

Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County:

Campaign for Equal Access Fundraising Luncheon

LEGAL AID FOUNDATION hosted its Annual Campaign for Equal Access Fundraising Luncheon on December 4th. Legal Aid's Executive Director Ellen Goodstein gave a talk about her vision for the agency, focusing on a time when no one is denied access to justice in Santa Barbara County.

"I see a time when Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County serves as a 'shining star' to the entire State of California; where Legal Aid is able to fully assist every resident of this county that walks through its doors," shared Goodstein.

The event included a powerful rendition of Christina Aguilera's *The Voice Within* by local musician Vera Clay; a short film produced by Legal Aid Board Member Saji D. Gunawardane that highlighted the work of the foundation; the speech by Goodstein; and an

opportunity to become members of Champions of Justice – a multi-year giving society charged with helping establish the sustainability and long-term stability of the 53-year old agency.

During the event Steven A. Amerikaner, a partner at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck's (BHFS) and a long time personal supporter of Legal Aid, challenged a standing-room-only audience of more than 200 people at Fess Parker's Doubletree Hotel to invest in the stability of the Legal Aid Foundation. He and all of the attorneys at BHFS' offered a match and a total of \$38,000 was raised at that moment. The entire amount raised for the event exceeded \$140,000.

"I am proud of the fact that Jerry Parent and Stan Hatch's (founders of Hatch and Parent Law Firm, now BHFS)



Board Member **Saji Gunawardane**, Councilmember **Grant House**, and **Sayre Macneil**

commitment to Legal Aid is still an important part of our law firm's core values" shared Amerikaner.

Legal Aid Foundation of Santa Barbara County provides free civil legal services to victims of domestic violence, seniors, and low-income individuals throughout the county. Last year Legal Aid assisted over 6,000 county residents.

For info call 963-6754 or visit www.lafsb.org



Legal Aid Foundation of SB County Staff: **Jennifer Smith, Mischa Barbeau, Jackie Hall, Tanya Villegas, Brandi Redman, Elizabeth Diaz, Steven Amerikaner, Ellen Goodstein, Bianne Garcia, Niki Richardson, Emily Allen, Sue Udden, Corrie Arrellano, Leroy Gee, and Alex Lambrous**