

## Children's Law Center Awards Banquet

MINNEAPOLIS — Children's Law Center of Minnesota (CLC) held their 11th Anniversary Celebration and Benefit on October 5, 2006, at the Millennium Hotel Minneapolis. The event is an occasion to honor people and organizations for their work to improve the lives of children.



As CLC enters its second decade of making children's voices heard, it continues to fulfill its mission of promoting the rights and interests of Minnesota's children, especially children of color and children with disabilities, in the judicial, child welfare, health care, and education systems," said Gail Chang Bohr, Esq., executive director, CLC.

WCCO Channel 4 Television News Anchor Amelia Santaniello was the Master of Ceremony. There were four major awards for the evening, and the biggest one, the annual Hero for Children Award, was presented to Raeann Ruth, founder and director of The Portage for Youth in St. Paul.

The Rosalie E. Wahl Justice for Children award to former Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice Kathleen Blatz. Former Minnesota Supreme Court Chief Justice A.M. Keith presented the award.

The Distinguished Service Award to 3M and Greene Espel PLLP respectively for their work on behalf of children.

State Senator Mee Moua nominated Ms. Raeann Ruth for her work with young girls from immigrant families. She founded the organization in 1993 to combat the lack of after-school and summer enrichment activities for the high concentration of teenage girls, ages 8 to 15, from low-income families, especially those from Hmong immigrant families in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

What makes Portage for Youth ([www.theportage.com](http://www.theportage.com)) programs so special are that they offer quality educational and recreational activities for girls of the East Side, free of charge. This is important for kids of hard-working families that don't always have the income or quality time to do these activities as a family.

Rather than creating its own facilities and programs, The Portage for Youth has served as a catalyst by forming partnerships with other successful programs as diverse as 4-H, ESL classes, video and television production, yoga, math, and music.

The portage helps girls to see in themselves a future that includes post-secondary education and careers. With an emphasis on applied social and academic skills, Portage encourages leadership, teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving; the qualities necessary for academic, employment and social achievement.

Children's Law Center of Minnesota is located at 450 N. Syndicate Street, #315, St. Paul, phone 651-644-4438 or online at [www.clcmn.org](http://www.clcmn.org).