



Connecting Lawyers and Communities

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LEGAL AID NONPROFIT RECEIVES ITS OWN PRO BONO HELP Three Law Firms Demonstrate Exemplary Community Service

DETROIT – November 3, 2010 – Law firm Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss P.C. has volunteered one year of free legal assistance to Detroit nonprofit Community Legal Resources. The legal needs of CLR have increased due to substantial program and staff growth. This partnership provides pro bono legal assistance from Jaffe attorneys with expertise across a range of business legal needs.

Jaffe attorneys Jennifer Oertel, Frank Hoffman, Kevin Plumstead, and Ingrid Szura comprise CLR's pro bono team providing the legal assistance. Part of the community partnership program of Community Legal Resources (CLR), this is the first partnership created to support the legal needs of CLR.

The community partnership program was created by CLR to offer pro bono corporate counsel arrangements to community-based organizations. Each partnership lasts over the course of one year with the participating law firm devoting a team of attorneys tasked with addressing the organization's business legal needs.

The assistance of Jaffe attorneys has already made a difference for Community Legal Resources. Commercial real estate advice allowed the opening of the first branch office. Other areas of assistance include intellectual property, real estate and contract negotiations.

In addition to the community partnership with Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss, P.C., attorneys Chris Dine of Bodman LLP and Rebecca Simkins of Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker, P.L.L.C. recently provided extensive pro bono legal assistance to CLR. Rebecca is an employment law expert and helped CLR update its employment policies and hiring procedures. Chris Dine, a nonprofit law specialist and CLR board member, was instrumental in updating CLR's corporate documents to reflect an expanded mission.

The mission of Community Legal Resources is to support and empower nonprofit community organizations in Michigan that serve low-income individuals and communities, with an emphasis on community economic development, by providing pro bono legal services and technical assistance. Founded in 1998, CLR has provided over \$9 million in free legal assistance to over 900 nonprofits in Michigan and vacant property related assistance to over 200 community organizations in Detroit. Find CLR at www.clronline.org and www.detroitvacantproperty.org and on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Peplemovers.