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**Local Law Student Recognized With
Hintz Family Scholarship for Community Service**

(VENTURA, CA – October 19, 2009) — Ventura and Santa Barbara Colleges of Law student Kathleen Barrett has been awarded the prestigious Hintz Family Scholarship for Community Service. Donated by the Judge Steven Hintz family, the award was established in 2005 to recognize a significant commitment to community service on behalf of a local law student.

Barrett is scheduled to complete her Juris Doctor degree at the Colleges of Law in December. While attending law school she has been involved as a volunteer with Grey Law of Ventura County, a nonprofit group that provides free legal help to senior citizens. She also works as a volunteer mediator and mediation supervisor in a small claims mediation program sponsored by the Ventura County Superior Court and the Ventura Center for Dispute Settlement. In addition, she volunteers as a court-appointed guardian ad litem in juvenile dependency court, helping abused, neglected or other at-risk children, and assists a local attorney with pro bono child custody and child support cases.

"Kathleen Barrett exemplifies America's call to volunteerism," Judge Hintz said in presenting the award. "The Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law is to be commended for requiring community service as part of their law degree program."

Barrett entered the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law following a four-decade career in health care management. "My hope was to use the law as a way to channel my energy into helping others," she said. "I can truly say that entering law school was the best decision I ever made as it has provided many varied avenues for me to pursue my commitment to be of service to my community."

(More)

Barrett says that upon graduation her goals are to pass the bar and “devote my time to pro bono legal service. I’ve been incredibly fortunate in my lifetime; and I hope, as an attorney, to do some small part to help those who have not been as fortunate.”

According to Law School Dean Heather Georgakis, service to others, professional responsibility and civic duty are “important ingredients in the law profession” and are “stressed throughout a student’s curriculum at the college. We are proud of all of our graduates over the past 40 years who are now making important contributions and helping to make their communities a better and more just place to live,” she said.

Currently celebrating its 40th anniversary, the Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law offers a State Bar-accredited part-time evening program leading to the awarding of a Juris Doctor degree and academic eligibility to sit for the California State Bar Examination. With a faculty comprised of working professionals who bring real-world experience into the curriculum, its classes are taught in a supportive and practical learning environment that encourages students to fulfill their dreams while adhering to the highest levels of ethics, professional responsibility and civic duty. Its more than 1,600 graduates include judges, court commissioners and numerous elected officials as well as hundreds of lawyers practicing throughout California. Further information on the law school and its programs may be obtained at CollegesOfLaw.org.

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