

A Publication of Community Legal Resources

Law firm of Dykema Gossett honored by community organization

At their April 2001 annual meeting, Detroit's Warren/Conner Development Coalition presented the law firm of Dykema Gossett with its "Most Helpful Corporate Supporter" award. The award recognized the firm's years of free and reduced-rate services to the organization, which Executive Director Maggie DeSantis estimated to be worth \$100,000. Dykema Gossett attorney and Community Legal Resources Board member Joel Kellman accepted the award from Ms. DeSantis. Also representing the firm were volunteer lawyers Tony Ilardi, Jane Forbes and Kristen Goodman.

Begun in 1984 as a coalition of community organizations, block clubs, businesses, and institutions concerned about the well-being of Detroit's east side, Warren/Conner now employs a staff of 50. They operate job skills training, youth, and neighborhood beautification programs, a community newspaper, and have developed commercial real estate.

In 1999, Warren/Conner formed a Community Partnership with Dykema Gossett through CLR. The Partnership program pairs a nonprofit organi-

zation with a law firm for the period of one year. Since then, at least 6 lawyers from Dykema Gossett have provided assistance to Warren/Conner on real estate, employment, tax and other corporate matters.



Honorable Mention

Warren/Conner Development Coalition Executive Director Maggie DeSantis (center) with Dykema Gossett lawyers Joel Kellman (left), Tony Ilardi and Jane Forbes

Church-based feeding program gets off the ground with help from GM lawyers

It's official: The Twelfth Street Store House on Detroit's west side is open for business. Earlier this summer, the organization received tax-exempt status from the Internal Revenue Service thanks to the volunteer efforts of Kevin Cobb and Barb Lister-Tait, both members of General Motors legal and tax staff. The two volunteered to help after meeting with Store House volunteers at a free legal clinic for nonprofit organizations coordinated by Community Legal Resources and the Detroit Metro Bar Association's 'Detroit Legal Services Clinic.'

The Twelfth Street Store House was started by Mr. and Mrs. Funderburg, 87 and 80 year-old members of Twelfth Street Baptist Church in Detroit who saw a need for such a program and organized support for it. The couple rises on weekend mornings at 5:00 A.M. to buy food at Gleaner's Food Bank and Detroit's Eastern Market, then leads a team of volunteers to package it and make it available to low-income residents of their community.

Cobb and Lister-Tait met with the Funderburgs and prepared documents for the IRS attesting to the organization's charitable purpose and activities. Tax-exempt status will allow the Store House to receive grant funds to support their operations. Community Legal Resources thanks the Funderburgs and the legal team of Cobb and Lister-Tait at General Motors for their good work and commitment to this community.

Goodbye Lance, welcome new staff and board members

At the end of July, Lance Boyd Jones left as Executive Director of Community Legal Resources to pursue a fellowship at Chicago's McCormick Theological Seminary. Lance did a terrific job for two years, leading CLR to national prominence in the field of community development law. Though sad to see him leave, the board and staff wish him the best with his new calling.

Fortunately, the transition to a new Executive Director has been a smooth one. Taking the reins from Lance is Steve Tobocman, who co-founded CLR in 1998 and has remained a board member since then. Steve has been active in Detroit community development through fellowships from the Skadden Arps Foundation and the National Association for Public Interest Law, most recently serving as policy analyst for the Community Development Advocates of Detroit. Steve joins Angie Zemboy, CLR Program Manager, in connecting community organizations with legal services and education.

We would also like to welcome Mitzy Sharp Futro, a National Association for

Public Interest Law Fellow who moved to Detroit from Denver, Colorado to spend at least the next two years as our staff attorney. Mitzy will be designing and implementing the legal education component of our work—producing fact sheets, primers, and manuals, and organizing trainings, workshops, and



CLR Staff (from left)

Mitzy Sharp Futro, *NAPIL Fellow/Staff Attorney*; Steve Tobocman, *Executive Director*; Karinda Washington, *Office Manager*; and Angie Zemboy, *Program Manager*

seminars for community groups and attorneys. Mitzy will also be available to work directly with community groups, answering brief legal questions

and taking on controversial or difficult-to-place matters.

Rounding out the CLR team is Karinda Washington, recently hired as Office Manager with Michigan Legal Services. Karinda graduated in May from Eastern Michigan University with a degree in English and Pre-Med and hopes to eventually attend medical school. Karinda will be key in managing the day-to-day operations of our office and helping to track and troubleshoot client and volunteer activities.

Finally, CLR would like to welcome a new member to our Board of Directors. Dennis A. White has been an attorney with the General Motors Corporation since 1998, where he is responsible for legal issues involving marketing and trade regulation. A Detroit resident and graduate of Chicago's Northwestern School of Law, Dennis sees his participation on the CLR Board as "an excellent opportunity to help in the revitalization of Detroit."

Community Legal Resources Board of Directors

2001 - 2002

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Children and the internet:

What you need to know about the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act

By Richard Gottlieb



Richard Gottlieb is of counsel to the law firm of Dykema Gossett PLLC, working in the firm's Chicago office. Earlier this year, Mr. Gottlieb provided volunteer assistance to the Clark Park Coalition, a Detroit nonprofit that started a web design and internet-training program for local youth. The following article addresses one of the issues encountered by that nonprofit, as well as other CLR client organizations.

For many organizations, the World Wide Web is an exciting way to share the group's activities with the community – and with people around the globe. It can also be a valuable information gathering tool. If a web site is used to collect personal information from children under the age of 13, however, the organization must be sure to comply with the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act ("COPPA"). COPPA applies if the web site (or part of the site) is directed towards children, and the site also collects "individually identifiable information" about children. This includes any information that would allow someone to identify or contact the child, such as full names, addresses, email or telephone information.

If COPPA applies, a web site must follow certain guidelines:

1. The web site must contain a "clear and prominent" privacy notice regarding information gathered on the site. A link to this privacy notice must be prominently placed on the home page and on each page which collects information from children. In order to meet the "clear and prominent" requirement, larger fonts or contrasting colors are often recommended.
The notice must be clearly written and understandable. Therefore, it should not include any unrelated or confusing materials. It must also contain certain basic information, including (among other things):
 - (a) The name and contact information of everyone collecting or maintaining children's personal information through the web site.
 - (b) The kinds of personal information collected from children, how the information is collected, and how it will be used.
 - (c) Whether you will disclose information collected from children to third parties.
 - (d) That the parent may review the child's personal information, ask to have it deleted and refuse to allow any further collection or use of the child's information. The notice must also state the procedures for the parent to follow to make such requests.
2. The web site must provide notice to parents or guardians before collecting information about children visiting the site. That notice would contain the same information included in the privacy notice, be clear and understandable, and provide a means for parental consent.
3. The web site must make reasonable efforts to obtain verifiable parental or guardian consent before collecting, using or disclosing personal information about the child. If the parent/guardian requests it, you must also disclose the general kinds of information your site collects from children, as well as the specific information collected from his/her child. At any time, a parent or legal guardian may revoke his/her consent, refuse to allow you to further use or collect their child's personal information, and direct you to delete the information. If the information is reasonably necessary for the child to participate in an online activity, you may terminate the child's involvement in that activity.
4. There are five specific exceptions to the COPPA rules. These exceptions cover many popular online activities for kids, including contests, online newsletters, homework help and electronic postcards. In broad terms, these exceptions relate to the collection of contact information to solicit parental consent, respond to isolated or specific requests, protect the safety of children participating in the site's activities, or to protect the security of site or avoid legal liability.
5. Web site operators are required to send a new notice and request for consent to parents if there are material changes in the collection, use or disclosure practices to which the parent had previously agreed.

If your web site is covered by COPPA, this article provides enough information to allow you to take the first steps towards compliance. However, this article does not serve as legal advice, and should not be relied upon for that purpose. Before setting up your own website, always contact a lawyer to make sure that you have complied with COPPA and other laws that may be applicable where you live.

Special thanks

Community Legal Resources would like to recognize and thank the staffs of two companies that have provided us with invaluable services free of charge.

- Staff at Ann Arbor's Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW), through its Ameritech Nonprofit Internet Institute, provided countless hours designing our web site, www.CLRonline.org, and training CLR staff to manage it.
- Organizational development consultant Jane Morgan, head of Jane Morgan & Associates in Detroit, volunteered over the summer to help CLR staff develop an evaluation model by which we will be monitoring our work. The "logic model" Jane developed will help us collect information and measure the impact we are having in the community.

Thank you NEW Center and Jane Morgan!

Come help us celebrate on November 1st!

Help us celebrate the work of our volunteer lawyers, non-profit clients, and funders at our Third Annual Recognition Event, November 1st from 5:00pm to 7:00pm. Please join Community Legal Resources board and staff, clients, volunteers and supporters for appetizers and cocktails at the Caucus Club, 411 Penobscot Building, downtown Detroit. Detroit's two remaining mayoral candidates have been invited to make remarks, one week before the general election. Please RSVP to Karinda Washington at 313/964-4130 or kwashington@michiganlegal.org.

Note: Those planning to attend the Michigan Housing Trust Fund's Evening for Affordable Housing can walk to the Guardian Building from the Caucus Club—it's less than a block away.

Community Legal Resources is a joint project of Michigan Legal Services and the Pro Bono Committee of the Business Law Section of the American Bar Association working in conjunction with the Michigan Litigation Assistance Partnership Program.

Our mission is to foster pro bono legal representation for unfulfilled legal needs of nonprofit community organizations in Michigan that serve low-income individuals and communities, with an emphasis on community economic development activities.

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Who we are...



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