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**DAWN GERAS OF SAVE ABANDONED BABIES FOUNDATION GIVEN 2010
“WOMEN WITH VISION” AWARD BY WOMEN’S BAR ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS**

Chicago, IL – Dawn Geras was honored by the Women’s Bar Association of Illinois (WBAI) with the distinguished “*Women with Vision*” award. Each year, the WBAI honors women who have demonstrated visionary approaches in their professional endeavors and who have made a contribution to the well-being and empowerment of women while freely giving back to the community. Members of WBAI gathered tonight for their Joint Professional Dinner at the Hotel Allegro to honor Chicago’s outstanding professional women.

Dawn Geras is president and founder of the Save Abandoned Babies Foundation (SABF). She was recognized for her efforts in the enactment of Illinois’ Safe Haven Law a/k/a the Illinois Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act. This Law offers a safe and legal option to unsafe infant abandonment. An unharmed newborn, 30 days old or younger, may legally be relinquished into the hands of personnel at any Illinois hospital, emergency medical care facility, police or fire station with no questions asked and with no fear of prosecution.

“Sixty-four babies have been safely and legally relinquished under the Illinois law since it was passed in 2001 and they now have the opportunity for a bright future”, Geras said. “However, sixty-two other infants were discarded, and thirty of them did not survive. We still have work to do to raise awareness of the Safe Haven option and ensure that no mother feels stuck in an impossible situation with an unwanted baby.”

“We continue to work to end the dumpster baby tragedy. Awareness of this law will save these babies. However, with only a few dozen volunteers and a limited budget, getting out the information of this law is a never ending challenge. You need to work smart and hard with these limited resources”, Dawn added.

The SABF has plans for new legislation next year. There is also discussion going on regarding Federal legislation to unify the various state laws. All 50 states have a Safe Haven law, but differ state to state. There are also plans to host the first national Safe Haven conference that would be held in Chicago in April of 2011.

The Save Abandoned Babies Foundation is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to saving the lives of newborn infants who might otherwise be unsafely abandoned. For more information, visit: www.SaveAbandonedBabies.org

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