How can we help your community?

Lawyers for Neighborhoods

Law Center (410) 366-0922

Community Law Center

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Legal Briefs—Community Law Center’s annual fundraiser bash—raised funds, friends, and fame for Community Law Center in October 2009. Chief Judge Robert M. Bell and other prominent members of the legal community—with the help of local artists—decorated briefcases auctioned at the event. Food and beverages were generously donated by area restaurants and caterers.

Sponsors

XXXXX

Honorary artists

Legal Briefs
HOW WE HELP COMMUNITIES

HOUSING
“The amount of legal expertise needed was overwhelming … CLC kept us alive.”

Michael Mazepink / Executive Director / People’s Homesteading Group

In Brief: People’s Homesteading Group was helped by Community Law Center throughout the group’s rehabilitation and sale to low-income homeowners of historic houses in the Greenmount community. “The Community Law Center has been with us every step of the way through the acquisition, redevelopment, and sale of houses in our community. ... We could not have done it without them.”

NUISANCE ABATEMENT
“Without Community Law Center we would not be able to afford legal assistance.”

Jane Buchanan / President / Hollins Roundhouse

In Brief: Community Law Center represented the Hollins Roundhouse Association, a Southwest Baltimore neighborhood group, to close a bar that was a haven for drugs and violence after the licensees violated an earlier agreement with the community to move the license to a different location. This action has made their community safer and quieter. “Community Law Center provides an invaluable service for communities.”

NONPROFIT
“CLC was a great help to us as we worked through the challenging time of getting started, providing support every step along the way.”

Aimee Gavrin Glasgow / President / B-More Dog

In Brief: Community Law Center represented B-More Dog, Inc., a small, committed group dedicated to helping Baltimore residents understand the importance of responsible dog ownership. CLC helped with incorporation and tax-exempt status. “CLC was a great help ... not just with the technical legal paperwork, but offering suggestions of other resources that are available to nonprofit groups.”

ENVIRONMENT
“Community Law Center made an enormous difference in our quickly becoming an effective advocate for Baltimore’s community gardens and open spaces.”

Mireia Avins / Founder / Baltimore Green Space

In Brief: Community Law Center represented Baltimore Green Space, a land trust that obtains title to community-managed open spaces to protect them from future development and preserve them for community use. CLC helped the group to incorporate, obtain 501(c)(3) status, review land acquisitions, streamline the transfer City-owned land, and obtain property tax exemption for community-managed open spaces. “Community Law Center has been an indispensable partner.”

WAYS WE HELP
Types of Cases Handled in 2009

- Nonprofit Formation & Reorganization: 30%
- Nuisance Abatement: 22%
- Vacant Property Acquisition & Rehabilitation: 17%
- Research & Analysis: 13%
- Environmental: 4%
- Contracts: 2%
- Other: 4%

WHO WE HELP
Types of Clients Represented in 2009

- Neighborhood Association: 50%
- Housing & Community Development: 18%
- Education, Youth & Family: 15%
- Environmental & Animal Welfare: 4%
- Health & Substance Abuse Treatment: 3%
- Consumer: 2%
- Arts: 13%
- Other: 5%

Helping Communities
Community Law Center, a nonprofit law firm, provides legal services to community and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland to promote stronger and more vibrant neighborhoods.

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communitylaw.org
COMMUNITY LAW CENTER is a unique and essential resource for strengthening Maryland’s nonprofit sector and neighborhood-based revitalization efforts. Our attorneys teach people to come together to take charge of their neighborhoods, stand up for what they need, and work together to accomplish their goals. Our clients learn that the law is for the people to use to achieve their goals, protect their rights, and strengthen their neighborhoods.

COMMUNITY LAW CENTER remains the only Maryland organization that provides legal representation solely to community associations and nonprofit organizations. Staff attorneys provide these legal services in our Community Legal Services Program while volunteer attorneys offer their legal expertise in our Pro Bono Program:

▸ STAFF ATTORNEYS IN OUR COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM reinforced Community Organizing, Community development corporations, and nonprofits in Baltimore City to bring neighborhood revitalization goals to fruition. Examples of the work include assisting Baltimore residents with issues ranging from securing vacant houses to closing nuisance bars, appealing a zoning exception to creating a community garden. Staff attorneys also assist community development corporations with the development of affordable housing, and residents with the creation of Community Benefits Agreements to give them a strong voice in the decision-making process for proposed development in their neighborhoods.

▸ VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS IN OUR PRO BONO PROGRAM are matched with community and nonprofit organizations throughout Maryland to provide the legal assistance these organizations need to achieve their missions. Pro Bono attorneys handle the complex legal matters faced by communities and nonprofits as they strive to provide essential services and improve the stability, health, safety, and attractiveness of neighborhoods.

IN ADDITION, OUR PROJECT TO END PREDATORY & DECEPTIVE REAL ESTATE PRACTICES worked to make Maryland and regional real estate markets function more honestly by encouraging enforcement of laws to prevent real estate fraud and deception, improving practices for sales of City-owned property, and educating communities how to avoid predatory, deceptive, and discriminatory real estate practices.

WE COULD NOT BUILD THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH of Maryland’s communities without your generous support. Thanks again to our financial contributors and volunteer lawyers for all that you have done over the past year to further our mission. We look forward to leveraging the law to help Maryland’s community and nonprofit organizations improve more neighborhoods in the years to come.

WITH MANY THANKS,

KRISTINE DUNKERTON, ESQ.
PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
JOHN GEPHART, J.D., M.B.A.
VICE PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS — 7%
PROGRAM — 87%

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

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<th>Revenue Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>Contributed professional fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributed rent</td>
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1,058,228

Grants from governmental agencies     107,634

925,892

Fees                                  22,668

Miscellaneous                         487

Total revenues, gains and other support 1,169,017

EXPENSES

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<td>Management and general</td>
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<td>Total revenues, gains and other support</td>
<td>1,169,017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>1,230,483</td>
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Change in net assets — beginning of year 257,545

Change in net assets — end of year $196,079

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS / 2009

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program</td>
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