



Neighborhood Legal Services Association

928 Penn Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3799

Toll Free: 1-866-761-6572
Phone: 412-255-6700
Fax: 412-355-0168
Web site: www.nlsa.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

November 14, 2008

Contact: Christine Kirby — Phone (412) 586-6137 • kirbyc@nlsa.us

Neighborhood Legal Services Association's Board of Directors Elects New Officers,

Welcomes New Board Appointments and Announces Reappointments of Two State Senators

PITTSBURGH, PA -- Neighborhood Legal Services Association's Board of Directors has elected [Mary K. Austin](#), Associate Counsel for UPMC Health System to serve as its president. She succeeds Robert P. Morgan, a member of the Pittsburgh law firm Eckert Seamans, in the post.

[Efrem M. Grail](#) was elected as President-Elect. Mr. Grail is a partner with Reed Smith. The board also elected Sylvia Basich of the Beaver County Clients' Council as Vice President and Laura Cohen, Esq., Secretary. Ms. Cohen is the founder and managing attorney of the Family Legal Center in Monroeville, Pennsylvania. Other officers also elected include; Nancy L. Jones, Assistant Secretary; University of Pittsburgh School of Law Professor Stella L. Smetanka, Esq., Treasurer; and Rochelle Jackson, Assistant Treasurer.

The Board also welcomed five attorneys, who were appointed by the Allegheny County Bar Association, to 3-year terms: **Laura A. Candris**, senior counsel with Meyer, Unkovic & Scott, LLP; **Sarah L. Carlins**, an associate with Eckert Seamans; **Gary M. Lang** with Feldstein, Grinberg, Stein, & McKee; **Max W. Laun**, senior counsel at Alcoa Inc., and **Mark T. Vuono**, a member of the law firm Vuono & Gray.

In addition, **Pennsylvania State Senators Jane Clare Orie and Jay Costa, Jr.** were reappointed to the Board. Senator Orie represents Pennsylvania's 40th Senatorial District and is also the Majority Whip. Senator Costa serves Pennsylvania's 43rd Senatorial District and is also the Democratic Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA) was established in 1966 as a non-profit, public interest law firm to provide civil legal assistance to poor and vulnerable residents of Allegheny (and later) Beaver, Butler and Lawrence Counties. The mission of Neighborhood Legal Services Association is to meet the civil legal needs of the poor and vulnerable in our community through effective legal representation and education.

###