



*The*  
**Legal Aid Society**  
*of Cleveland*  
*Since 1905*

**For Immediate Release**

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**LEGAL AID IN LAKEWOOD**

***Legal Aid partners with volunteer attorneys from Giffen & Kaminski LLC and in house counsel from Key Bank***

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The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is pleased to announce the first Brief Advice and Referral Clinic in Lakewood, OH. The clinic will be held on Saturday, November 18th, from 10 am – 12 noon, at Sts. Cyril & Methodius School (1639 Alameda Avenue). This event is part of an ongoing series of drop-in legal brief advice clinics sponsored by Legal Aid's **Volunteer Lawyers Program** in various Northeast Ohio neighborhood locations. Attorneys from the law firm of **Giffen & Kaminski LLC and in house counsel from KeyBank** will staff the civil legal advice clinic for low-income individuals and families.

Ann McGowan Porath, Managing Attorney of Legal Aid's Intake & Referral Unit remarks "We truly appreciate the leadership of Karen Kaminski, a founding partner of Giffen & Kaminski, and Cleveland Bar Association President-elect in recognizing the importance of offering pro bono assistance to the larger Northeast Ohio community. Jeff Peters, the firm liaison, organized the volunteer partnership with in-house counsel at KeyBank to offer this opportunity for low-income residents of the near west side community."

The Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP), organized in collaboration with both the Cleveland Bar Association's *Our Commitment to Our Community* and the Cuyahoga County Bar Association, mobilizes private attorneys to assist in making legal advice and representation more accessible to low income persons and families. During the clinics, volunteer lawyers offer general advice, information or referrals to individuals with civil legal issues, including divorce, contracts and bankruptcy, as well as problems with public benefit systems. The attorneys do not handle criminal cases. Interested persons should bring all relevant paperwork.

"Some people are intimidated by the legal process or don't know how to begin seeking answers. That leads to frustration and worse, disenfranchisement," asserts Lakewood's Ward 4 councilperson Mary Louise Madigan. She views the partnership as a community building activity, one that connects Lakewood residents to immediate information and action which, over time, will result in stronger neighborhoods.

Since 1905, The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland has provided high-quality free legal assistance to low income clients in Northeast Ohio. More than 8500 cases are handled annually by Legal Aid's 45 full-time attorneys and an additional 1500 cases are resolved with volunteers.

For further information, please contact Legal Aid at (216) 687-1900, or visit [www.lasclev.org](http://www.lasclev.org).

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