

Carrie Schneider Named Volunteer of the Year

Receives Award for Pro Bono Work
Garners Page-One News Coverage

Oakland, Calif. -- An attorney with Donahue Gallagher Woods LLP, Oakland's oldest law firm, has been named a Volunteer of the Year by the Alameda County Volunteer Legal Services Corporation.

Carrie Schneider is being honored for providing more than 160 hours of free legal services to several Alameda County non-profit organizations.

A 2005 graduate of the University of California Hastings College of the Law, Schneider joined Donahue Gallagher that same year as an associate in the firm's corporate and intellectual property group. She focuses on corporate transactions, copyrights, and trademarks.

Schneider received her award at a dinner ceremony May 30 at Scott's Seafood at Oakland's Jack London Square. The theme of the event was "Justice For All: Celebrating Pro Bono" legal work.

On June 1, Schneider was in a group photo of the event that included noted federal judge Marilyn Hall Patel and ran on page one of the San Francisco Daily Journal, a legal trade publication.

The Volunteer Legal Services Corp. (VLSC) is a division of the Alameda County Bar Association. VLSC provides free legal assistance to low-income residents in Alameda County in the areas of family law, immigration and debt collection and helps about 2,000 clients a year.

"I really feel this award is going to Donahue Gallagher Woods as a firm, not just for the work I've done," Schneider said. "The partners here really believe that providing pro bono legal services is an important way for the firm to give back to the community.

"It is the firm's support that enabled me to take on this work with nonprofits, which has been a very rewarding experience."

A certified personal trainer who teaches yoga, spinning, and cardio kickboxing, Schneider showed an interest in volunteer legal work while in law school. She was a member of the Race and Poverty Law Journal and worked for various nonprofit legal organizations.

She also taught a legal writing course and received the award for Best Brief in Moot Court for excellence in written argument. At Hastings she received the Witkin Award for Academic Excellence for her coursework in Negotiations and Settlement, Legal Writing and Analysis, and Roles and Ethics.

As an undergraduate at the University of California at Berkeley, where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Ecology with High Honors, Schneider was a member of the gymnastics team and received All-American recognition.