

NEWS: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HELLER EHRMAN HELPS INTRODUCE ACCLAIMED INNER CITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TO SAN FRANCISCO

Law Firm Hosts Special Introductory Workshop for Six Bay Area Youths

(SAN FRANCISCO) – Heller Ehrman LLP, a law firm with more than 1400 employees and 13 offices worldwide, hosted a special workshop in late 2006 that was designed to give a group of underprivileged Bay Area students a professional workplace experience and a realistic look at how a typical legal work assignment might be handled.

By hosting the workshop, Heller Ehrman hoped to establish a San Francisco chapter of the Development School for Youth (DSY), an acclaimed leadership-training program currently serving hundreds of young people from the poorest neighborhoods of New York City and Newark, N.J. Over the past 25 years the program has grown into a major success. More than 50 Fortune 1000 corporations have been sponsoring workshops and paid summer internships for over 200 teens and young adults each year in New York and Newark.

The concept behind the DSY was developed by Joseph Forgione, a retired Merrill Lynch managing director, along with the youth development professionals from the All Stars Project, a maverick, community-based youth development nonprofit headquartered in New York City.

Heller Ehrman is the first San Francisco law firm to partner with the All Stars Project, which was founded in New York in 1981. The All Stars, which provides outside-of-school educational and cultural enrichment programs for thousands of inner-city youths annually, is supported primarily by private donations, from individuals, philanthropists and foundations. Its programs employ a unique, performance-based approach to youth development.

In early December 2006, at the firm's offices in San Francisco, six young women, ages 16 to 21, participated in a day-long workshop that provided training and instruction on case analysis and advocacy. The students paired off and debated the issues presented by fictional fact patterns based on real cases. In the morning, each student worked one-on-one with a lawyer to analyze and develop a case presentation. That afternoon each participant made a presentation to argue their case in a forum that resembled a mediation. Lawyers from Heller Ehrman volunteered to work with the students and serve as mediators. On Friday, Dec. 1, the six students participated in an orientation session at the firm and had the chance to watch a demonstration of Saturday's proceedings.

Organizers and volunteers from the firm said the workshop helped students sharpen problem solving, communications and listening skills. But the overall goal was to provide a meaningful experience.

“The idea was to give participants a chance to see what life is like in the business workplace and expose the students to an environment outside their day-to-day experience,” said **Marie L. Fiala**, a shareholder at Heller Ehrman and firmwide Managing Director of the Litigation Department. “We wanted to give participants a snapshot of what it’s like to work in a professional firm, and open a window into broader career possibilities.”

“This program was successful because it offered the students inspiration and an opportunity that might not otherwise be available to them,” added **Warrington S. Parker III**, a member of Heller Ehrman’s Appeals and Strategy practice and co-chair of the firm’s ethnic diversity committee. “Every student in the initial program has a chance to take the experience gained in the workshop and look toward the future with more confidence, self-awareness and practical skills.”

Fiala became interested in the All Stars Project after attending the organization’s 25th anniversary gala at the Lincoln Center in New York in March 2006. The event drew attendance from many well known companies, some of which are Heller Ehrman clients. Two of the firm’s clients, Merrill Lynch and Ernst & Young, were honored at the program for their significant support and participation in All Stars and DSY programs. “I was stunned at the confidence and poise of the young people who attended the gala, which can be an intimidating environment even for adults,” said Fiala. “Whatever this group was doing, they clearly had found a winning formula for partnering with business to bring out the gifts that all of these young people possess. I wanted Heller Ehrman to be a part of that effort.”

Since then, Fiala and Parker have been working with Joyce Dattner, one of All Stars original founders who is building its youth development programs in the Bay Area, to launch DSY locally.

“I am thrilled that Heller Ehrman is helping to pilot the DSY program in San Francisco,” says Dattner. “The firm is now part of a growing roster of companies, including Merrill Lynch, Ernst & Young, MetLife, D&B, Prudential, Lehman Brothers and Deutsche Bank that have, over the last several years, been building new kinds of partnerships with young people and investing in their development.”

“Heller Ehrman has a commitment to community and people as two of the firm’s core values, and we are pleased to be a part of the DSY program and the efforts to expand the program into San Francisco,” said **Matt Larrabee**, Heller Ehrman’s chairman.

About the Development School for Youth

The Development School for Youth (DSY) is a four-month leadership training and career education program for young people between the ages of 16 and 21. Business professionals from more than 65 corporations participate in the program and create the school in partnership with the students and the Program Directors.

Using an innovative performance-based learning approach, the Development School provides young adults with a forum where they can challenge their assumptions about who they are and how they can be in the world. Young adults create new performances of themselves that help them successfully negotiate the business environment and interact with adults on a professional level. Students are supported to develop as leaders by giving performances they have never given before.

Students also learn public speaking, interpersonal skills, how to dress for success, how to write a resume and how to interview for a job. The DSY's leadership training is organized as a series of weekly workshops, led by senior executives who partner with the program, introducing students to the worlds of finance, advertising, accounting, law and other leading industries.

All of the students who graduate from the program are placed in paid full time summer internships provided by sponsoring companies.

The DSY is a program of the All Stars Project, Inc.

About the All Stars Project, Inc.

Now in its 25th year, the All Stars Project partners with the private sector — philanthropists and foundations — to bring outside-of-school educational and cultural enrichment opportunities to thousands of inner city youth in New York City and Newark, N.J. Several independent non-profit and community organizations — in Atlanta, Oakland, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Boston — also sponsor All Stars-developed youth programs. The All Stars Project is supported by individual, corporate and foundation donations, with approximately three-quarters of all donations coming from thousands of individual donors. For more information about the All Stars Project, visit www.allstars.org.

About Heller Ehrman LLP

Heller Ehrman has more than 700 attorneys and professionals in 13 offices worldwide – Anchorage, Alaska; Beijing; Hong Kong; London; Los Angeles; Madison, Wis.; New York; San Diego; San Francisco; Seattle; Silicon Valley; Singapore; and Washington, D.C. Heller Ehrman represents a wide range of industry leaders, from entrepreneurial, technology-driven enterprises to established, multinational conglomerates. The firm's core values are Excellence, People, Teamwork, Innovation, Community and One Firm. For more information, visit www.hellerehrman.com.

###

Contacts:

Joyce Dattner, Spokesperson, All-Stars Program/DSY
415.986.2502 | email@joycedattner.com

Marie L. Fiala, Shareholder, Heller Ehrman LLP
415.772.6527 | marie.fiala@hellerehrman.com

Warrington S. Parker III, Shareholder, Heller Ehrman LLP
415.772.6176 | warrington.parker@hellerehrman.com

Roger Grunwald, Director of Public Relations, All Stars Project, Inc.
212.356.8422 | rgrunwald@allstars.org

Patrick Bustamante, Director of Communications, Heller Ehrman LLP
415.772.6715 | patrick.bustamante@hellerehrman.com