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## **MICHIGAN COMMUNITY RESOURCES DEVELOPS NEW LEGAL AND FINANCE CLINIC FOR LOCAL NONPROFITS**

DETROIT – October 1, 2013 – Michigan Community Resources, a nonprofit organization, hosted a first-of-its-kind legal and financial compliance review clinic on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The one-day clinic was held in the downtown Detroit office of Dykema.

Based off of their award-winning legal compliance clinic, Michigan Community Resources (MCR) added the financial component to help build the capacity and improve the business practices of local nonprofit organizations. MCR collaborated with volunteer attorneys from Dykema and Ford Motor Company, along with accounting and tax leaders from Deloitte and the Ford Motor Company General Auditor’s Office to accomplish this goal.

The expanded clinic program, which was developed by Deloitte and Ford Motor Company, provided insight and practical advice and suggestions related to an organization’s operations and financial procedures. Topics included: board oversight, corporate governance, organizational documents, tax compliance, operations & employment, intellectual property, accounting, internal controls, fraud prevention and more. The attorneys and financial consultants explained necessary regulations, laws, and best practices, answered questions, and identified areas of potential enhancement for the organizations to consider.

“Michigan Community Resources strives to address the varying needs of our clients, beyond legal compliance,” said Jill Ferrari, chief executive officer of MCR. “Therefore, we are very excited to pilot this clinic that focuses on their complex financial needs as well.”

The clinic also diminished fears of nonprofit executives by helping them to understand and address compliance issues. Many nonprofits, due to limited staff, funding, or other reasons, are unaware of their legal compliance requirements and financial best practices, or don’t know how to address them.

“I found it really helpful and the topics included things that often wake you up in the middle of the night but you never get to – even though you should,” said Amy Amador, executive director of Mercy Education Project.

“Helping nonprofit organizations ensure their policies and procedures are fully compliant with legal requirements lets the leaders of these groups focus on what they do best: serving the needs of their constituents,” said

Heidi Naasko, Dykema's Pro Bono Counsel. "Few things are as satisfying as assisting community organizations who help those most in need."

Any outstanding legal issues revealed during the review will be referred to a volunteer attorney through MCR's pro bono legal referral program.

"This was a great collaboration of legal, accounting, financial advisory and tax professionals to help improve performance of our local nonprofits," said Rob Biskup, director, Deloitte Financial Advisory Services LLP. "The clinic was also a professionally rewarding experience for our participants."

Nonprofits that participated in the clinic included Mercy Education Project, Dominican Literacy Center, Siena Literacy Center, Reading Works, Villages Community Development Corporation, and LAND Inc.

Pro bono services provided at the clinic are valued at over \$35,000 to local nonprofits.

"The volunteers at this clinic are some of the most highly-regarded legal and financial experts in the region. That they are willing to volunteer their services to our clients speaks volumes about their dedication to serving the community," said Wendy Richards, director of legal & policy programs at MCR. "Clinics like this help us meet our mission of strengthening nonprofits and the low-income communities they serve."

Interested nonprofits can contact Michigan Community Resources about upcoming clinics and other events.

### **About Michigan Community Resources**

Michigan Community Resources supports and empowers 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, MCR has provided over \$12 million in free legal assistance to over 1,200 nonprofits in Michigan and vacant property related assistance to over 200 community organizations in Detroit. Learn more at [www.mi-community.org](http://www.mi-community.org).

### **About Dykema**

Dykema serves business entities worldwide on a wide range of complex legal issues. Dykema lawyers and other professionals in 13 U.S. offices work in close partnership with clients – from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies – to deliver outstanding results, unparalleled service and exceptional value in every engagement. To learn more, visit [www.dykema.com](http://www.dykema.com) and follow Dykema on Twitter <http://twitter.com/Dykema>.

### **About Deloitte Community Engagement**

Deloitte helps people and communities thrive in three ways:

- Leveraging innovative thinking to strengthen nonprofit capacity by helping with strategic, operational and financial challenges, so nonprofits can help more people and communities faster and better.
- Complementing innovative thinking with an investment of financial resources at the national and regional level.
- Creating and sharing new research, content and insights on ways organizations can leverage skills-based volunteerism

### **About Ford Motor Company**

Ford Motor Company, a global automotive industry leader based in Dearborn, Mich., manufactures or distributes automobiles across six continents. With about 177,000 employees and 65 plants worldwide, the company's automotive brands include Ford and Lincoln. The company provides financial services through Ford Motor Credit Company. For more information regarding Ford and its products worldwide, please visit [corporate.ford.com](http://corporate.ford.com).