

National Headquarters 1825 K Street NW Suite 200 Washington, DC 20006 (202) 797-8600
West Coast Office 555 12th Street Suite 1620 Oakland, CA 94607 (510) 622-8150

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CLERGY ABUSE LITIGATION TEAM NAMED AS FINALIST FOR TRIAL LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

WASHINGTON – A team of attorneys who won \$1.2 billion in settlements with the Catholic Church for more than 700 sexual abuse survivors has been chosen as a finalist for the **2008 Trial Lawyer of the Year Award** by Public Justice Foundation, the national organization of public interest lawyers and advocates, headquartered in Washington, D.C.

The historic settlement achieved by **Raymond P. Boucher** and **Anthony M. DeMarco** of Beverly Hills, Calif.; **Katherine Freberg** of Irvine, Calif.; **Stephen Rubino** of Margate, N.J.; **Terry Giles** of Houston, Tex.; **Irwin Zalkin** of San Diego, Calif.; **Timothy Hale** of Santa Barbara, Calif.; **Laurence Drivon** of Stockton, Calif.; and **Jeff Anderson** of St. Paul, Minn., also required the release of long-secret documents that gave evidence to the Church's cover-up of the abuse.

Ordinarily, most of the claims would have been time-barred, but Boucher's team took advantage of the California Legislature's decision to suspend the statute of limitations for one year to accommodate claims against those who facilitated the sexual abuse of children.

Boucher, DeMarco, Freberg, Rubino, Giles, Zalkin, Hale, Drivon and Anderson are among 22 lawyers in three cases named as finalists for their extraordinary legal work in the public interest. Twenty cases were nominated for this year's award, involving a range of issues, from fraudulent pricing practices by a major pharmaceutical and gender bias on Wall Street, to access for the disabled and the rights of Hurricane Katrina victims.

Detailed summaries of the Los Angeles case, *Los Angeles Archdiocese and San Diego Diocese Catholic Abuse Litigation*, and the other finalist cases are accessible on the Public Justice website at http://www.publicjustice.net/2008_Awards.htm.

The winner of the nationally prestigious award will be announced on July 15 at the Public Justice Foundation Annual Gala and Awards Dinner in Philadelphia.

Contact: Deborah Mathis at (202) 797-8600 Ext. 246 or at dmathis@publicjustice.net

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Public Justice is America's public interest law firm. Dedicated to using trial lawyers' and other attorneys' skills and resources to advance the public good, Public Justice is supported by – and can call on -- a nationwide network of more than 3,000 of the nation's top lawyers to pursue precedent-setting and socially significant litigation. It has a wide-ranging litigation docket in the areas of consumer rights, worker safety, civil rights and liberties, toxic torts, environmental protection, and access to the courts. Public Justice is the principal project of The Public Justice Foundation, a not-for-profit membership organization headquartered in Washington, DC, with a West Coast office in Oakland, California. The Public Justice web site address is www.publicjustice.net.