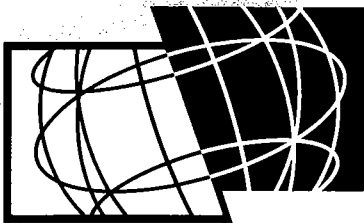


PUBLISHED BY MINNESOTA ADVOCATES

HUMAN RIGHTS



FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

OBSERVER

Minnesota Mourns True Advocates for Human Rights

Portrait by Rick Phillips

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights mourns the loss of Senator Paul and Sheila Wellstone, their daughter Marcia and their staff members. We extend our sincere sympathy to the Wellstone and Markuson families and the families and friends of Tom Lopic, Will McLaughlin, Mary McEvoy, Richard Conry and Michael Guess.

Paul and Sheila Wellstone were great promoters of human rights, and their leadership in the Senate on these issues was unparalleled. The values enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including the inherent dignity and equal rights of all members of the human family as the "foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world," were guiding principles of their life and work. Paul and Sheila Wellstone's work to promote international human rights around the world was unique and refreshing at a time when engagement with the international community was not a priority in Washington, D.C.

The Wellstones' vision for improving lives was not limited by national borders. They saw the need for strong voices from the United States to support the work of human rights advocates around the globe. Senator Wellstone was chair of the South Asia Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and forcefully argued that trade with China should be linked to the country's human rights record. He consistently denounced human rights violations in the region. He was outspoken and active in his concern about human rights violations in Colombia, Chechnya and Afghanistan.



Senator Paul Wellstone

In addition to their commitment to human rights internationally, Paul and Sheila Wellstone promoted those human rights standards in Minnesota and in the United States. They worked tirelessly for the right to health care, education, and freedom from poverty. They also worked tirelessly for immigrant rights. They viewed immigrants

(Continued on page 9)

New Minnesota Advocates Website Launched!

Minnesota Advocates is pleased to announce that our website — www.mnadvocates.org — has been relaunched with an improved look and wider and more accessible information on our programs, projects, events, human rights links and publications.

The site also offers new resources for *pro bono* attorneys, urgent action updates and opportunities for volunteer involvement. Please check out our new look and give us your feedback. We will use the website to keep you updated on

upcoming events, actions, projects and opportunities for you to get involved in our work!

We would like to thank **Urban Planet** for hosting and design. They have done a wonderful job creating a sophisticated and user-friendly site.



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From the Director's Desk

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This year has been busy and productive for Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. I would like to thank all of you for your ongoing support. In addition to your generous financial support, you have volunteered countless hours of time to our many projects. These volunteer projects ranged from representing asylum clients and documenting human rights abuses overseas, to assisting with web-based advocacy and writing reports.

We continue to be a strong voice for human rights because of the many talented people involved with the organization and your continued support of our work.


This past year, our longstanding projects were busier than ever. With the help of more than 300 volunteer attorneys, we assisted more than 800 individuals fleeing persecution and torture in their home countries. We conducted training and education projects to dispel anti-immigrant myths and improve the environment for

newcomers to our communities. We published new reports documenting sex discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace and domestic violence in Poland. We hosted the Seventh Annual International Women's Day celebration with a special focus on women, peace, and human rights. We continued our women's human rights program lunch lectures, hosted by Briggs and Morgan. We hosted continuing legal education programs on human rights and asylum law and continued to support teachers to bring human rights education into the classroom. Staff members and volunteers have spoken in classrooms, universities and community organizations in Minnesota and around the country.

We have also implemented some exciting new projects this year. We sent a volunteer delegation of attorneys to monitor the truth and reconciliation process in Peru at the invitation of a Peruvian human rights organization. We hosted a forum to bring people in the community together for a discussion of the human rights abuses in Gujarat, India and how we, in Minnesota can respond. We have relaunched our Blackmun Death Penalty Education Project to educate lawyers and the public about the problems with the death penalty in the United States.

We welcome new board member, Mark Lindberg. Mark is a Senior Program Officer with the Otto Bremer Foundation. He served in the Peace Corps in Papua, New Guinea. He is long-time human rights advocate and brings his strong commitment to social justice to the organization. We also welcome several new staff members. (Please see page 11 for details about our new staff members.) At our annual awards dinner in June, Bill Schulz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA challenged us to continue to build respect for human rights here in the United States.

We know that with the help of the many talented people involved with the organization and with your continued support of our work, we will meet this challenge. We highlight some of our work in the following pages. If you are not already volunteering for one of our projects, I hope it will inspire you to join in.



Robin Phillips
Executive Director

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Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
310 Fourth Avenue South, #1000
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1012
Telephone: 612-341-3302
Client Line: 612-341-9845
Fax: 612-341-2971
Email: hrights@mnadvocates.org
www.mnadvocates.org

The mission of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is to implement international human rights standards to promote civil society and reinforce the rule of law. By involving volunteers in research, education, and advocacy, we build broad constituencies in the United States and selected global communities.

Peru: International Human Rights Monitoring Project

A delegation of 10 attorneys from Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights traveled to Peru early in November to participate as international observers in the Truth and Reconciliation Process. The Truth and Reconciliation Process is an investigation of the human rights violations committed under the rule of three separate governments in Peru between 1980 and 2000.



Paz y Esperanza (Peace and Hope), one of the main Peruvian non-governmental human rights organizations providing technical support to the commission, invited Minnesota Advocates to observe the commission's public hearings and conduct fact-finding in both Lima and Ayacucho. The results of the trip were unavailable as the newsletter went to press, but team members were scheduled to conduct individual interviews with victims, witnesses, legal advocates, commissioners, the

Minister of Justice and the President of the Superior Court. The delegation also planned to visit a prison and a torture treatment center.

The presence of international observers, such as the Minnesota Advocates delegation, is central to the success of the public hearings and the overall Truth and Reconciliation Process.

International observers uphold the integrity of the process by monitoring the hearings and publishing their observations. International observers also provide moral and emotional support to the victims who have made the difficult decision to come forward with their testimonies. International observers further legitimize the Truth and Reconciliation Process by bringing it to the attention not only of Peruvians themselves, but also to other nations. In the end, an international observer presence also puts pressure on the Peruvian government to comply with the commission's recommendations.

Minnesota Advocates' International Human Rights Monitoring Team for Peru is made up of Deputy Director Jennifer Prestholdt and volunteer attorneys Colleen Beebe, John Borman, Aviva Breen, Holly Gimbel, Kass Harstad, Margaret Manderfeld, Nancy Mischel, Paula Schwartzbauer and Sheila Stuhlman.

Between 1980 and 2000, Peru experienced violent internal conflict that resulted in more than 5,000 disappeared, 30,000 killed, and 300,000 internally displaced persons. Thousands more were imprisoned and tortured, while economic losses numbered in the thousands of millions of dollars. The Shining Path and Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement terrorist groups, as well as the Peruvian government, were directly responsible for human rights abuses during this period of violence, which ended in 2000 when Alberto Fujimori lost power.

Now Peru faces both a tremendous challenge and an historical opportunity: national reconciliation.

Now Peru faces both a tremendous challenge and an historical opportunity: national reconciliation. Upon return to the U.S., team members will compile their written observations and participate in producing a written report. The written report, which will apply international human rights standards to Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Process, will also include recommendations to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Peruvian government, the NGO community and other relevant participants in the process.

For more information, contact Jennifer Prestholdt at jprestholdt@mnadvocates.org.

Save the Date! Elimination of Bias CLE

Minnesota Advocates will host an
Elimination of Bias CLE on
Refugees in the Legal System
12:00-2 p.m. on January 15, 2003
at the Firm of Dorsey & Whitney

This two-hour Continuing Legal Education seminar will examine the role played by bias in the legal system's treatment of refugees, and outline ways that lawyers can most productively represent their refugee clients. The session will also address the larger context of policy and law practice in light of refugee experiences. Fee: \$50.00

For information and registration, contact 612-341-3302 or hrights@mnadvocates.org

Gujarat: Test Case for the World

More than 140 people came together October 21 for a Minnesota Advocates-sponsored forum on the human rights violations in the Indian state of Gujarat. The forum – “Violence in Gujarat, India: A Human Rights Perspective” – was led by scholars, activists and journalists from around the country, all of whom made clear their belief that multiple factors led to the eruption of violence last spring, and that the failure of the government to protect the victims of the violence violated India’s human rights obligations.

In the face of this state complicity, the United Nations and national governments, including the United States, have been largely silent.

The communal violence that erupted in Gujarat, India, in February 2002 resulted in the death, injury and displacement of tens of thousands of individuals, mostly Muslims. Since then, human rights groups have reported that the violence was not spontaneous but had been planned months in advance. Evidence also suggests that the police and other state actors were

complicit in the violence and did not provide adequate protection to Muslim residents living in Gujarat. In the face of this state complicity, the United Nations (UN) and national governments, including the United States, have been largely silent.

To begin the discussion, Professor David Weissbrodt of the University of Minnesota Law School, who is also a Minnesota Advocates Board member and representative to the UN Sub Commission on Human Rights, outlined India’s obligations under international law and drew attention to the Indian government’s attempts to avoid scrutiny by international human rights bodies. Professor Weissbrodt concluded describing the need for action, “When I hear one group being demonized, there is a great danger of genocide. We must speak out and say that something unacceptable has happened.”

Smita Narula, author of *“We Have No Orders to Save You:” State Participation and Complicity in the Communal Violence in Gujarat*, a Human Rights Watch Report published in April 2002, gave first-hand testimony of her interviews with victims and government officials in Gujarat. She pointed out specific incidents in which the Indian government failed to protect its citizens from egregious human rights violations. Ms. Narula indicated that the events should be characterized not as religious violence, but rather as political manipulation, emphasizing the fact that Gujarati Hindus are also suffering the consequences of the devastated economy.

Angana Chatterji, a professor of anthropology from California Institute of Integral Studies, began her presentation by condemning the notion of “retributive justice.” Recognizing

that Indians come from diverse backgrounds and have different histories, Dr. Chatterji stated, “One thing that should be non-negotiable is that, from this, it cannot come to killing each other.” Dr. Chatterji encouraged the audience to inquire into the activities of charities they support in India to ensure they are not unknowingly supporting terrorist activities.

Muqtedar Khan, a professor of political science from Adrian College, Michigan, discussed the implications of the situation in Gujarat for both Muslims and non-Muslims worldwide. Dr. Khan characterized Gujarat as a “test case” for India and the world. According to Dr. Khan, the fact that there was little condemnation of the events in Gujarat sent a message to the Indian government that there are no consequences to grave human rights abuses.

Fred de Sam Lazaro, correspondent with the News Hour with Jim Lehrer, joined the panel to provide background information on a report he produced about Gujarat. He also urged audience members to take action to ensure that events in South Asia are included in mainstream media broadcasts and not overlooked.



Dr. Irfan Sandozi (right), along with Minnesota Advocates board member Dipankar Mukherjee (left), worked with Minnesota Advocates to organize the event.

Dr. Irfan Sandozi, along with Minnesota Advocates board member Dipankar Mukherjee, worked with Minnesota Advocates to organize the event. He said he hoped the forum would help build bridges in the South Asian community, and inspire continued dialogue. More than 60 audience members signed a resolution urging the United Nations and the U.S. government to condemn serious human rights abuses in Gujarat and hold perpetrators of the violence accountable. The full text of the resolution as well as more information about the educational forum can be found on the Minnesota Advocates website (www.mnadvocates.org).

PAUL D. WELLSTONE
MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA TOLL FREE NUMBER:
1-800-642-6041

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2303

COMMITTEES:
HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SMALL BUSINESS
INDIAN AFFAIRS
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FOREIGN RELATIONS
AGRICULTURE

October 21, 2002

Dear Friends,

I commend the efforts of Robin Phillips, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, and many of my friends here today who are bringing the attention of audiences in the United States and Minnesota to the horrible ethnic violence that has taken place in Gujarat this year.

As chairman of the South Asian Subcommittee on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I have been monitoring events in Gujarat and along the India/Pakistan border closely. Between earthquakes, India-Pakistan tensions, and communal violence, Gujarat has suffered through an extraordinary number of violent and traumatic events. When the 108th Congress convenes, I plan to hold hearings on strategies the United States Government can pursue to be a positive regional influence in South Asia.

I have been deeply concerned by the communal violence in Gujarat which has claimed hundreds of lives and displaced thousands, and by allegations of complicity by some government officials in the crisis. I have urged the Government of India to move quickly in the areas of police reform, and humanitarian and rehabilitation assistance to those affected by the communal violence in the region, and have also asked the U.S. Ambassador to India to offer our assistance in these areas.

Human rights ultimately will best be provided for all Indian communities in Gujarat when those communities coexist in an atmosphere of mutual trust and recognition. The diversity and contributions of growing numbers of Muslims and Hindus throughout the United States and in Minnesota have made us a stronger and more vibrant society. In this light, I encourage you to do all within your power to promote the positive values of tolerance and human rights within the greater Indian society in your beloved homeland.

You certainly have my support in these efforts.

Warm regards,



Paul David Wellstone
United States Senator

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2303
(202) 224-5641

2550 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, WEST
COURT INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
ST. PAUL, MN 55114-1025
(651) 645-0323

POST OFFICE BOX 281
105 20 AVENUE, SOUTH
VIRGINIA, MN 55792
(218) 741-1074

316 4TH STREET, SW
WILLMAR, MN 56201
(320) 231-0001

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Refugee and Immigrant Program Update: Many Thanks and Many Victories

Thank you to the many volunteer attorneys who provided outstanding *pro bono* representation to asylum seekers in 2002. With the help of more than 300 attorneys on our *pro bono* panel, Minnesota Advocates provided full legal representation in more than 500 ongoing cases in 2002. Please remember to let Minnesota Advocates know when your client is granted asylum!

With the help of more than 300 attorneys on our pro bono panel, Minnesota Advocates provided full legal representation in more than 500 ongoing cases in 2002.

Many attorneys reported victories in 2002, including: Matt Armbrrecht (Wandling Law Office); Dulce Foster (Fredrikson & Byron); Carole Finneran (Ramsey County Public Defenders); Melissa Haley; Christy Klancher; Katrina Lambrecht; Margaret Manderfeld; Carolyn Nestingen (Briggs & Morgan); Leah Thomas; Ashley Varley; and Eve Zamora.

Thanks also to the consulting attorneys who provided technical advice to the Refugee & Asylum

Project volunteers: Audrey Carr (Michael H. Davis Law Office); Loan Huynh (Fredrikson & Byron); Pat Mattos (Mattos

Law Office); Julie Bursik (Analysts International); Mark Frey (Law Office of R. Mark Frey); Paula Schwartzbauer (Centro Legal); Alan Goldfarb (Fredrikson & Byron); Kathy Moccio (Dorsey & Whitney); Maria Woroby (Maria K. Woroby Law Office).

Special thanks to Stephanie Morgan of the Office of the Attorney General. Stephanie won asylum on behalf of two clients in 2002. In February 2002, the Chicago Asylum Office granted asylum in the case of a woman fleeing severe, prolonged domestic violence in Kenya. In August 2002, after more than two years of litigation, the immigration judge granted asylum to a member of a family of prominent political opposition members in the Gambia.



Attention Attorneys

Take a *pro bono* asylum case!
Join probono.net today and view a list of current asylum cases in need of volunteer attorneys.

Special Thanks

Thank you to Kathy and Vince Moccio for serving as such gracious hosts for the B.I.A.S. House Party, which took place on October 18, 2002. Thanks also to Aziz Osman and Fatuma Elmi for donating a beautiful painting of Mogadishu for the silent auction, Nadifa Osman and Abdulle Elmi for sharing inspiring remarks, and Wanaku for providing festive music. Thanks also to the restaurants that provided food: Addis Ababa Ethiopian Restaurant, Blue Nile, Summit Brewing Company and Uruba Mogadishu.

Thank you to Cheryl Thomas and Roger Heegaard for generously hosting the Women's House Party on November 17, 2002. Thank you also to the Network of East West Women Legal Fellows: Ekho Baasanjav, Mongolia; Nino Bakakuri, Georgia and Ania Nowak, Poland for participating in the event.

Discrimination Case Against Driver and Vehicle Services Settled

The Minnesota Department of Vehicle Services (DVS) has agreed to pay \$10,000 to a Mexican-American for mishandling her application for state identity cards or her children.

The women applied for state identification cards earlier this year for her minor sons at the Rochester Driver and Vehicle Services (DMV) office. She presented original birth certificates and social security cards as required by current Minnesota rules. DVS staff accused her, falsely, of submitting false birth certificates. A supervisor also made photocopies of documents not required for her sons' applications.

A file was charge with the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR) based on national origin discrimination. MDHR found sufficient evidence to support the claim of discriminatory treatment. The case was settled in mediation. In addition, DVS workers will undergo additional diversity training and post a legal services and MDHR poster in its Rochester office.

The party was represented by attorney Jennifer Stohl, Migrant Legal Services (Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services). Contact her at 651-291-2837 for more information.

Development Conference Focuses on Peace and Security Issues

Women as leaders in the 're-inventing' of globalization was the subject of a forum attended by Minnesota Advocates delegates in October. Can we 're-invent globalization' to focus on fundamental human rights, democracy, fair trade and the elimination of discrimination – instead of increased militarization, nationalism, fundamentalism and corporate interests? Twelve hundred women from 105 countries gathered in Guadalajara, Mexico, Oct. 3 – 6 to brainstorm this question and strategize for change at a conference organized by the Canadian-based, Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID).

Conference participants' anger and alarm at the United States increasingly aggressive and isolationist policies abroad were evident throughout the four-day conference. Women from the United States drafted a resolution condemning the Bush administration's planned unilateral attack on Iraq and calling for the United States to collaborate with its allies. The resolution was signed by 670 people from 94 countries. Many conference participants work daily with the victims of trafficking in women and children, refugees and victims of poverty, and they expressed acute awareness of the real costs of war-costs borne heavily by women and children.

Re-defining the right to national and personal security was a prevalent conference theme -- comparing those advanced by the current U.S. administration to theories which focus more on an individual's access to food, work and safety as being central to any concept of security and thus to human rights principles.

Thirteen delegates from Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights traveled to the conference – including both staff and volunteers. One of the highlights of the conference for the Minnesota

Advocates delegation was the opportunity to meet with women from Central and Eastern Europe, the Balkans and the Commonwealth of Independent States, the area where the Women's Program has concentrated its overseas work the past nine years. Over 100 women from that region attended the AWID conference and held a daily caucus to strategize for regional progress for women.

Conference workshops and plenary sessions related to the conference theme, 'Re-inventing Globalization'. Workshops included: *Markets, States and Civil Society: How Do We Hold Them Accountable to Gender Equality in an Era of Globalization?* and *Fundamentalism, Globalization and Women's Human Rights*. Each day began with a plenary session featuring speakers from different regions of the world discussing current critical issues in sessions such as, *Women Challenging the New Political and Military Order*.

The Women's Human Rights Speaker Series

cosponsored by the Briggs and Morgan law firm, will continue in 2003. Beginning in February, the lectures are held at noon on the first Thursday of each month and are dedicated to improving awareness of women's human rights issues. Check our website for more details on speakers.

SAVE THE DATE!!

Tuesday, December 10, 2002

Human Rights Day 2002: A Celebration of Community and Diversity

William Mitchell School of Law, Auditorium, St. Paul

1-5:00 p.m. – Human Rights Day CLE Fee: \$75.00

Tentative schedule of events:

- Introduction to Human Rights Law
- Human Rights Monitoring: Conducting International Human Rights Factfinding and Reporting
- Emerging Issues in Human Rights Law: A Case Study of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission Process

5-7:30 p.m. – Human Rights Day Celebration FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

featuring food, entertainment, and a silent auction (back by popular demand!)

For more information, contact Megan Powers at 612-341-3302 x112

Discussing Human Rights Advocacy at the United Nations

Representatives of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights spoke before the UN Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights' most recent session in Geneva in August, making the case that child mortality and violence against women should take a more prominent place on the Sub-Commission's agenda.

Joe W. "Chip" Pitts III, a Dallas-based international lawyer, shared with the Sub-Commission the results of two recent Minnesota Advocates reports on women in Poland – one on extensive domestic violence, and another on employment discrimination and sexual harassment in the workplace. Both reports – investigated and published with the Georgetown University Law Center – reflect general social and economic instability in the region.

"Women throughout Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are experiencing similar human rights violations," Pitts told the sub-commission. "Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights urges the Sub-Commission to further study the problem of violence against women so that advocacy work can be informed and more effective."

Pitts said the sub-commission's session was also notable for its growing recognition of the role that human rights must play in international commerce, and the need to increase the voice given to the world's poorest citizens. "This, too, will be much-needed if we collectively hope to be able to transcend the powerful forces dividing us, and move to a more peaceful and just future," Pitts said after the sub-commission's session. "In both efforts, Minnesota Advocates played its usual sensible role, and was able to have a disproportionate and important impact. It was an honor for me to be able to again work with Minnesota Advocates to further a rights-based approach to these vital issues."



Cheryl Thamas and Penny Parker discuss Minnesota Advocates' role at the United Nations.

Penny Parker, a University of Minnesota law school graduate now working in Brussels, has represented Minnesota Advocates at the United Nations since 1995. She recommended to the Sub-Commission that child mortality be the subject of a future session of its Social Forum. She told the

group that a complex series of circumstances around the globe conspire every year to kill almost 11 million children, and that most of those deaths are preventable.

Parker used the example of Mexico, which was the subject of a Minnesota Advocates study on child mortality last year. Mexico's child mortality, she said, is higher than other Latin American countries with similar standards of living – and in fact Mexico's children die at a higher rate than children in Cuba and Costa Rica, both of which have smaller economies and fewer resources. Thus, governments make choices that affect the health of their children.

"Child mortality is correlated to a country's economic resources," Parker told the sub-commission, "but, more significantly, it is affected greatly by how those resources are allocated."

Parker was in Minneapolis this fall and updated staff and volunteers from Minnesota Advocates on the Sub-Commission and other opportunities to participate at the United Nations. The event was hosted by the law firm of Faegre & Benson.

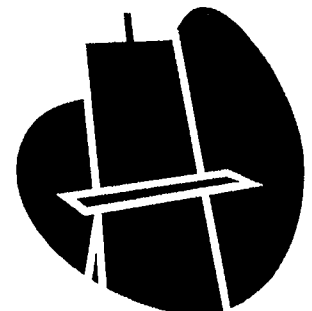
Create a Legacy!
Please remember Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
in your estate planning.

Wish List

One way to support Minnesota Advocates is to donate new or gently used items to the organization. We are currently in need of the following items:

- Small TV and VCR
- Paper Shredder
- Portable Easel
- Printing Services
- Computers (Pentium 2 or up)

If you would like to donate any of the above items please contact the Minnesota Advocates office at 612.341.3302 or hrights@mnadvocates.org



Minnesota Mourns True Advocates for Human Rights

(Continued from page 11)

as both the foundation and vitality of the community. Senator Wellstone valued the experience of immigrants and brought people from all backgrounds into the policy debate.

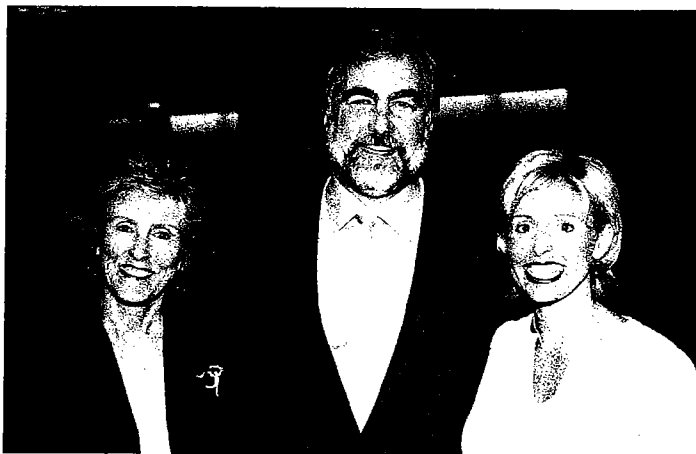
Sheila Wellstone was an outstanding national leader on violence against women and greatly influenced Paul's work on this issue. They were key figures in the passage of every piece of significant federal legislation on domestic violence, including the Violence Against Women Act, the most important domestic violence law in our nation's history. Both of them influenced thousands of Americans in the effort to end the devastating problem of domestic violence.

Recently, Senator Wellstone cosponsored the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, an innovative federal law to reduce trafficking in women and children and to strengthen legal sanctions against traffickers. The Wellstones' work on this law was an example of their ability to hear their constituents and make change. They were profoundly concerned by the stories from Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights and others on trafficking in women in Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. These stories of women were later documented in the Minnesota Advocates' report *'Trafficking in Women: Moldova and Ukraine.'*

The Wellstones' professional activities were simply the natural extension of their deeply held personal beliefs about social justice and human compassion. This was evident in their relationships with people who did the work they believed in – the human rights advocates, social justice workers, and women's advocates.

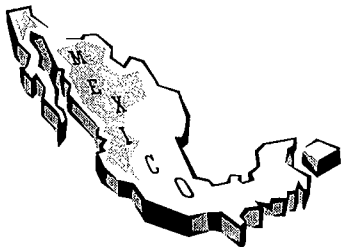
We were not just professional colleagues – we were their personal friends, united in the commitment to human rights. *Paul and Sheila Wellstone were not only our champions, they championed us.* They took all the power available to them from their position and used it to shore up the people in the trenches. They heard our stories over and over, consistently attended and spoke at our events, donated money to our groups and unfailingly inspired us to go on, make change, and never give up.

While difficult to identify Paul and Sheila Wellstone's greatest contribution, perhaps it was their ability to not just be heroes themselves but to make us all feel like heroes in the endeavor to improve the lives of others. Though the loss of Paul and Sheila Wellstone is immeasurable, we are committed to continue their legacy through the promotion of fundamental human rights.



Shelia Wellstone and Marcia Wellstone Markuson with Bill Schulz at Minnesota Advocates' 2002 Awards Dinner

Focus on Children's Rights in the Americas



Minnesota Advocates' 2001 report *Full Rights, Whole Children: A Case Study of Child Survival and Human Rights in Mexico*, continues to help shape the international debate on the health and welfare of children in the Americas.

Fabián Sánchez, an attorney with the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, summarized the Minnesota Advocates project for an audience in October in Washington D.C. at a meeting of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

In 2001, Minnesota Advocates partnered with the Mexican Commission to complete the final phase of the Global Child Survival Project, which consisted of workshops on children's rights. These workshops took place in indigenous communities in the states of Mexico and Oaxaca. The report documents violations of children's economic, social and cultural rights in Mexico and includes an analysis of Mexico's macroeconomic policies, the Mexican health care system and government social welfare programs that impact child well being.

Sanchez spoke at the invitation of UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Fund) and the Inter-American Children's Institute, a body created by the Organization of American States to promote the study of issues relating to children and family. *To obtain a copy of the Minnesota Advocates report, visit our website or call 612-341-3302, ext. 100.*

Upcoming Schedule of Events

- **Human Rights Day 2002: A Celebration of Community and Diversity**

Tuesday, December 10, 2002

William Mitchell School of Law, Auditorium

Tentative schedule of events:

Human Rights Day CLE 1-5 p.m. (Continuing Legal Education) course Fee: \$75.00

- Introduction to Human Rights Law
- Human Rights Monitoring: Conducting International Human Rights Fact-finding and Reporting
- Emerging Issues in Human Rights Law: A Case Study of the Peruvian Truth and Reconciliation Commission Process

Human Rights Day Celebration 5-7:30 p.m.

Featuring food, entertainment, and a silent auction (back by popular demand!) FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more information, contact Megan at 612- 341-3302 x112 or mpowers@mnadvocates.org.

- **A Human Rights Culture: Economic Rights in a Diverse Classroom**

January 14 , 2003 4:30—7:00 p.m.

Resource Center of the Americas Questions? Contact Sarah Herzog at 612-624-3746 or sherzog@umn.edu

- **Elimination of Bias CLE** (Continuing Legal Education) course Fee: \$50.00

January 15, 2003 12:00—2:00 p.m.

Dorsey & Whitney, Seattle Room

This two-hour CLE will examine the role played by bias in the legal system with regard to refugees and outline ways that lawyers can work towards appropriate representation at the individual client level. The session will also address the larger context of policy and law practice in light of refugee experiences.

- **Death Penalty Error Rates**

January 24 , 2003 12:30—1:30 p.m.

Dorsey & Whitney

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights, the Minnesota Justice Foundation and the law firm of Dorsey & Whitney will co-host a brown-bag lunch discussion with Professor James Liebman for lawyers interested in death penalty work. The lunch discussion is free and application for one hour of continuing legal education credits will be made.



Professor Liebman

- **A Human Rights Culture: Visioning the Future - Best Practices**

February 11, 2003 4:30—7:00 p.m.

Resource Center of the Americas Questions? Contact Sarah Herzog at 612-624-3746 or sherzog@umn.edu

- **International Women's Day 2003**

March 8, 2003

St. Paul Student Center

Inspired by the 1995 U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, the local celebration was designed to celebrate the diversity of Minnesota women and to increase understanding and tolerance of the different backgrounds of women living in our community. Questions? Contact Amelia Buttress at 612-341-3302

- **19th Annual Asylum Conference**

Friday, June 6, 2003

Mark Silverman of the Immigration Legal Resource Center in San Francisco and the author of *Winning Asylum Cases* will be among the many panelists offering practice tips to Minnesota Advocates volunteer attorneys.

2003: Minnesota Advocates Celebrates 20 Years of Advocacy

In 2003, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights will celebrate 20 years of human rights advocacy, education and leadership in the United States and overseas. Minnesota Advocates was founded in 1983 by group of lawyers in the community committed to the proposition that professional volunteers could dramatically impact human rights. In the beginning, lawyers used their skills to document human rights abuses overseas and to highlight these abuses in the United States. Shortly thereafter, the organization started its Asylum Project to provide *pro bono* legal assistance to people seeking political asylum in the United States. The Asylum Project remains a vibrant and effective project of Minnesota Advocates.

Minnesota Advocates is committed to providing opportunities for volunteers to meaningfully participate in human rights projects. These projects have grown to include education to dispel anti-immigrant myths to ensure that our community is welcoming to newcomers; projects to ensure that children's human rights are protected here in the community and overseas; documentation of women's human rights abuses and training for those who can protect against these abuses on a

daily basis; human rights education for children to ensure they develop a respect for internationally recognized human rights and responsibilities; and community education to build respect for human rights and the rule of law in the United States.

Our 20th Anniversary Celebration will celebrate our mission to protect the human rights of all people, and restore opportunity and dignity to people when these rights are being denied. Throughout 2003, we will celebrate some of the heroes of the last 20 years of the human rights movement. They are the leaders of African democracy movements who escape torture to rebuild lives in asylum in the United States; the public and private school teachers who work overtime to challenge their students to think profoundly about human rights, tolerance and understanding of the people around them; and the women of developing countries who defy archaic conventions to open women's shelters, oppose traffickers and protect their children from forced labor.

As we celebrate our successes over the next year, we hope you will find a way to join us.

New Faces at Minnesota Advocates — Some of Them Familiar

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights would like to welcome several new staff members to our office. We are excited to have them aboard!

- Grant Mussman began in August and will be working as a Program Assistant in the Refugee & Immigrant Program and BIAS Project. Grant is a one year volunteer with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps.
- Cheryl Thomas rejoined Minnesota Advocates in September as the Director of the Women's Program. Ten years ago, Cheryl helped found the Women's Program, and we are excited to have her back!
- Maren Olson began in September as the Receptionist/Administrative Assistant. In addition to office duties she will be assisting with the new website, newsletter and volunteer coordination.
- Ronald Barnes came on in September as the new Interim Administrative Director. He has been applying his expertise in office administration to keep our office functioning smoothly.
- Eric Iverson started in the Refugee & Immigrant Program in October as the new Program Assistant. Eric is fluent in Arabic, Dutch and German and conversant in French and

Norwegian and will be a great asset to Minnesota Advocates.

- Jennifer Prestholdt has returned from maternity leave to her new position of Deputy Director. She is traveling to Peru to observe the Truth & Reconciliation trials and will work on reviving the Death Penalty Project.
- We also welcome Ekho Baasanjav and Molly Beutz, who are both working as visiting Legal Fellows with the Women's Program. Ekho is a lawyer from Mongolia, where she specializes in family and domestic violence issues. Molly recently received her J.D. from Yale Law School and has also worked as a law clerk in the Southern District of New York.

In addition to new staff, we have several interns and volunteers working here this fall. Interns working in the Refugee & Immigrant Program are Jessica Engdahl, Katherine Grout, Susan Hayward, Erica Kaster, Mary Robinson and Selamawit Yohannes. Esther Chan, Tibesso Dayassa and Kelli Oborn are interns in the Education Program, and Teresa Jacobs is working with the Women's Program. Thank you to all our volunteers for your time and commitment! We truly appreciate your work.

Staff

Robin Phillips	Executive Director
Ronald Barnes	Interim Administrative Director
Molly Beutz	Visiting Legal Fellow
Tony Brown	Development/Communications Director
Amelia Buttress	Women's Program Associate
Elisabeth Duban	Women's Program Staff Attorney
Therese Gales	Refugee & Immigrant Program Director of Education
Amy Schroeder Ireland	Refugee & Immigrant Program Staff Attorney
Eric Iverson	Refugee & Immigrant Program Assistant
Michele Garnett McKenzie	Refugee & Immigrant Program Director
Grant Mussman	Refugee & Immigrant Program Assistant
Maren Olson	Receptionist/Administrative Assistant
Kendra Allen Popov	Administrative/Development Associate
Megan Powers	Education Program Associate
Jennifer Prestholdt	Deputy Director
Victoria Saca	Special Project Associate
Cheryl Thomas	Women's Program Director

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Loan Huynh, Nadifa Osman and Abdulle Elmi were among the supporters at the B.I.A.S. Project House Party on October 18.

MINNESOTA



ADVOCATES
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

310 FOURTH
AVENUE SOUTH,
SUITE 1000
MINNEAPOLIS,
MINNESOTA
55415-1012
U.S.A.

PHONE: 612.341.3302
FAX: 612.341.2971
EMAIL: HRIGHTS@MNADVOCATES.ORG

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