

H'burg legal aid paralegal wins elder rights award

Anne See, the elderly services paralegal at Blue Ridge Legal Services in Harrisonburg, was awarded the 2007 Elder Rights Award by the Virginia Elder Rights Coalition on April 24.

The award was presented at the annual Elder Rights and Guardianship Conference in Charlottesville sponsored by the Virginia Elder Rights Coalition. The VERC is a network of organizations, agencies, and individuals working together to promote the rights and autonomy of older Virginians. The award is conferred each year upon an outstanding elder rights advocate in the commonwealth of Virginia.

Since 1989, See has served as the elderly services paralegal in the Harrisonburg office of Blue Ridge Legal Services, the nonprofit legal aid society for the Shenandoah and Roanoke valleys. From 1979 until 1989, she was a paralegal caseworker for Valley Program for Aging Services. Erica F. Wood, of the American Bar Association's Commission on Law and Aging, presented the award to See. See's accomplishments include.

- Helping create a toll-free adult abuse reporting hotline in Virginia;
- Organizing the Friends and Relatives of Nursing Home Residents citizens advocacy group in Harrisonburg in 1990;
- Advocating reorganization of the ombudsman program, which led to the development of local ombudsmen in every area of the commonwealth, as well as changes in state law protecting the



ANNE SEE (R) RECEIVES AWARD FROM ABA'S ERICA WOOD

rights of nursing home residents;

- Testifying before the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Aging in 1995 in support of continuing the federal Nursing Home Reform Act and appearing in CNN's coverage of the proceedings;
- Handling numerous administrative law hearings that have resulted in revisions to federal and state policy manuals;
- Helping three localities start local TRIAD programs; and
- Helping organize the Harrisonburg-Rockingham representative payee program in the early 1980s.