

## **Governor Signs Bill into Law**

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Senate Bill 1609 into law at Palo Alto's Avenidas Senior Center Tuesday as Shirley Hochhausen, Johnnie Damon and Senator Simitian looked on. Hochhausen, a San Francisco professor and volunteer at the Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto was one of the winners of Sen. Simitian's There Oughta be a Law contest earlier this year.

Hochhausen's winning proposal which became Senate Bill 1609 protects seniors like Damon from predatory lenders who set up reverse mortgages designed to cheat them out of their houses. Damon has filed a lawsuit against Peak Funding, Fremont Investment and Loan, Inc. and Wells Fargo Home Mortgage (dba America's Servicing Company). His lawsuit was filed by Katherine M. Basile and Aaron Myers from the law firm of Howrey LLP in East Palo Alto and Shirley Hochhausen representing Community Legal Services in East Palo Alto.

For more information about Senate Bill 1609 and the There Oughta be a law contest, read the editorial on page 8 of the March 5, 2006 issue of EPA Today on this web site.



Sen. Joe Simitian and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger