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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Counsel Ann Miller Ravel Named 2007 Public Lawyer of the Year

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— County Counsel Ann Miller Ravel has been named the 2007 Public Lawyer of the Year by the State Bar of California’s Public Law Section. Ravel will receive the award at the State Bar of California’s annual meeting Sept. 27-30. Ms. Ravel has dedicated her career to the practice of public law.

“It is befitting that Ann Ravel should be named Public Lawyer of the Year. She has distinguished herself for decades as an outstanding example of a strong County Counsel and a member of the Board of Governors of the State Bar of California,” said Sheldon Sloan, President of the State Bar of California. “I can’t think of a better person to receive this award.”

A Los Gatos resident, Ravel has served as County Counsel for the County of Santa Clara since 1997, and has worked for the County for 30 years. “Ann Ravel is one of the County’s greatest treasures,” said Supervisor Don Gage, Chair of the County of Santa Clara Board of Supervisors. “We’re pleased to see her receive this award.”

Ravel said, “I am fortunate because I have a Board of Supervisors that cares deeply about social justice and is unafraid to use the law to remedy problems in the community. I am able to make contributions to the quality of life in Santa Clara County every single day, making this an immensely satisfying job.”

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Ravel has broadened the scope of the Santa Clara County Counsel's office to include the award-winning Elder Abuse litigation team, the Educational Rights Project, and Impact Litigation, plaintiff's litigation on behalf of the County and the citizens of the community to enforce their legal rights.

"I am particularly proud of the innovative programs and solutions to social issues that I have developed in my office such as the Elder Abuse project which prosecutes civil actions to recover assets taken from vulnerable adults as a result of financial exploitation," Ravel said. "We have recovered millions of dollars from those who have exploited our seniors, making it possible for those seniors to live better lives."

She is also involved in numerous community organizations, including volunteering in varying capacities for local school programs and boards. She has worked tirelessly on state issues through her appointment to the Judicial Council and through numerous State Bar committees. She has been active in her local bar and has served as a judge pro tem and arbitrator for the Superior and former Municipal courts.

Ravel graduated from Hastings Law School in 1974, and has practiced civil law in various areas of the law with an emphasis in political law and ethics, labor and employment, and civil rights litigation.

Ravel received the Woman of Achievement Award from the San Jose Mercury News and the Commission on the Status of Women for "professions" in 1980, the Elizabeth Ent award for contributions to law and justice in 1995, and the 2001 Professional Lawyer of the Year Award presented by the Santa Clara County Bar Association and the American Bar Association. Additionally, she received an award for State and Local Government Law Advocacy presented in 2002, the Unsung Hero Award by the Santa Clara County Bar Association, and the Circle of Service Achievement Award by the California State Association of Counties in 2004.

Currently, she is a lawyer representative to the U.S. District Court, Northern District of California, a member of the President's Blue Ribbon Commission on Diversity in the Legal Profession in Silicon Valley, and member of the State Bar Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct. Additionally, she has many Bar Association and teaching affiliations, and has served on numerous commissions and task forces with a particular emphasis on standards of professionalism and ethics.