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For Immediate Release

Rebuilding Justice: Civil Courts in Jeopardy and Why You Should Care

By Rebecca Love Kourlis and Dirk Olin in conjunction with The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System

"We are blessed with many excellent judges and court staff around the country, in both the federal and state systems. But they and all the rest of us have an obligation to work hard to improve the system so that it is both impartial and accountable."

—from the foreword by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

Denver, Colorado (July 18, 2011)—Over the past several decades, the civil justice process has become alarmingly expensive, politicized, and time-consuming, with fewer jury trials and more drawn-out cases that polarize and penalize parties seeking to resolve disputes. The court system often does not meet the needs of the American people, resulting in a rift between citizens and their legal system. But in order to amend and protect the courts, we must first understand them.

In *Rebuilding Justice*, Rebecca Love Kourlis and Dirk Olin, in conjunction with the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS), illuminate why the courts are critical and how they are being eroded, defaced, and undermined in the twenty-first century. Kourlis and Olin propose practical and empowering solutions that aim to improve the efficiency, accessibility, and integrity of the American judicial system.

As the joint product of two authors, *Rebuilding Justice* aims to provide a balanced perspective on the courts by integrating experiences from both inside and outside the system. A provocative and important portrait of the American judicial system, *Rebuilding Justice* is a must-read and a call to action for all citizens—lawyers and non-lawyers alike, stressing the need to support and protect this crucial cornerstone of our democracy.

Rebecca Love Kourlis is the founder and executive director of the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, a former justice of the Colorado Supreme Court, and a former Colorado trial court judge. She holds undergraduate and law degrees from Stanford University and is the recipient of numerous awards.

Dirk Olin is a legal affairs journalist who currently serves as editor and publisher of Corporate Responsibility Magazine. He holds a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and a master's degree from Northwestern Journalism School.

The Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System (IAALS) is a national, nonpartisan organization within the University of Denver that is dedicated to improving the process and culture of the civil justice system.

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