

For Immediate Release
Thursday, February 9, 2012

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KLS attorney, paralegal honored with Community Ally Award

Topeka, KS, February 9, 2012 – A statewide domestic and sexual violence advocacy organization honored Kansas Legal Services attorney Curtis Brown and paralegal Amy Schaffer with its Community-Based Ally of the Year award on February 8.

The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence tapped the Hays-based KLS duo with the honor at its ninth annual Safe Homes, Safe Streets reception in Topeka.

“Providing compassionate and competent legal services to victims can be life-saving and certainly is a crucial piece to finding safety and independence,” says Joyce Grover, KCSDV executive director.

Brown and Schaffer represent and assist many domestic and sexual violence survivors through civil court proceedings. “Each goes above and beyond to protect the rights of survivors and their children and to take cases when no other attorneys would or could because of lack of funds or conflicts,” said Laura Patzner, executive director of Great Bend-based Family Crisis Center.

“Both Curtis and Amy value input from advocates and work as partners to ensure each survivor is safe and supported throughout the court process,” Patzner said. Because they work for Kansas Legal Services, they have enormous case loads and many commitments, but each consistently keeps survivors informed of the status of their case and helps monitor and alleviate problems as they arise.”

Photos available upon request.

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Founded in 1982, the purpose of KCSDV is the prevention and elimination of sexual and domestic violence through a statewide network of programs providing support and safety for all victims of sexual and domestic violence and stalking, with primary focus on women and their children; direct services; public awareness and education; advocacy for victims; comprehensive prevention; and, social change efforts. Learn more at www.kcsdv.org.