

# The Second Annual



## ANGEL AWARDS

### THE STATE'S OUTSTANDING PRO BONO LAWYERS



ast year, when we announced our first group of Angel Award winners, we recognized 16 California lawyers who demonstrated a fierce commitment to pro bono cases. This year we honor 20 similarly dedicated attorneys throughout the state for an even wider range of pro bono work—from protecting the rights of children to merging behavioral-health nonprofits. We selected the winners based on our own reporting and from nominations submitted by nonprofit organizations statewide, as this is an award for which you cannot apply. The conscientious lawyers we chose include sole practitioners, small-firm attorneys, and those from large, international firms. Whether they work on matters that receive little attention or on higher-profile cases, all of the winners are in the trenches doing pro bono work essential to the interests of their clients. The Angel Awards are our way of thanking them for their dedication.

—The editors of *CALIFORNIA LAWYER*



## JOHN E. WEHRLI

Partner, Latham & Watkins, Menlo Park

**W**ehrli was one of the first attorneys to volunteer for Domestic Violence Limited Scope Representation (DVLSR), a program of the Pro Bono Project that helps low-income pro per clients obtain or challenge permanent restraining orders. In one of his early cases, Wehrli used his

Spanish-speaking skills to work out an agreement for restraining orders and services, avoiding the need for a contested hearing. In 2006, the year Wehrli closed \$2 billion in biotechnology transactions, he also logged more than 200 hours handling DVLSR cases. Now the local chair of Latham's pro bono committee, Wehrli has supervised more than two dozen pro bono matters this year.