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June 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.*

This is the inaugural edition of CLR *Pro Bono Briefs*. Please watch for future editions. 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 sample of recent pro bono projects placed with CLR volunteers.**

## Corporate Placement

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Jeff York of [Miller, Johnson, Snell & Cummiskey, P.L.L.C.](#) is working with West Grand Development Corporation, a Grand Rapids community development corporation, on corporate structure matters. West Grand Development Corporation purchases homes in Grand Rapids for the purpose of rehabbing them for sale to low-income families. The organization also provides home buying counseling to its potential buyers.

## Real Estate Placements

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Geaneen Washington of [Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, P.L.L.C.](#) is working with Southwest Housing Corporation, a Southwest Detroit affordable housing provider, on real estate matters. Southwest Housing Corporation has over 150 units in its inventory and attempts to provide model living environments for individuals with mental disabilities. On average 30% of the apartments are occupied by individuals with mental disabilities, while the balance of apartments are occupied by families whose incomes fall well below 60% of median income for the Detroit area. Southwest Housing Corporation has developed more than \$15 million of affordable housing in southwest Detroit over the past five years, and anticipates developing an additional \$25 million in neighborhood commercial and affordable housing over the next five years.

Mitch Meisner and Jill Kometh of [Honigman, Miller Schwartz & Cohn, LLP](#) are working with [Community Housing Alternatives](#), an 11 year- old Washtenaw County nonprofit, on real estate matters. Community Housing Alternatives offers housing and home ownership opportunities for low income families and for people with disabilities in Washtenaw County. The organization is currently building fifty-five units of affordable housing in Ann Arbor and manages a number of rental housing units for individuals with disabilities.

## Employment Placement


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John Gillooly and Ebony Duff of [Garan Lucow Miller P.C.](#) are working with [Mariners Inn](#), a 50 year old Detroit homeless shelter and licensed substance abuse treatment facility, on an employment matter. Mariners Inn operates a 90 day residential program providing intensive substance abuse treatment; runs a 36 bed transitional housing program to move men from homelessness to independent living; offers a 28 bed extended residency program for men with disabilities; and offers family and career counseling to help recovering substance abusers transition to work life.

## No Time to Volunteer?

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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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