



Press Release

Bill Wortley, bwortley@wshfc.org

State Honors Seattle Resident as a "*Friend of Housing*"

Spokane, Wash. —Sept. 28, 2011— The Washington State Housing Finance Commission presented a *2011 Friend of Housing Award* to homeowner advocate Marc Cote at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane during the annual *Housing Washington* conference.

"People call on Marc when homeowners' rights are challenged," said Washington State Housing Finance Commission Executive Director Kim Herman. "He has been a tireless advocate for homeowners facing foreclosure at agency roundtables and legislative hearings, as well as a influential presence at homeownership workshops and conferences."

Day to day, Cote assists homeowners facing foreclosure through his role as the homeownership and program director for both the Shoreline-based Washington Homeownership Resource Center and Parkview Services. The latter is a nonprofit organization that provides group home, summer camp, affordable housing and other services for people with developmental disabilities where he has worked for almost a decade.

At present, an unprecedented one in every 400 or so housing units in Washington state is in foreclosure. Cote's passionate advocacy and educational activities underscore his long-standing commitment to preserving homeownership for the thousands of Washington residents who face foreclosure every year.

Here is a snapshot of why Cote's colleagues praise him for his commitment and service:

- Cote serves as the primary liaison between the Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project and the housing counselor community. As such, he ensures that homeowners receive emergency legal assistance when they need it.
- He was instrumental in helping to shape the bill that eventually became the Foreclosure Fairness Act. He testified before numerous committees, provided input to the drafts, and secured a representative homeowner to testify.
- He speaks at numerous events to educate our elected officials about the foreclosure crisis.
- He helps organize community outreach events, such as the June 2011 Korean Homeownership Preservation Workshop, a very successful effort that focused on Korean-speaking homeowners facing foreclosure.
- Most recently, Cote did the first mediation under the recently enacted Foreclosure Fairness Act.

According to Senior Attorney Eulalia (Lili) Sotelo of the Northwest Justice Project's Foreclosure Prevention Unit, Cote has been indispensable in creating a nexus between the efforts of the housing counselor community and the Justice Project's pro bono legal efforts to assist homeowners. "Marc consistently demonstrates his dedication to this work and is one of the best resources Washington homeowners have," says Sotelo.

###