

Contact: Agnes Williams 559.476.2000
agnes.williams@disabilityrightsca.org

**Come Celebrate Disability Awareness Month at the new
Fresno Office of Disability Rights California, October 17**

FRESNO—October 14, 2008

“If you are involved or interested in rights and advocacy services for Californians with disabilities in the San Joaquin valley, please come and introduce yourselves,” said Agnes Williams, associate managing attorney. The newly created Fresno office of Disability Rights California, the state’s protection and advocacy system, is having a community open house this Friday, 3-5 p.m. and will welcome disability rights leaders, advocates and allies from throughout the region.

Catherine Blakemore, executive director of Disability Rights California, headquartered in Sacramento, stated that “One of our main objectives for 2008 has been met: opening of an office to directly serve some of the most underserved Californians –the hundreds of thousands of children, youth and adults with disabilities in this vast multi-ethnic region.” The Fresno office is providing free advocacy and legal services to residents of 8 counties: Fresno, Inyo, Kings, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Mono and Tulare.

In addition to the executive director, some of the staff members of Disability Rights California who will be welcoming guests to the open house are: Dara Schur, director of litigation for Northern California; Jay Koslofsky, the newly-appointed managing attorney of the Sacramento regional office; and Agnes A. Williams of Fresno, who has long experience in civil rights litigation and special education law.

Local information

The open house on Friday, October 17 is located at 567 W. Shaw, Suite C-3; parking is available behind the building; the local accessible bus, FAX #9, stops nearby at the cross-street of Wishon; phone number of the Fresno office of Disability Rights California is 559.476.2000; email agnes.williams@disabilityrightsca.org