



June 16, 2006

For Immediate Release

Contact: Cyra Koupal, (415) 433-2062, ext. 318; (415) 948-3091 (cell); [cyra@lcav.org](mailto:cyra@lcav.org)

## LEGAL COMMUNITY AGAINST VIOLENCE NAMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(San Francisco, CA) The Board of Directors of Legal Community Against Violence has named Robyn Thomas as the organization's next Executive Director. Ms. Thomas will assume LCAV's leadership role on August 14, 2006. She was selected after LCAV's Board of Directors conducted an extensive national search. Ms. Thomas succeeds Sue Ann Schiff, who will step down in August after five years with the organization.

Board President Owen J. Clements commented, "Robyn brings impressive skills and experience to LCAV. She is a passionate and articulate advocate for gun violence prevention. She will help us develop our membership program and outreach to the national legal community, and continue to increase LCAV's ability to support state and local gun policy reform throughout the country. Robyn is the right person to lead LCAV through its next phase of growth."

Ms. Thomas will join LCAV following three years as the first Executive Director of the Tikkun Community. Based in Berkeley, California, the Tikkun Community is an international interfaith organization focused on the spiritual dimension of social justice and political freedom. As Tikkun's Executive Director, Ms. Thomas traveled throughout the United States, conducting outreach to legislators, donors, educators and professionals and developing a nationwide membership program and grassroots network.

Ms. Thomas is known as a thoughtful lawyer, effective problem solver, charismatic speaker, strong fundraiser, and a leader who is able to build relationships with diverse individuals of differing viewpoints.

"Few issues facing our society today are more deserving of our attention and energy than the gun violence epidemic. I am extremely honored to be joining an organization so committed to protecting some of the most vulnerable members of our society through the rational and pragmatic regulation of firearms," Ms. Thomas said. "I look forward to continuing the work of my predecessor by strengthening the organization's relationship with existing members, as well as expanding the LCAV network nationwide."

Ms. Thomas was born in South Africa, where most of her family still lives. She earned her B.A. at Duke University, majoring in political science, and her J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Miami School of Law. In law school, she served as an editor of the Inter-American Law Review and helped to found a nonprofit organization that linked law students to volunteer legal projects in the local community. Following graduation, she worked as a litigation associate in the Atlanta office of Lord, Bissell & Brook LLP and then moved to the New York office of Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes & Lerach LLP, working on lawsuits representing doctors and patients against HMOs both in state and federal court, before becoming Tikkun's Executive Director.

LCAV will introduce Ms. Thomas and acknowledge the contribution of Ms. Schiff at its 13<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner to be held on July 17, 2006, at the San Francisco Marriott. For more information, please call 415-433-2062 or email [cyra@lcav.org](mailto:cyra@lcav.org).

###

*Legal Community Against Violence is a public interest law center dedicated to preventing gun violence. LCAV focuses on policy reform at the state and local levels and serves public officials and activists working to prevent gun violence. Founded by lawyers in response to the tragic shooting at 101 California Street in San Francisco in 1993, LCAV is the country's only organization devoted exclusively to providing legal assistance in support of gun violence prevention. LCAV launched its national membership program in 2004 and welcomes attorneys and others who support our work. To learn more, visit our website [www.lcav.org](http://www.lcav.org), the nation's most comprehensive source for information on U.S. firearms regulation.*