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April 2006

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, Community Legal Resources' volunteers have contributed an estimated \$5,000,000 in pro bono legal services to over 500 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.

Howard and Howard lawyer helps create "GreenWays" in Detroit

Paul Green of Howard and Howard

Paul Green of [Howard and Howard](#) is assisting three nonprofit organizations in Detroit as they work to develop landscaped pedestrian paths through the City as part of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan's [GreenWays Initiative](#). Green is providing legal advice and assistance to the Detroit Eastside Community Collaborative, Northwest Detroit Neighborhood Development and the [Southwest Detroit Business Association](#) as they work through the complexities of this innovative program to create recreation opportunities while making use of vacant land.

Grand Rapids attorney assists senior cooperative

Matthew Bishop of Miller Johnson

The Senior Citizens Service Cooperative, Inc. (SCOOP) is a Grand Rapids based nonprofit organization providing referral services to seniors for low cost professional home and yard repair and general maintenance performed by retired skilled trades persons. Seniors pay a one-time fee to become members and are then eligible for the referral service. Matthew Bishop at [Miller Johnson](#) is providing legal advice and assistance with updates and amendments to the nonprofit's Articles and Bylaws.

Attorney assists Flint affordable housing developer

A'jene Maxwell of Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP

[Salem Housing Community Development Corporation](#) is a nonprofit organization providing affordable housing through rehabilitation and construction activities in Flint neighborhoods. They also assist first time homebuyers with financial literacy counseling and work to revitalize Flint neighborhoods through urban gardening and community involvement. A'jene Maxwell at [Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP](#) is providing Salem with legal advice and assistance regarding contract issues.

Dykema lawyer provides web advice to nonprofit

Stephen Tupper of Dykema PLLC

[The Dysautonomia Information Network \(DINET\)](#) is a nonprofit based in Brooklyn, MI that provides internet based networking, support and education to persons affected by dysautonomia. Stephen Tupper at [Dykema Gossett PLLC](#) is providing legal advice about on-line forums and as well as the use of legal notices, terms of use and a privacy policy for DINET's website.

Attorneys conduct legal assessments of southeast Michigan nonprofits

Beginning in early 2006, attorneys from several law firms and corporations began offering pro bono legal assessments to CLR client organizations. The attorneys lead nonprofit executives through an assessment instrument that addresses nonprofit regulatory compliance, board activities and financial management, and then produce a written report for the nonprofit's board of directors. This effort is partially in support of a CLR partnership

with [New Detroit](#) which works to build the capacity of the nonprofit sector in Detroit and southeast Michigan. The following lawyers have conducted-- or are scheduled to conduct-- legal assessments for CLR clients:

- [General Motors Corporation](#): Steve Cernak, Joyce Kornbluh, Renee Phillips and Anthony Thrubis
- [Bodman LLP](#): Chris Dine and Terry Larkin
- [Dykema](#): Bowden Brown and Mark Peters
- [Foley & Lardner](#): Jay Harrington, Patrick LePine and Yvette VanRiper
- [Jaffe Raitt](#): Jennifer Oertel

Community Legal Resources welcomes new staff Sarida Scott and Heidi Mucherie join CLR team

Sarida Scott joined CLR in April as our Director of Legal Services and Policy. Sarida is responsible for providing direct legal services to clients, and for designing and implementing our educational initiatives, workshops and publications. She also oversees the legal aspects of CLR's policy advocacy work. Sarida was most recently an Assistant Corporation Counsel at the City of Detroit Law Department.

Heidi Mucherie joined CLR in February as our Pro Bono Program Manager. In this newly created position Heidi is responsible for managing requests for legal assistance, matching them with volunteer lawyers and conducting follow up and program evaluation. Because of her background in policy activity, Heidi is also involved in CLR's advocacy efforts around land redevelopment and transportation issues in the City of Detroit. Heidi was most recently a Planner with the Detroit City Planning Commission.

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Thank you!

email: azemboy@michiganlegal.org
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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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