

LEGAL AID SOCIETY

OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGAL AID SOCIETY BREAKS FUNDRAISING RECORDS *Campaign for Equal Justice Brings in \$686,000*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. March 6, 2007 – With the support of both attorneys and the community at large, Legal Aid Society had another record-breaking fundraising year in 2006, bringing in \$686,000 in pledges and gifts through the annual campaign, well surpassing the \$625,000 goal.

"I'm proud of the hard work Legal Aid Society puts into our community," said Campaign Chair Julian Bibb of Stites & Harbison. "Without their efforts, thousands of people each year with nowhere to turn would not have access to justice."

Bibb gathered a team of attorney volunteers from throughout the 48-county service area of Legal Aid Society: Paul Davidson, Julie Bernstein, Chris & John Norris, Rebecca Lyford, Justice Frank Drowota, Magistrate Juliet Griffin, Judge Walter Kurtz, Judge Michael Mondelli, Judge Greg Smith, N. Houston Parks, James Henry II, John Blankenship, Charles Morton IV, Mark Puryear III, Debrah & Terry Frizzell, William Knolton, and Amy Turnbull Hollars.

Rob McNeilly, SunTrust Bank, led the Community Campaign that raised \$110,500. The Community Campaign targets donors who are not part of the legal profession, but share in Legal Aid Society's goal of justice for everyone.

"By helping families and individuals dealing with basic life issues like housing and protection from violence, Legal Aid Society makes Middle Tennessee a better place for all," McNeilly said. "The results of this year's campaign show that more and more people realize this."

"The support from legal professionals as well as the community at large has been wonderful," said Ashley Wiltshire, executive director, Legal Aid Society. "It is through their support that we are able to pursue justice for our clients and work to help them improve their lives." Legal Aid Society Development Director Cindy Durham attributes part of the fundraising success to a broadening of the campaign.

"This year we expanded the campaign to include all of our service area." She said. "Donors from both the legal profession and the community at large have been very generous. Their donations help support not only Legal Aid Society, but the Nashville Pro Bono Program and pro bono programs in some counties we serve."

Founded in 1968, the Legal Aid Society is a private, not-for-profit organization governed by a local board of directors comprised of attorneys and members of the client population. Legal Aid Society provides free legal assistance in civil matters to people in 48 Middle Tennessee counties with a total eligible population of 382,000. They have offices in Nashville, Gallatin, Clarksville, Murfreesboro, Columbia, Tullahoma, Cookeville and Oak Ridge.

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