

LARSON GIVES BACK TO NCLC

Like many attorneys, Steve Larson first encountered NCLC when he was getting up to speed on a consumer case and found NCLC's publications to be invaluable resources. Use of the manuals prompted him to start attending NCLC's annual Consumer Rights Litigation Conference. He noticed that his consumer practice received a further boost from the conference's many specialized seminars and workshops—many of which were taught by authors of the legal manuals.

So when Larson recently had the chance to direct a *cy pres* to NCLC, he was delighted. "After learning so much from their experts over the years, it's a real pleasure to send this award to NCLC," said Larson. "It is an organization that stands out for the both the quality of its work and its commitment to consumer justice."

The \$21,517 award came from a class action settlement in *Mark v. Valley Insurance Co.* According to Larson, Valley Insurance used credit scores to set insurance premiums but did not provide the adverse action notices required by the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

"We were thrilled by Steve's decision to recommend NCLC for this award," said Willard P. Ogburn, NCLC's executive "And his *cy pres* was leveraged even further because it helped us match a challenge grant issued by the Sandler Foundation."

Larson is a trial lawyer at Stoll Stoll Berne Lokting & Shlachter P.C. in Portland, Oregon. He is an editor of the *Oregon Civil Pleading and Practice Handbook*, and writes and lectures on class actions, securities law, contract law, and trial practice.



Steve Larson.

Maynard Inspires Fellow Advocates, *continued from Page 1*

respect. He is an exceptional human being, and a distinguished, compassionate advocate. We're pleased to present him with the Vern Countryman Award."

In supporting his nomination for the award, others spoke just as highly of Maynard:

The leader and soul of consumer law advocacy in North Carolina

"While he would be the last person to lay claim to his legacy, Mal is and for many years has been the leader and soul of consumer law advocacy in North Carolina. He is that rare person who has demonstrated an enduring commitment, outstanding legal skills, and exemplary ethical and professional conduct in service to his community; at the same time his genuine compassion and kind nature inspire all who have the privilege to work with him."

WILLIAM J. WHALEN

Everyone pays close attention to Mal

"Mal is a bit of a rarity: he is a man who is invariably spoken of in remarkably favorable terms, and then when you get to actually meet him and work with him you realize that the real man is even more impressive than his outsized reputation...Mal is also a thoughtful strategist thinking of the long-term implications of every argument and case in which he participates. He usually speaks with a calm

and measured integrity, but when Mal speaks it's like the old TV advertisement: everyone pays close attention."

F. PAUL BLAND

Mal dreams of attacking predatory lending

"Mal's ability to explain complex lending practices and the legal theories to attack them is legendary...Some of us believe that Mal never stops thinking of ways to attack unfair and predatory lending practices. I suspect he even dreams of ways to do so. He has been at the forefront of developing legal theories as defenses and counterclaims in predatory lending cases."

CELIA PISTOLIS

By teaching, he has magnified his impact...

"Watching him, and listening to him one can sense his acute zeal for justice...He inspires, he challenges folks to want to learn more, and he reinforces a sense of mission...He imparts a sense of hope that even amidst a seemingly intractable subprime mortgages crisis, just one client helped remains a worthwhile accomplishment. By teaching, he has magnified his impact through these counselors to thousands of homeowners across the country."

MARK BENSON

You can help identify the 2008 Countryman winner, see the article on page 3.