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NONPROFIT, LAW FIRM WORK TOGETHER FOR CAPITAL AREA NONPROFITS

DETROIT – July 3, 2013 – On Wednesday, June 12th, Michigan Community Resources and Dykema Gossett PLLC hosted a legal compliance clinic for the benefit of three Capital-area nonprofits.

Michigan Community Resources (MCR), a statewide nonprofit, developed its legal compliance clinic to help build capacity and improve the operations of small nonprofit organizations. Many nonprofits, due to limited staff, funding, or other reasons, are either unaware of their legal compliance requirements, or don't know how to address them.

"This can put a nonprofit at serious risk," says Justin Sheehan, statewide program manager from MCR, who planned the clinic. "This is an example of what you don't know can hurt you. If a nonprofit does not address these issues, it could be fined, sued, have its nonprofit status revoked, or its doors shut. The legal compliance clinics are intended to prevent these from happening and to help take the nonprofit to the next level."

The legal compliance clinic provides a comprehensive analysis of an organization's operations. Topics include: organizational documents, tax exemption and compliance, finance, solicitation and fundraising, operations & employment, intellectual property, and more. The attorneys explain necessary regulations, laws, and best practices, answer questions, and identify areas of concern.

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

The legal compliance clinic not only flags areas of concern. It also provides reassurance to nonprofit leaders who invoke best practices.

"We are more confident in our compliance," said Angie Mayeaux of Haven House. "We received great compliments on things we didn't even know we were doing. I can't thank the attorneys enough."

Hosted at Dykema's Lansing office, eight attorneys from Dykema and several local corporations volunteered their time and expertise at the clinic. William J. Perrone, Office Managing Member of Dykema's Lansing Office, observes, "Dykema's commitment to providing legal assistance to those who have been denied ready access to the justice system

is long-standing. The legal compliance clinic is a prime example of how our firm donates its time and talent to help the communities in which we live and work.”

Nonprofits that participated in the clinic include Haven House, Center for Financial Health, and Allen Neighborhood Center.

Made possible through funding from Capital Region Community Foundation, MCR is planning additional clinics in Lansing and other areas of Michigan.

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.

About Dykema

Dykema serves business entities worldwide on a wide range of complex legal issues. Dykema lawyers and other professionals in 12 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 and follow Dykema on Twitter <http://twitter.com/Dykema>.

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