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## Equal Rights Advocates Elects New Chair, Vice Chair and Five New Members to Board of Directors

SAN FRANCISCO, June 10, 2011 – Beth Parker, of Arnold & Porter LLP, is the new chair of the board of directors for Equal Rights Advocates, a national nonprofit legal organization dedicated to protecting and expanding economic and educational access and opportunities for women and girls. She succeeds Betsy Cotton, development director of The 2012 Project. Parker is joined by vice chair Darci Burrell, of Dickson Levy Vinick Burrell Hyams LLP, and five new members including Gay Grunfeld, Amanda Keton, Norene Lew, Ghada Saliba-Malouf and Ellen Widess, in addition to 13 existing board members.

“These accomplished women join our board at a pivotal time,” says Arcelia Hurtado, ERA’s executive director. “The organization is poised to achieve several important milestones in our work for women’s equality, and I could not hope for better partners for the work that lies ahead.” ERA takes a campaign approach to its mission, incorporating public education, legislative advocacy and litigation.

Among its current cases, ERA is co-counsel in *Dukes v. Wal-Mart*, the landmark sex discrimination case heard in the United States Supreme Court this past March. The Court will decide whether the class was properly certified by the lower courts. A decision in that case, which can potentially impact other similar civil rights class actions, is imminent. ERA is currently in trial in *Mansourian et. al. vs. Regents of the University of California et. al.*, on behalf of former women wrestlers at the University of California at Davis who were denied equal athletic opportunities in violation of Title IX.

Beth Parker, now a partner at Arnold & Porter, was director of program and litigation at ERA from 1997 to 2000 and has served on ERA’s board for three years. She is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School. Darci Burrell, now a partner at Dickson Levy Vinick Burrell Hyams, was a Ruth Chance Law Fellow at ERA from 1995 to 1996 and has served on ERA’s board for two years. Burrell is a graduate of UC San Diego and UCLA School of Law. Both Parker and Burrell serve on ERA’s litigation committee.

Newly elected ERA board members include:

**GAY GRUNFELD** is a partner with Rosen, Bien & Galvan LLP in San Francisco. Grunfeld’s focus is on complex civil litigation with an emphasis on civil rights, employment, business, and attorneys’ fees cases. She also is a member of the Judiciary Committee of the Bar Association of San Francisco. A graduate of Wellesley College and Columbia Law School, she is past president and board member of the San Francisco Women Lawyers Alliance. Grunfeld was recently named to the Daily Journal’s Top Women Lawyers list for 2011.

**AMANDA KETON** is the legal and political programs director at The Advocacy Fund in San Francisco, where she directs the organization’s staff, develops budget recommendations and coordinates the organization’s policies and procedures. Keton holds degrees from Dartmouth College, University of Texas at El Paso and University of San Diego School of Law.

**NORENE LEW** is an associate at Coblenz, Patch, Duffy & Bass, LLP where she practices general civil litigation in both state and federal court. She is a member of Coblenz's litigation and renewable energy & green business practice groups. Before joining Coblenz, Lew was a trial attorney with the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, has been lead counsel in 20 jury and bench trials and has litigated over 25 writs and appeals. She graduated from UC Berkeley and UC Hastings College of the Law.

**GHADA SALIBA-MALOUF** is managing counsel in the Legal Group at Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco where she provides legal counsel and advice to the investment management & trust business line of the wealth, brokerage and retirement division. A leader on issues involving diversity, she is executive advisor of the Middle East Team Member Network, an enterprise-wide affinity group. She also serves on the advisory board of the Arab Film Festival organization. She graduated from UC Berkeley and Golden Gate University School of Law.

**ELLEN WIDESS** is a recognized expert in labor law and occupational safety and health law regulation. She was recently appointed as chief of Cal/OSHA, also known as the Department of Industrial Relations' Division of Occupational Safety and Health. Previously, she served as the senior program officer at the Rosenberg Foundation in San Francisco where she was responsible for grantmaking in economic justice and the low wage labor market. Widess also worked at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as Lead Safe California. She graduated from UC Berkeley and Boalt School of Law.

#### **About ERA**

Equal Rights Advocates (ERA), founded in 1974, is a national civil rights organization dedicated to protecting and expanding economic and educational access and opportunities for women and girls. Through its campaign approach—incorporating public education, legislative advocacy, and litigation—ERA seeks to assist women and girls throughout a life-long continuum: ensuring equality in their educational experience, combating sex discrimination in the workforce, and advocating for workplaces hospitable to working families. For more information, see [equalrights.org](http://equalrights.org).

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