

CQ Researcher Report Garners Newswomen's Club of New York's "Front Page Award"

Los Angeles, London, New Delhi, Singapore and Washington DC (May 27, 2009) — CQ Press is proud to announce that a recent report in its acclaimed **CQ Researcher** publication has been honored with a "Front Page Award" by the Newswomen's Club of New York.

The Club, an organization dedicated to female journalists in the New York metropolitan area, recognized the report written by Barbara Mantel titled *Public Defenders: Do indigent defendants get adequate legal representation?* Other winners in the magazine category included: Mary Carmichael, Newsweek, for "Growing Up Bipolar—Welcome to Max's World," and Anne Kadet, Smart Money Magazine, for "Price Profiling."

The Newswomen's Club has recognized exceptional work by women in the media with the "Front Page Awards" for selected media pieces in various categories since 1938. Entries are reviewed by a committee of professionally distinguished judges and presented to winners at the Club's headquarters in Manhattan.

In the award-winning report, Mantel discusses growing concerns regarding the efficiency of the nation's public defender system. Over the years, several landmark Supreme Court decisions have established the right of an indigent defendant to the assistance of counsel at public expense. Critics today say that the system is in crisis, with a large number of indigent criminal defendants who are costing states and counties more than \$3.5 billion a year; however, many public defense lawyers and researchers argue that even more needs to be spent because funding is "shamefully inadequate," with often poorly trained and largely underpaid lawyers each handling as many 1,000 cases per year.

CQ Researcher has been a key reference source for journalists, librarians, teachers, and students alike for almost 80 years. Single-topic reports, published weekly, offer a nonpartisan overview of important issues in a wide range of areas including social, economic, political, and environmental policy. In previous years, **CQ Researcher** has been recognized for editorial excellence by the Newsletter and Electronic Publishers Foundation, and has won the American Bar Association "Silver Gavel Award" as well as the Society of Professional Journalists "Sigma Delta Chi Award for Excellence."

Barbara Mantel is a freelance writer in New York City whose work has appeared in *The New York Times*, the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Psychopharmacology* and *Mamm* Magazine. She is a former correspondent and senior producer for National Public Radio and has already won several journalism awards, including the National Press Club's Best Consumer Journalism Award and Lincoln University's Unity Award. She holds a B.A. in history and economics from the University of Virginia and an M.A. in economics from Northwestern University.

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