Ms. Vesecky's current work on educational issues has been accomplished while balancing a full Dependency Court caseload.

Children's Law Center Executive Director Miriam Aroni Krinsky said, "Sarah has made significant contributions not simply on behalf of the many young clients she represents, but also on a system wide level through her involvement and leadership in broader reform work that will benefit the most vulnerable youth in our state. Although Sarah is young and not that long out of law school, she has already established a reputation among her colleagues, adversaries, and the bench as an authority on the law and a zealous, principled advocate. Sarah's work and passion

reflects the critical difference an effective legal voice for abused and neglected youth can make in crafting a better future for these children”

Children’s Law Center of Los Angeles is a nonprofit, public interest law corporation that serves as appointed counsel for abused and neglected youth in one of the largest foster care systems in the nation. Their dedicated attorneys and staff represent the vast majority of the 30,000 children under the jurisdiction of the Los Angeles County Dependency Court and advocate for the services and support these children so desperately need.

The American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division is the ABA's largest entity, composed of approximately 130,000 members. The mission of the Young Lawyers Division, as the national organization of young lawyers, is to provide leadership in serving the public and the profession, and to promote excellence and fulfillment in the practice of law.