



For Immediate Release

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**THE EAST BAY COMMUNITY LAW CENTER
ANNOUNCES THE RECIPIENT OF THE
*2006 SHARTSIS FRIESE PUBLIC INTEREST FELLOWSHIP***

Berkeley, California, August 29, 2006 — The East Bay Community Law Center (EBCLC) is delighted to announce the selection of Ms. Keo Chea as the recipient of the 2006 Shartsis Friese Public Interest Fellowship. This year-long post-graduate fellowship is made possible through the generous support of the San Francisco law firm of Shartsis Friese LLP, and represents the third year of a multi-year commitment by the firm to support the provision of direct legal services to clients in the Bay Area.

Ms. Chea will work in EBCLC's Income Support practice, providing services primarily to Southeast Asian families who are being improperly denied welfare benefits because of disability or language access needs. Ms. Chea – who is of Cambodian descent and grew up in South Sacramento, California – will provide a full range of legal assistance to this vulnerable population that is being disproportionately impacted by California's implementation of federal welfare reform.

Ms. Chea is a May 2006 graduate of the University of California Hastings College of the Law. She attended UC Davis as an undergraduate, receiving a B.A. in Political Science in 2001. Prior to law school, Ms. Chea was a community activist at Southeast Asian Freedom Network, an organization focused on addressing deportation laws that negatively affect the Cambodian-American refugee community. While in law school, Ms. Chea

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volunteered at the Asian Law Caucus assisting low-income clients with immigration issues.

During her first summer of law school, Ms. Chea interned at the Oakland City Attorney's Office working on city planning and redevelopment projects. In her second summer, she clerked for Asian-Pacific Islander Legal Outreach working on domestic violence, immigration and trafficking cases. During her third year of law school, Ms. Chea interned in the ACLU of Northern California's Racial Justice Project and at Public Advocates.

Says Ms. Chea: "I am very honored to receive the 2006 Shartsis Friese Public Interest Fellowship. I have a long-standing interest and personal stake in the Southeast Asian immigrant community in the Bay Area. This fellowship will allow me to pursue my commitment to social justice by expanding opportunities to this underserved community."

Since its founding by Boalt Hall School of Law students in 1988, EBCLC has become the largest provider of free civil legal assistance to the poor in Alameda County and a nationally-recognized poverty law clinic. More than 100 law students under the supervision of 12 staff attorneys serve several thousand low-income Californians each year with legal needs related to housing, health care, income, employment, economic development and civic participation.

Founded in San Francisco in 1975, Shartsis Friese LLP has over 50 lawyers. The firm has extensive trial and business litigation experience and a complex transactional practice focused on investment advisers, corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, securities, tax, venture capital, intellectual property and real estate. Shartsis Friese is proud to have been listed among the *Top Corporate Philanthropists in the Greater Bay Area* by San Francisco Business Times in the 2006 Corporate Philanthropy section.

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For more information about the Shartsis Friese Public Interest Fellowship, please contact Jeff Selbin at the East Bay Community Law Center at (510) 548-4040, or Amy Hespenheide at Shartsis Friese LLP at (415) 421-6500.

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