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**January 14, 2004**

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### **Office of the City Attorney Receives "Law Firm Distinguished Service Award"**

Oakland, CA – At its annual installation and awards ceremony last Friday night, the Alameda County Bar Association (ACBA) presented Oakland's Office of the City Attorney with the prestigious "Law Firm Distinguished Service Award in recognition of the Office's "unselfish and dedicated service to the ACBA and the community." Each year the ACBA presents four distinguished service awards honoring a judge, an individual, a community-based organization and a law firm.

ACBA President Spencer Strellis presented the Law Firm Distinguished Service Award to City Attorney John Russo, emphasizing that the award particularly recognizes the hard work of the Neighborhood Law Corps, "which places attorneys in Oakland's most challenged neighborhoods to work with citizens and community leaders to prevent or quickly address problems before they become long-term, embedded dilemmas." He went on to thank "all members of the Office of the City Attorney for the incredible time and effort" they dedicate to local, state, national and ethnic bar associations, including the Charles Houston Bar Association, East Bay La Raza Lawyers Association, Asian American Bar Association, ACBA and the State Bar Association. The award further acknowledges that "the Office of the City Attorney lives by its motto, *law in service of the public*, and . . . is . . . one of the most ethnically diverse teams in the Bay Area."

"The outstanding attorneys and support staff in the Office of the City Attorney and the Neighborhood Law Corps have worked hard to earn this distinguished award," said City Attorney Russo, "and I am proud of their commitment to excellence and community service. It's not often that a municipal legal office is recognized on par with private-sector law firms. This award confirms my profound belief that municipal law is ultimately law in service of the public, and that the public interest can best be served when its lawyers commit themselves both to the well-being of the City as a municipal corporation and to the long-term well-being of the City's residents and businesses, who are this corporation's shareholders."