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September 2005

## ***Pro Bono Briefs***

*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 \$4,000,000 in pro bono legal services to over 400 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.

## **Congratulations to Dykema Gossett, Community Development Award Winner!**

A big congratulations to Dykema Gossett PLLC for winning the 2005 Partner Award at the Detroit Community Development Awards Ceremony last Friday. The award is given by the Community Development Advocates of Detroit and Detroit Local Initiatives Support Corporation to the corporate or nonprofit entity that most generously supports the nonprofit community development industry in Detroit. Community Legal Resources nominated the firm for the award in recognition of its exemplary pro bono program that each year results in hundreds of hours of pro bono service to nonprofit organizations in Detroit and throughout the state. The firm is also managing three "Community

Partnerships” in which it agrees to essentially serve as in-house counsel to a nonprofit organization for a one-year period. Firm CEO Rex Schlaybaugh accepted the award along with attorneys James Adams, Peggy Costello, Fred Fechheimer, Jonathan Gordon, Tony Ilardi, Joel Kellman, Rochelle Lento and paralegal Maureen Bracey.

## Attorney Team Empanelled—CLR’s Affordability Preservation Project

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On the heels of the successful Community Land Trust Project, CLR has embarked on a new effort aimed at providing the legal tools necessary for nonprofit organizations to develop permanently affordable housing in Michigan’s communities. Over the next year, a team of volunteer lawyers lead by CLR Director of Policy Projects, Katy Locker, will be exploring the use of deed restrictions, second mortgages and other mechanisms to increase the supply of affordable housing in growing markets across the state. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority is once again generously supporting this important work. Thanks to the following volunteers and their employers for joining the team:

- Michael Donovan, LaMont Title Corporation
- Mickey Friedman, Bodman LLP
- Debra Geroux, Butzel Long
- Vicki Harding, Pepper Hamilton
- Cathy LaMont, LaMont Title Corporation
- Rochelle Lento, Dykema Gossett
- Mitch Meisner, Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn
- Will Moseng, MI State Housing Development Authority
- Tom Nowinski, Clark Hill PLC
- Randy Perry, Bodman LLP (retired)
- Glen Zatz, Comerica Bank

## Supporting Community Legal Resources

### An Opportunity to Give When Renewing Your Michigan Bar Membership

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If you haven’t already, you’ll be receiving your Member Dues Invoice from the State Bar any day now. There’s a section asking for donations to the Access to Justice (ATJ) Fund that includes a line for designating funds to specific programs. **Community Legal Resources is a program eligible to receive donations through the Bar’s Access To Justice Fund.**

Designating Community Legal Resources helps us continue the important work of attacking poverty and blight in Michigan’s low-income communities. Thank you in advance for your support.

## SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

### CLR’s Annual Recognition Event

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Please save Tuesday, November 15, 2005. We’ve scheduled our Annual Recognition Event for 5:30- 7:30 on this night.

We're excited to announce that this year's event will highlight another Detroit gem:  
[PuppetART - The Detroit Puppet Theater](#)

The event will be held at the PuppetART Center at 25 E. Grand River Avenue in Downtown Detroit. Invitations will be sent in October.

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

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

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