

**Sharon M. Dietrich**

Ms. Dietrich has been an attorney with the Employment Law Project of Community Legal Services, Philadelphia, since 1987. She became CLS' Managing Attorney for Public Benefits and Employment in 1997. She represents low income persons in employment matters, such as unemployment compensation, discrimination, family and medical leave, and the like. She specializes in employment issues faced by ex-offenders and work-related issues arising in welfare reform.

From 1994 through 2004, she has also worked as a contract attorney with the National Employment Law Project, New York. NELP provides assistance to legal services programs, unions and community based organizations nationwide and promotes a national advocacy agenda on issues of job training, unemployment compensation, employment discrimination, welfare-to-work, and others.

Ms. Dietrich is a summa cum laude graduate of Albright College and a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. Prior to her employment with CLS, Ms. Dietrich served as law clerk for Ann Aldrich, U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Ms. Dietrich has been presented numerous awards for her work, including the 2006 Kutak-Dodds Prize from the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Civil Legal Aid Attorney of the Year Award from the Pennsylvania Bar Association (2006), the Andrew Hamilton Award from the Philadelphia Bar Association (2005), the Meritorious Service Award from the Pennsylvania Prison Society (2002), and the Striving Towards Excellence Award from Pennsylvania Legal Services (1999).