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Subject: Community Legal Resources Pro Bono Brief

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Connecting Lawyers and Communities

January 2, 2007

Pro Bono Briefs

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

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.

New Projects for Volunteer Lawyers

Seeking attorneys interested in youth programs, historic

preservation and the affirmative action decision

Attorneys interested in any of the following issues are invited to contact Sarida Scott [via email](#) or at (313) 964-4130 x227 to learn more or sign up! Volunteer teams are being empanelled in January. This is a great way to begin the new year meeting your pro bono commitment, use your skills to help nonprofit organizations doing important work in our community, and work on something you care about.

1. *Lawyers for Youth Opportunities*

A new CLR initiative to assist Michigan's nonprofit youth programs



The number of nonprofit organizations providing youth programs is on the rise. While the need for these programs is undeniable, organizations must recognize the significant legal considerations involved in working with children. The *Lawyers for Youth Opportunities Project* will bring together a team of lawyers to develop and publish a manual to guide nonprofit organizations operating after-school, mentoring, tutoring and recreation programs for youth. The manual will address the liability, privacy, insurance, and risk management issues of which organizations should be aware. The attorney team will meet and develop its own plan for the content of the manual and will be assisted by CLR staff in the production of all materials.

2. *Legal Issues in Historic Preservation*

An effort to educate the public and preserve our past

Historic preservation in the City of Detroit has gained momentum in the past few years. If you work or spend any time in the downtown area, you are familiar with the recent renovation of the Guardian and Kales buildings or the efforts to preserve the Madison-Lenox hotel. CLR recognizes the value of historic preservation in maintaining our heritage and enhancing our environment. In an effort to support preservation in Detroit, CLR hopes to assist Preservation Wayne and other nonprofit preservation interests in addressing their legal advocacy needs. We will be facilitating a meeting between interested volunteer attorneys and these entities in early 2007 to identify potential issues and areas that may require legal assistance.



3. *Michigan's Affirmative Action Decision*

Understanding the implications for nonprofit organizations



The passage of Prop 2 this past November has potential implications for many of CLR's clients that offer programs for minorities or low-income women. At this time, it is unclear how this new constitutional amendment prohibiting public institutions from using affirmative action programs will be implemented or interpreted by courts. It will be important for organizations to understand the possible impacts of



the decision and identify what steps, if any, they should begin taking in order to preserve and grow their programs. CLR is to organizing an attorney team to discuss the decision, review existing case law, and make recommendations to our nonprofit clients regarding any actions they should or should not take in light of Prop 2. The attorney team will develop a plan for addressing the questions posed by CLR clients and assist CLR staff in advising organizations moving forward.

No Time to Volunteer?



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Thank you!

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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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