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Montgomery Bar Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOUR MONTGOMERY COUNTY LAWYERS RECEIVE NATIONAL BAR HONORS

On Friday evening, October 5, 2007, four (4) members of the Montgomery Bar Association were recognized by the American Bar Association as recipients of *2007 Difference Makers' Awards*. *Difference Makers' Awards* were granted at a dinner held at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia to attorneys throughout the country whose dedication has made a difference to the profession and the community. At this year's gathering of the national Bar, an unprecedented four (4) awards were given to Montgomery County, PA lawyers.

Harvey Strauss, Wendy Demchick-Alloy, and Mary C. Pugh were recipients of the Making a Difference through Pro Bono Work Award, which recognizes outstanding commitment to volunteer legal services to the poor and disadvantaged. C. Dale McClain was the recipient of the Making a Difference through Service to the Profession Award, which acknowledges attorneys who have made significant contributions to the legal profession through service.

Harvey Strauss has been involved with Legal Aid services for nearly thirty years to help low-income families and individuals receive legal assistance. He began his career at the Legal Aid Society of Oneida County in New York and later moved on to the Legal Aid Society of Philadelphia and then the Montgomery County Legal Aid Service, where he was appointed Executive Director in 1978. When four county programs merged to become Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania in 2001, he became the Co-Executive Director and helped to build an even more effective legal service program. Besides his commitment to Legal Aid, Strauss is actively involved in Bar Association activities, participates in speaking engagements, and serves on the Boards of various organizations.

Wendy Demchick-Alloy is the founder and Project Director of the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project (MCAP), a 501(c)(3) organization designed to provide free legal representation and social services to children of Montgomery County who are victims of abuse and neglect. As one of her many responsibilities for MCAP, she recruits member-attorneys of the Montgomery Bar to donate their time and resources to children, as well as conducts seminars to educate attorneys about child

advocacy. As of May 2007, there are 127 trained MCAP advocates who have represented 633 children in 381 cases since MCAP's inception in 2004.

Mary C. Pugh is the Administrative Director and an active child advocate attorney for MCAP. Under her leadership, MCAP has developed a system to track children, assign cases, and promote fundraising. As a child advocate, Pugh has represented numerous children, as well as offered them comfort and support as they make their way through the legal system. Pugh strives towards making MCAP a permanent fixture in Montgomery County so that all children can have the help and support they may need.

C. Dale McClain has been actively involved in numerous organizations and committees for the past 45 years. He has been a member of Montgomery Bar Association since 1973 and served as president in 1990, as well as fulfilling several committee chair positions and president of the Montgomery Bar Foundation in 1991. McClain has also been a member of the Pennsylvania Bar Association since 1965 and will serve as president-elect for the upcoming year. In addition, he has served on many PBA committees and won various awards for his dedication and leadership.

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About the Montgomery Bar Association

Established in 1885 to professionalize the county's practice of law, the Montgomery Bar Association (MBA) is one of our nation's oldest and most respected bar associations, representing over 2,100 legal professionals in Montgomery County, PA. Now, as then, the MBA exists to uphold legal and ethical standards in our legal community. As the 3rd largest Bar in Pennsylvania, the MBA has a longstanding tradition of service to its membership and the community. For members, the MBA offers an important arena for networking, professional development and education. For the community, the MBA serves as a legal resource offering education, legal assistance and funds and resources for agencies in need. The Association is actively engaged in public service through community outreach, free educational events offered throughout the year, programs like the Montgomery Child Advocacy Project, the Mock Trial Competitions for high-school students, and more. For more information on the Montgomery Bar Association, visit www.montgomerybar.org.