



Connecting Lawyers and Communities

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### **LOCAL NONPROFIT OPENS FIRST BRANCH LOCATION Lansing Office Will Help Fulfill Statewide Mission**

DETROIT – November 3, 2010 – Community Legal Resources (CLR) announced today that it is opening its first branch office in Lansing. Located in the Michigan Historic Preservation Network building, the new office will help expand CLR's services across Michigan.

Staffing the Lansing branch office will be Justin Sheehan, statewide pro bono manager for Community Legal Resources. Justin joined CLR in November of 2009 and immediately began working on strengthening relationships and building clientele in order to create a Lansing branch office.

"We have made great inroads in the nonprofit and legal communities. An investment in a physical address in Lansing is a practical demonstration of our commitment to and presence across the state," shared Justin from the Lansing office.

The new location is a 150 square foot office in the Old Town section of Lansing. An agreement has been signed with the Michigan Historic Preservation Network, a CLR partner. By sharing office space, CLR is able to expand its geographic reach while consolidating costs.

The new location is also conveniently close to important CLR partners, including the State Bar of Michigan, Michigan Nonprofit Association, Michigan State Bar Foundation, Community Economic Development Association of Michigan and Michigan State Housing Development and Authority.

Community Legal Resources has provided legal and technical assistance to nonprofits across Michigan since its founding in 1998. The opening of the Lansing office capitalizes on the work Justin is accomplishing across the state and fulfills a long time strategic goal. CLR's chief executive officer Heidi Alcock Mucherie added, "This has long been a goal of ours, and we are so excited to see it happen - we couldn't have asked for a better location."

"An additional office in Lansing is a strategic step that allows us to better connect and serve community-based organizations throughout the state," said Sarida Scott, chief program officer, "This office is vital in meeting our program goals."

The Lansing branch office is up and running and an open house is being planned for early next year. The contact information for the Lansing office is 107 E. Grand River Avenue, Lansing, MI 48906. The finalization of the lease contract was made possible through the assistance of attorney Jennifer Oertel from the law firm Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss.

Additional questions about the Lansing office can be directed to Maya Cadwell Stovall, chief operating officer.

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](http://www.clronline.org) and [www.detroitvacantproperty.org](http://www.detroitvacantproperty.org) and on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Peplemovers.