2025 STEVE LOWENSTEIN TRUST AWARD PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release **503-348-3996**

Portland City Council Presentation of 2025 Lowenstein Trust Award to Alena "Leni" Tupper, CLEAR Clinic Director

The 2025 Steve Lowenstein Trust Award will be presented at the Portland City Council Meeting on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 9:45 am
City Hall, Council Chambers, 1221 SW Fourth Avenue, 2nd Floor, Portland OR 97204

The 34th annual Steve Lowenstein Award recipient is Alena "Leni" Tupper, Founder and Director of CLEAR Clinic in Portland, a nonprofit collective of legal workers. Motivated by principle, integrity, and service, Leni and her diverse team work hard to deliver straight-forward legal services to those otherwise unable to afford them, keeping programs as free and accessible as possible. Court Record Relief, Housing Justice, and Immigration Justice are the three primary programs, all tailored to reach people pushed to the margins in our society.

A humble yet tenacious advocate, Leni has long been committed to using the law as a tool for social justice. An immigration attorney and former Portland Community College Paralegal Program Director, Leni recognizes the inherent inequities and barriers of the legal system. Her intention for CLEAR Clinic was to build an organization that combines access to legal services with achievement of social and racial justice goals. And she has succeeded.

Since its inception in 2020, CLEAR Clinic has served thousands of Oregonians, helping each person overcome complex legal obstacles and live safer, richer, and fuller lives in our communities. Clients have criminal offenses removed from their legal records, clearing their name and creating a pathway to greater opportunities, including gainful employment and secure housing. Tenants facing eviction receive legal defense and obtain immediate financial assistance, long-term housing stability, and eviction record expungement. LGBTQ+ and all other community members have open access to legal name and gender marker changes. And migrant communities can access free deportation and ICE detention defense legal services during this time when they are so desperately needed.

CLEAR Clinic has always been responsive to community legal needs, including the safety and legal rights of immigrants. "The moment we are in makes immigration the most urgent issue. ICE is tearing families apart," states Leni. "This has pushed us into new territory, requiring different legal strategies such as federal habeas corpus petitions challenging unlawful detentions by ICE, and developing a rapid response intervention program for the brutal attacks ICE is conducting on our community members."

To learn more about CLEAR Clinic and its mission, programs, and partnerships, please visit their website: https://clear-clinic.org/

To learn more about the Lowenstein Trust, visit the website at: lowensteintrust.org