

The Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz Public Interest Law Awards recognize recently graduated Chicago-Kent alumni who have demonstrated outstanding public interest leadership and who most reflect “the character, life and work of the Honorable Abraham Lincoln Marovitz.”

These endowed awards in memory of Judge Marovitz include monetary stipends to assist the recipients with their educational debt as they work to benefit the public good. **The awards will be given out at the [Public Interest Awards and Networking Reception](#) on April 21, 2009 at Chicago-Kent College of Law.**

Laura Jelinek ‘95



Laura Jelinek began her career at Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services (SMRLS) 13 years ago. SMRLS, funded by the Legal Services Corporation, serves low-income residents who have civil legal needs who reside in the 33 counties of southern Minnesota, including Ramsey County, where St. Paul is located.

Ms. Jelinek began her work as an Americorps/VISTA attorney in the Homeless Outreach Prevention and Education Project at SMRLS. She and two formerly homeless individuals conducted regular outreach at local shelters, drop-in centers, domestic abuse shelters, transitional housing programs and food program sites. She represented hundreds of homeless families and disabled individuals with a variety of legal issues. In 1999, she became a staff attorney in the Housing Equality Law Project focusing on fair housing litigation. She has litigated both federal and state discrimination claims on behalf of low-income families concerning reasonable accommodations, sexual harassment in housing and racial harassment.

During her time at SMRLS, Ms. Jelinek has risen to the position of Leadership Attorney in Housing where she coordinates firm-wide housing work and currently serves on the firm's senior leadership committee. Ms. Jelinek is also responsible for supervision of the nine attorneys in the Central office, as well as three paralegals.

A native of LaGrange Park, Illinois, Ms. Jelinek received her undergraduate degree from Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois. While at Chicago-Kent, she was active in the National Lawyers Guild and was a law clerk at the People’s Law Office. She is married to Jonathan Tallman and has two children, Maeve (8) and Cyrus (6). She and her family live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.