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County of Sacramento

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NEWS RELEASE

Sacramento County Public Defenders Recognized for Community Service

Sacramento, CA – Two employees of the Sacramento County Public Defender's Office are recipients of the Unity Bar Association of Sacramento's prestigious Community Service Award. The awards were presented on Thursday, October 22, 2009 at the Association's annual dinner.

The Asian/Pacific Bar Association awarded **Assistant Public Defender Jessie Morris** for his work helping Middle Eastern and Hispanic families who were targeted for racial profiling and civil rights violations. He helped protect those families by pairing them with pro bono lawyers and community organizations to resolve immigration problems, to prevent excessive governmental surveillance and intrusions, and to assist them through difficult interrogations and investigations.

The South Asian Bar Association awarded **Assistant Public Defender Niti Gupta** for her service with the City of Sacramento, Office of Youth Development in which she helped spearhead and organize the Youth Empowerment Summit for over 300 at-risk youth. By collaborating with fellow community stakeholders to educate and connect youth to alternatives outside gang affiliation, recidivism rates for at-risk youth are reduced.

The Unity Bar Association of Sacramento is composed of the Asian/Pacific Bar Association of Sacramento (ABAS), the La Raza Lawyers Association of Sacramento, the Wiley Manuel Bar Association, Women Lawyers of Sacramento, the South Asian Bar Association, and Sacramento Lawyers for the Equality of Gays and Lesbians (SACLEGAL). The Association holds its annual dinner to honor outstanding public service and present student scholarships

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