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December 2004

Pro Bono Briefs

"CLR *Pro Bono Briefs*" highlights pro bono activities involving Michigan lawyers referred by Community Legal Resources.

Community Legal Resources, with the assistance of private attorneys, provides pro bono legal representation to Michigan nonprofit organizations working with disadvantaged communities and unable to pay for traditional legal services. Since our inception in 1998, Community Legal Resources' volunteers have contributed an estimated \$3,000,000 in pro bono legal services to over 300 nonprofit organizations building affordable housing, attracting new businesses, feeding and sheltering the homeless, and mentoring youth throughout Michigan.

If you prefer not to receive future issues of CLR *Pro Bono Briefs* you may click on "Safe UnSubscribe" at the bottom of this e-mail.

Provided below please find a brief year-end report and sample of recent *pro bono* projects placed with CLR volunteers.

Year-End Report

Approximately 140 legal matters were successfully placed with volunteer lawyers in 2004. The law firm of [Dykema Gossett PLLC](#) led the way by accepting more than 25 pro bono matters. Volunteer lawyers in several practice areas assisted nonprofits including, real estate, contracts, general corporate, employment and tax.

The majority of nonprofits assisted this past year were located in southeast Michigan. However, volunteer lawyers also worked with nonprofits headquartered in Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Ann Arbor, Benton Harbor, Holland, Boyne City and Traverse City.

Community Partnerships were established by [Honigman, Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP](#) and [Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer and Weiss, P.C.](#) bringing the total number of Community Partnerships to eight. Community Partnerships are arrangements allowing a firm to act as general counsel to a nonprofit for a one-year period. The arrangement allows a more coordinated and proactive delivery of legal assistance.

Real Estate Placements

Paul Green of [Howard and Howard](#) is working with [Michigan Neighborhood Partnership](#) (MNP), a ten-year-old nonprofit organization providing assistance to low-income first time homebuyers in Detroit. MNP uses an innovative federal program to help qualified first time homebuyers save enough money for a downpayment on a new home.

Peggy Costello, Zora Johnson and Ken Kalousek of [Dykema Gossett PLLC](#) are working with [Oceana's Home Partnership](#). Located in Oceana County, on Michigan's west side, Oceana's Home Partnership provides homebuyer and homeowner assistance, homeless prevention services and general supportive services to the community.

Intellectual Property Placements

Susan Kornfield of [Bodman LLP](#) has been busy working with two nonprofits that requested intellectual property assistance. Women ARISE is a Detroit-based nonprofit providing supportive services to women ex-prisoners, including offering opportunities for higher education, targeted job training and family counseling.

Susan is also working with Workforce Skills Development Center, a Benton Harbor based nonprofit organization that provides job training and apprenticeship opportunities for area residents.

No Time to Volunteer?





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Thank you!

email: areiter@michiganlegal.org

phone: 313-964-4130

web: <http://www.clronline.org>

If you have any questions regarding the work of Community Legal Resources or would like to volunteer to work on placements like those listed above, please contact CLR.

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