



AT THE LEGAL CLINIC

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED, INC.

Winter 2006

LEGAL CLINIC FOR THE DISABLED, INC.
1513 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-587-3350
www.legalclinicforthedisabled.org

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UNITED WAY

DONOR CHOICE # 1720

The official registration and financial information of the Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Inc. is available from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1 (800) 732-0999.

A VALENTINE TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

In the spirit of Valentines Day I am taking this opportunity to recognize volunteers as the very heart of the Legal Clinic. Volunteers and their dedication to serve the needs of people with disabilities embody the spirit and the lifeblood of the Legal Clinic.

I am constantly amazed at the resourcefulness of Legal Clinic volunteers. Our volunteer attorneys often take on long term representation; for example, Chris Roe's seven-year odyssey in Common Pleas and Commonwealth Courts to obtain attendant care services for a quadriplegic man, and Montgomery McCracken's yearlong effort to reclaim a woman's home from the estranged son who forced her out of it.

Legal Clinic special events volunteers spend many hours performing the painstaking, difficult work to make events successful and assure the continuation of the Legal Clinic's work.

For more than a decade, volunteer accountants from Isdamer & Co. have prepared the Legal Clinic's financial statements and tax returns.

The Legal Clinic's Board of Directors, led by Amy Slater, and the Advisory Board, led by Legal Clinic founder Tom Brown, are composed of long term dedicated members whose vision and guidance have been an integral part of the Legal Clinic's success.

I am also grateful to LCD's paid staff. Following in the footsteps of former Legal Clinic staffers such as Louise Pangborn, Jackie Saber, Nicole Johnson, Deb Domino, Esther Miller and Kate Reznick, the Legal Clinic's current staff and ED Tom Prettyman go above and beyond in giving their time at special events.

The Legal Clinic has been fortunate in its Executive Directors: Mary Vilter, Beth Cross, Spencer Rand, Joyce Collier and Victoria Chase. Their leadership and commitment to the Legal Clinic has set the standard of excellence from which the Legal Clinic operates.

I want to personally thank each and every one our volunteers past and present for all they have done to support the Legal Clinic in its mission of making legal services available to low income persons with disabilities.

Mary O'Donnell-Green
Board of Directors

VOLUNTEER STORIES

VOLUNTEER ANDREA D'AMBRA HELPS DYING CLIENT PREPARE STANDBY GUARDIANSHIP FOR DAUGHTERS. In Fall 2005, the Legal Clinic received word that Cindy was dying of cancer and given 3 weeks to live. Cindy wanted to ensure that her mother would be the guardian of Cindy's minor daughters after Cindy passed away. Cindy feared that the daughter's father, who had moved out of Pennsylvania and out of his children's life, would try to take the children away from their grandmother. Attorney **Andrea D'Ambra** of **Drinker Biddle** volunteered to prepare and file standby guardianship papers for Cindy. Knowing time was short, Andrea quickly met with Cindy in the hospital, prepared the papers, and had Cindy sign them. Sadly, Cindy died. But the court granted Cindy's mother permanent standby guardianship and, thanks to Andrea, Cindy's children now live with their grandmother.

VOLUNTEER MICHAEL GOSS HELPS CLIENT ADMINISTER DAUGHTER'S ESTATE. Nancy's daughter died without a will, leaving a small bank account and a young daughter, who was Nancy's granddaughter. Attorney **Michael M. Goss** volunteered to represent Nancy, who has severe arthritis and congestive heart failure. He helped her obtain letters of administration over her deceased daughter's estate. Mr. Goss obtained the bank account funds for Nancy so that Nancy could use the money for her granddaughter.

VOLUNTEERS RON SHAFFER AND KELLY CHARNLEY OBTAIN SECURITY DEPOSIT FOR CLIENT. Casey, who has mobility impairments due to neurological damage and degenerative disc disease, moved out of his apartment in Spring 2005. His landlord refused to return his security deposit. Representing Casey in a Philadelphia Municipal Court action against the landlord, volunteer attorneys **Ron Shaffer** and **Kelly Charnley** of **Fox Rothschild** negotiated a settlement with the landlord.

FOR A LARGE PRINT
VERSION OF THIS
PUBLICATION,
PLEASE CALL US AT
215-587-3350.

ACCOUNTING OUR BLESSINGS. Volunteers from all walks of life have donated their time and talent to the Legal Clinic. One example of this diversity in volunteerism is **Isdaner & Company**. Since 1992 dedicated volunteers from Isdaner & Company (www.isdaner.com), a Bala Cynwyd certified public accounting firm, have prepared the Legal Clinic's financial statements and tax returns and given valuable tax and accounting advice. Many thanks to the current team of Isdaner volunteers, **Alan Bertram**, **Annya Olearchyk**, **Angela Ross** and **Jim Hamlet** and to the many other Isdaner & Company employees who have supported the Legal Clinic.



Left to right: Isdaner & Company's Alan Bertram, Annya Olearchyk and Angela Ross.

LEGAL CLINIC TO PRESENT WHITE HAT AWARDS TO EXCEPTIONAL VOLUNTEERS. The Legal Clinic will present its 2006 White Hat Awards to four attorneys at the April 6, 2006 Spring Celebration and Silent Auction. The award winners are **Joanna Tibbels** and **Leonard Busby** of **Montgomery McCracken**, **Natalie Grill Einsig** of **Pepper Hamilton** and **Andrea D'Ambra** of **Drinker Biddle**. Since last winter Joanna, Leonard and Natalie have worked diligently on a complicated and bitter quiet title and ejectment case for a woman with arthritis. On only a few days notice, Andrea stepped in to help a terminally ill client prepare and file papers to appoint a standby guardian for the client's children. Thank you Joanna, Leonard, Natalie and Andrea! You are a credit to your firms and to the Philadelphia legal community.

BUSINESS & FINANCE SECTION

JONES DAY AND LEGAL CLINIC TO MERGE, CREATE CORPORATE AND POVERTY LAW POWERHOUSE. The Legal Clinic for the Disabled and law firm behemoth **Jones Day** will merge, sources announced yesterday. The combined firm, to be called **Jones Disabled**, will be headquartered at the Legal Clinic's office at **Magee Rehabilitation Hospital** in Philadelphia. With 250 Jones Day lawyers and staff transferring from Cleveland, New York and DC to Philadelphia, the Legal Clinic's already tight office space is going to get even tighter.

Experts are calling the marriage a perfect fit.

"First, the Legal Clinic gives us a Philadelphia presence and a new flagship office," said Jones Day co-founder, **Thomas Jones**. "Second, our poverty law department historically has been weak. Our only low income client with a disability right now is **General Motors**."

The merger beefs up Jones Day's client rolls with hundreds of poor people.

Jones said a third motive for the merger is financial. As in other big firms, salaries for Jones Day's associates have skyrocketed in recent years – Jones Day's average base salary for first year associates was \$195,000 last year – leaving less money for the equity partners. The problem disappears with the merger: Jones Disabled will adopt the Legal Clinic's salary structure firmwide.

"While the salary correction might make recruiting a challenge, we feel we can still compete for top law graduates by offering generous benefits and decreasing our billable hours requirement to 2250," said Jones.

Asked the Legal Clinic's motive for the deal, a Legal Clinic source said, "Frankly, we just need a better fax machine. Ours jams a lot. Jones promised us a new one. Until then, do you mind just mailing us everything?"

DID YOU KNOW?

You can now donate to the Legal Clinic online. For more information, please visit www.legalclinicforthedisabled.org/donations.asp

PROBATE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
The Legal Clinic needs volunteer attorneys and paralegals to take cases involving probate of simple estates. To volunteer, contact the Legal Clinic at 215-587-3350.



Law firm founders Jones and Day pose with Tom Prettyman after inking merger deal.

FUNDING NEWS

LEGAL CLINIC RECEIVES GRANT FROM FOURJAY FOUNDATION FOR FREE LEGAL SERVICES TO DEAF CLIENTS. The **Fourjay Foundation** has awarded the Legal Clinic a \$3000 one-year grant to fund the Legal Services for the Deaf Project. In 2005, the Legal Clinic staff and volunteers represented deaf or hard of hearing clients in 20 cases in areas like domestic violence, child support, consumer fraud, landlord-tenant, and estates. The Fourjay Foundation grant will pay for attorney time and sign language interpreters in 2006.

LEGAL CLINIC RECEIVES GRANT FROM SEYMOUR KALSTEIN FOUNDATION. Recently the Legal Clinic received an unexpected but very welcome \$1000 contribution from the **Seymour Kalstein Foundation**. The Seymour Kalstein Foundation was formed by Lydia Kalstein as a way of providing support for her son, Seymour Kalstein, who had Multiple Sclerosis. After her son's death at the age of 60, Mrs. Kalstein and the Foundation continued to provide financial support to organizations that support individuals with disabilities and special needs. Although Mrs. Kalstein herself died in 2003, the Seymour Kalstein Foundation continues its philanthropic work through the efforts of **Paul Feldman of Feldman & Feldman**, who currently administers the foundation. Mr. Feldman himself is a Legal Clinic volunteer. A recognized elder law specialist, he is always a phone call away when a member of the Legal Clinic staff has an estates, trusts or guardianship question.

MORE VOLUNTEER STORIES

LOUISE PANGBORN TO RECEIVE 2006 SPECIAL VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION AWARD. There are many ways to contribute to the Legal Clinic. **Louise Pangborn**, this year's Special Volunteer Recognition Award winner, has perfected most of them. Louise began her involvement with the Legal Clinic in 1995 as an Intake Paralegal. Upon leaving the Legal Clinic's employment in 1998, Louise maintained her strong ties to the Legal Clinic as a donor, a committee volunteer, and a member and officer on the Legal Clinic Board of Directors. For many years she chaired the Stroll and Roll Committee, and she continues to serve on both the Stroll and Roll and Silent Auction Committee. Her grace and wisdom in handling anything and everything that comes her way has made her invaluable to the Legal Clinic. Thank you Louise! The Legal Clinic will present Louise with her award at the April 6, 2006 Spring Celebration and Silent Auction.

LEGAL CLINIC TEAMS WITH VILLANOVA LAW SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS TO EDUCATE INGLIS HOUSE RESIDENTS AND CONSUMERS ABOUT WILLS, POWERS OF ATTORNEY AND LIVING WILLS. On January 18, 2006, the Legal Clinic teamed up with **Villanova Law School** to give a free legal clinic at **Inglis House** in Philadelphia. Villanova law students **Jasmine Henderson, Mary Kaye Jacono, Keith Pabian, Brian Pelloni, Tip Reilly** and **Jaelyn Shea** presented information on wills, living wills and powers of attorney to Inglis residents and day program participants. Helping to organize the event were Villanova Law School's Director of Public Service Careers & Pro Bono Programs, **Sara Woods**, and **Maria Dewan, Amanda Dovidio, Patty Fitzpatrick, Diane Hunter, Margie Kernicky** and **Father Shawn Tracy**. **Inglis House** (<http://www.inglis.org>) provides nursing home services for nearly 300 adults and community-based programs for people with physical disabilities, including adult day programs, at-home attendant care, employment services, and medical equipment services.

REED SMITH AND LEGAL CLINIC TEAM UP FOR HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE. In 2005, volunteers from **Reed Smith** and the Legal Clinic teamed up to buy and wrap toys and deliver them to 77 children of Legal Clinic clients. Reed Smith volunteers raised money to buy the toys through bake sales, luncheons, jeans days, an indoor flea market, silent auctions, and two raffles.

Reed Smith's volunteers were **Natalie Albertini, Gaye Bigby, Pam Billops, Chinita Coleman, Valerie Eaves, Gail Evangelista, Caroline Flotron, Virginia Forman, Natalie Haynes, Lorraine Heckler, Alexis Hemingway, Helen Howlett, Lorraine Kane, Lily Leong, Kim Manning, Florence Martello, Eileen Moller, Rhona Mondelblatt, Sharon O'Rourke, Annette Rapinesi,**

Heather Ritch, Chris Shayka, Cassandra Summers, Tracy Weiss, and Lyna White, all of Reed Smith. Thanks also to **Ron Siggs** (Magee Rehabilitation Hospital), **Frank Cervone** (Support Center for Child Advocates), **Linda Peyton** and **Bill McLaughlin** (Legal Clinic for the Disabled), **Aurora Thoder Goodman, Victoria Chase-Walters, Joyce Collier** and **Marcus Ferreira** for their participation in the effort.



Front Row (from left): Tom Prettyman (Legal Clinic for the Disabled), Heather Ritch (Reed Smith). *Back Row:* Chris Shayka (Reed Smith), Lily Leong (Reed Smith), Natalie Albertini (Reed Smith), and Chris Walters (Reed Smith Senior Pro Bono Counsel).

DID YOU KNOW?

FREE HELP WITH TAXES! Don't be fooled by private tax preparation agencies' promises of "instant cash"! These private agencies generally charge high fees and keep a large portion of your refund. Fortunately, many organizations in the Philadelphia area will help low income people prepare their returns **for free**. They will help you claim any earned income and child credits to which you are entitled and file your return for you. You can get your refund as quickly as 8 to 10 days after filing, and unlike with private tax agencies, **you get to keep all of your refund**. For free tax help, contact one of the following organizations:

- Temple University. Mon., Weds., Fri. (10am-2pm), Tues., Thurs. (2pm-7pm) 215-787-1000
- Congreso de Latinos Unidos. Weds., Thurs. (6pm-7:30pm), Sat. (9am- 1pm) 215-763-8870 ext 1440
- The Free Library. Mon., Weds. (4pm-7pm) Sat. (1pm-4pm) 215-686-5330.
- Your local church or community organization.

For more locations, call Campaign for Working Families at 215-851-1886 or visit their website at <http://www.gpuac.org/programs/CampaignforWorkingFamilies.htm>. For legal help on a tax dispute with the IRS, call Villanova Law School's Federal Tax Clinic at (610)-519-4123.

THANKS AND HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE WHO VOLUNTEERED FOR THE LEGAL CLINIC IN 2005 AND 2006.

Each of these people volunteered in some way for the Legal Clinic, either by taking a pro bono case; preparing our tax returns and financial statements; advising a staff attorney on the law; helping with special events, the toy drive or fundraising; serving on a committee, the Board of Directors or the Advisory Board; or working in our office. Thank you!

David Abernethy	Ryan Fleming	Brian Katz	Joan Rogers
Natalie Albertini	Caroline Flotron	Carl E. Kennedy	Mary Catherine Roper
Vera Amaral	Joe Foley	Paul J. Kennedy	Susan J. Rosenberg
Ryan Anderson	Joy Fontaine	Chris Klein	Jeffrey Rosenblum
Brian Appel	Karen Foreman, Esq.	Lawrence J. Kotler	Angela Ross
Aisha Barbour	Virginia Forman	Rebecca F. Kraut	Peter Rossi
Mary Jane Barrett	Lawrence Fox	Lily Leong	Juliet Sarkessian
Michael Basch	Anthony Fratianne	Jeffrey Lichtman	Ziggy Schatz
Edward Behm	Eric Freed	Valerie Lichtman	Sandy Schmehl
Lillian Benedict	Steven Freedman	Andrew Linenberg	Therese Tallarico
Alan Bertram	Beth Freeman	Stephen Madva	Schweikert
Officer Timothy W. Bickel	Gary M. Friedland	Kim Manning	Ron Shaffer
Gaye Bigby	Mark Frost	Florence Martello	Harvey Shapiro
Pam Billops	Alfred R. Fuscaldo	Darryl J. May	Robert Shaw
Sean Brogan	Marnie Gangel	Dennis McAndrews	Chris Shayka
Thomas Brown	Aimee S. Genuardi	Thomas McCourt	Michael Silbert
Jamie Burdette	Rachel W. Glavis	Lauren McCutcheon	Cheryl Sims
Thomas Burke	Jessica C. Goebeler	Todd S. McGarvey	Amy Slater
Leonard A. Busby	Caren Goldstein	Loretta McLaughlin	Jerry Sokolow
D. Craig Callaghan	James Golkow	Kathryn Meloni	Chris Sondergard
Jeffrey Campolongo	Aurora Thoder Goodman	Mia Meloni	Bernadette Sparling
Evan Caplan	Michael Goss	Jeffrey Meyers	Mary Stokes
Victoria Chase-Walters	Betty Green	Andrew S. Miller	Cassandra Summers
Christine Ciarrocchi	John Green	Esther Miller	Andrew F. Susko
City Source, Inc.	Jordana Greenwald	Eileen Moller	Jennifer Tatum
Chinita Coleman	Deborah G. Groeber	Rhona Mondelblatt	Stuart Taubes
Joyce Collier	Miguel Guerreiro	Tina Mongiello	Meghan Thomson
Susan G. Collings	Jill A. Guldin	Christine A. Morse	Joanna E. Tibbels
Mia Qian Miller Collins	Adam T. Gusdorff	Peter Muhic	Vincent van Laar
Jamie S. Cox	Jim Hamlet	Lathrop B. Nelson	Michael L. Viola
MaryEllen Daley	Natalie Haynes	Joanne G. Noble	Michael Warner
Andrea D'Ambra	Lorraine Heckler	Caryl Oberman	Gordan Wase
Lauren DeBruicker	Alexis Hemingway	Kathy Ochroch	Lisa Washington
David Denenberg	Daniel Hessel	Mary O'Donnell-Green	Justin Weinburgh
Suzanne H. dePillis	Joshua S. Horenstein	Annya Olearchyk	Tracy Weiss
Pat Dubin	Helen Howlett	Kathy O'Neill	Whitney Whisenhunt
Valerie Eaves	Barbara Hughes	Sharon O'Rourke	Lyna White
Walter Einhorn, Jr.	Karen M. Ibach	Louise Pangborn	John Woods
Natalie G. Einsig	Kimberly Ingersoll	Jim Pepper	Bernard Zbrzezni
Gail Evangelista	Heather Janssen	Jonathan Pyle	
Chris Evans	Kristin Hynd Jones	Spencer Rand	
Paul Feldman	Professor Donald Joseph	Annette Rapinesi	
Kathy Filarsky	Chris Kain	Kate Reznick	
Michael Basch	Lorraine Kane	Heather Ritch	
Ronald Fisher		Christopher Roe	

***THANKS ALSO TO
ANY OF YOU WE
FORGOT TO LIST!***

2006 White Hat Award Winners

Joanna Tibbels and **Leonard Busby** of Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads

Natalie G. Einsig of Pepper Hamilton

Andrea D'Ambra of Drinker Biddle

2006 Special Volunteer Recognition Award Winner

Louise Pangborn, Vice President and Secretary of the Legal Clinic for the Disabled



Legal Clinic for the Disabled, Inc.
1513 Race Street
Philadelphia, PA 19102

UNITED WAY DONOR CHOICE # 1720

SAVE THE DATE!

**Fourth Annual Spring Celebration and
Silent Auction**

**Thursday, April 6, 2006
5:00 - 8:00 pm**

Tickets \$40

at Blank Rome LLP
**One Logan Square
18th & Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103**

Featuring fine catered hors d'oeuvres, beer
and wine, and music by singer-songwriter
MELODY GARDOT and country,
bluegrass and folk band **JOHN TRAIN**