



League of Women Voters of Oakland

MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD FORM

Each year, the League of Women Voters of Oakland celebrates community leaders - individuals and organizations that have envisioned a way to improve Oakland and have mobilized others to work with them to effect a change that has benefited the broader community. These awards will honor two such individuals and/or organizations that have, in the League tradition, helped to make Oakland strong, vibrant and fair. These awards are conferred at the annual All City Luncheon.

Nominations are open to any Oakland resident or organization that is contributing or has contributed to our community in a significant and meaningful way.

Nominees may apply themselves or may be nominated by a friend or colleague. All applications must be received by Friday, March 26, 2010.

Name of Nominator: FRANKLIN ROSE
 Address: PO BOX 5551 Oakland, CA 94605
 Phone number(s): 510-562-8989 Email Address: ERICDORITE@AOL.COM
 What is your relationship to/with the nominee? COMMUNITY WORK / PARTNERSHIP

ABOUT THE NOMINEE

Name of Nominee: OAKLAND NEIGHBORHOOD LAW CORPS
 Address: OAKLAND CITY HALL
 Phone number(s): 510-238-6628 Email Address: INFO@NEIGHBOR^{HOOD}LAWCORPS.ORG

Profession (if nominee is an individual) or Mission (if nominee is an organization) (current/previous):

TO WORK WITH OAKLANDERS IN IMPROVING NEIGHBORHOODS.

How long have you/has this individual or organization been active in Oakland? 8 YEARS

1. In one sentence, tell us why you would like to be considered for the Making Democracy Work award or why you are nominating this individual or organization for the award.

NLC HAS DONE A TREMENDOUS JOB IN HELPING ORDINARY PEOPLE TO MAKE THEIR COMMUNITIES SAFER IN VERY CONCRETE WAYS, WITH REALLY POSITIVE OUTCOMES!

2. Please describe in detail what impact you have/this individual or organization has had on our community? What population/organization/event has benefited from your efforts or from those of the nominee?

NLC HAS CONSISTENTLY WORKED WITH PEOPLE ALL OVER EAST, WEST AND CENTRAL OAKLAND TO FIGHT VARIOUS FORMS OF PUBLIC NUISANCE. MOST IMPORTANTLY, NLC ALWAYS EDUCATES PEOPLE ON HOW TO ACCESS CITY HALL FOR RESOURCES SO NEXT TIME, WE'RE EMPOWERED! SEE ATTACHMENT!

Please print clearly or type. You may use additional sheets if needed.

Form may be copied. Please Email the form to award@lwvoakland.org, or
 Mail form to: League of Women Voters of Oakland, 1305 Franklin St., Suite 311, Oakland, CA 94612-3222.
 Or fax to (510) 834-7640

Nominations must be received by Friday, March 26, 2010.

Questions? Call (510) 834-7640 or send Email to award@lwvoakland.org

**ATTACHMENT TO MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK AWARD FORM
Nomination for Neighborhood Law Corps – March 26, 2010**

The Neighborhood Law Corps, a unit of newly licensed lawyers in the Oakland City Attorney's Office, is a creative and successful organization that has a strong track record of improving the quality of life for people in Oakland.

Over the last eight years, the NLC has partnered with local businesses, community groups and nonprofits to protect consumers, abate public nuisances, clean up blight and remove sources of crime in Oakland neighborhoods.

The program, best described as "Legal Aid meets the Peace Corps," started in 2002 with private funding, and has since become a unit in the City Attorney's Office. The NLC hires highly-qualified attorneys out of law school who could be making more money in the private sector, but choose to dedicate two years to improving the lives of Oakland citizens at a salary equal to that of a first year teacher. The mission of the NLC is to use the law in creative ways to make Oakland a stronger and fairer community. That mission includes educating citizens about their legal rights and mobilizing private groups, government resources and the city's bureaucracy to respond to the needs of residents. The NLC has focused its efforts in a number of areas including:

- The organization has directly improved conditions for numerous Oakland families by tackling nuisance liquor stores that attract drugs and violence, and it has improved or shut down dozens of such stores in Oakland.
- The NLC has worked with the Oakland police and neighbors to close drug houses - including one major drug house on School Street that had a huge detrimental impact on the neighborhood until the NLC forced a sale in 1996.
- NLC attorneys also work with police to prosecute hotels and motels that act as havens for prostitution, including child prostitution. In one example, the NLC filed a lawsuit against the Coliseum Inn in East Oakland and obtained a settlement that ended prostitution there.
- The NLC has forced slumlords across Oakland to clean up their properties and comply with the law. And during the foreclosure crisis, the NLC has played a major role in the city's effort to protect tenants in foreclosed buildings. Attorneys have intervened in numerous cases to stop illegal evictions and to prevent water and power shut-offs in foreclosed homes. Last year, the NLC sued major national banks and local real estate agents to stop a spree of wrongful evictions, and most of the defendants have agreed to the NLC's settlement terms.
- In 2010, the NLC sued a local company for defrauding and ripping off immigrant families seeking legal residency in the U.S. The NLC also organized a workshop where hundreds of Oakland residents got free legal advice from volunteer immigration attorneys.

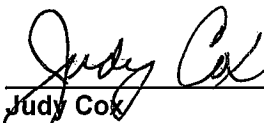
I believe the program deserves recognition from the League of Women Voters this year, especially given its recent work on behalf of Oakland tenants and families, and its eight-year track record of strengthening the community and the civic life of the city. The NLC has been a pleasure to work with personally over the years and it is definitely one group that is making democracy work better in Oakland.

Sincerely,

Co-nominated by:



Frank Rose
PO Box 5551
Oakland, CA 94605



Judy Cox
6210 Fairlane Drive
Oakland, CA 94611