



## Children's Advocacy Institute

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## PRESS RELEASE

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### Children's Advocacy Institute Honors Outstanding Efforts by Legislator, Legislative Staff

Sacramento — The Children's Advocacy Institute (CAI), of the University of San Diego School of Law, today announced the recipients of its 2008 awards for Legislator of the Year and Legislative Staff of the Year.

The Legislator of the Year award is presented to a Legislator who during 2008 effectively worked to protect children's interests. "For 2008, CAI is recognizing the outstanding efforts of Assembly Member Dave Jones," announced CAI Senior Counsel Ed Howard. "He is our Legislator of the Year because of his courage in authoring and tenacity in fighting for AB 3051, legislation that will help abused and neglected children be heard and seen by the courts that decide their fate, give foster youth a better understanding of the process and a sense of control over their lives, and better inform courts and improve their decisions, and which clarifies the court's authority to issue orders or make appointments necessary to ensure the appropriate administration of funds for foster children."

The 2008 Legislative Staff of the Year Award is presented to legislative staff members Leora Gershenson and Robert Herrell, who likewise put forth an exemplary effort in furtherance of AB 3051. "This important measure would not have been enacted without their outstanding work," noted Howard.

CAI is an academic, research, and advocacy center dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of California's children. CAI advocates in the legislature, in the courts, before administrative agencies, and before the public to improve the status of children. CAI strives to educate and inform Californians about children's needs for economic security, adequate nutrition, health care, education, quality child care, and protection from abuse, neglect, and injury.

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