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Mary Bauer to Lead Legal Aid Justice Center

Charlottesville, VA, December 12, 2013—The Legal Aid Justice Center is pleased to announce that Mary Bauer has been selected to be the new executive director, following the departure of long-time director, Alex Gulotta.

Bauer—a recognized leader and key litigator in immigration reform efforts on the national level—most recently served as director of advocacy at the Legal Aid Justice Center, a position she has held since June. Prior to that, Bauer was legal director of the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) in Montgomery, Ala. There she guided legal advocacy, as well as public policy and legislative reform efforts in five offices in the Deep South.

Under Bauer’s tenure, SPLC’s legal work focused on juvenile justice issues, education law, immigrants’ rights, racial justice, and the rights of LGBT persons. Prior to that, she was the first director of SPLC’s Immigrant Justice Project, where she directed SPLC lawsuits aimed at protecting the legal rights of immigrants and testified before Congress on issues involving the exploitation of migrant workers.

Bauer will be introduced to the community tonight at a farewell event for Alex and Joan Gulotta at the Jefferson School African-American Heritage Center from 5:30 – 8:30pm. Speakers for this evening’s event include best-selling author, John Grisham.

Prior to her years at SPLC, Bauer served as the first legal director of the Immigrant Advocacy Program at the Legal Aid Justice Center. She was also the legal director of the Virginia American Civil Liberties Union. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the College of William and Mary and graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1990. She is also a former Skadden Fellow.

“Mary brings a wealth of experience to the position, and her tenacity and expertise as a litigator are unmatched,” said outgoing director Alex Gulotta. “I leave knowing that the future of this organization is secure, and that Mary is the best possible leader to ensure that the Legal Aid Justice Center protects the rights and advocates for change on behalf of our low-income clients.”

About the Legal Aid Justice Center
The Legal Aid Justice Center provides civil legal assistance to low-income families and individuals in Virginia with a focus on vulnerable populations, including children, immigrants, the elderly, and the institutionalized. Their mission is to seek equal justice for all by solving legal problems, strengthening the voices of low-income communities, and rooting out the inequities that keep people in poverty.

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