## For Immediate Release

November 6, 2006 Page 1/1 Contact:

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# FREE LEGAL ADVICE IN ASHTABULA COUNTY Legal Aid partners with volunteer attorneys from Andrews & Pontius LLC

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is pleased to announce the first Brief Advice and Referral Clinic in Ashtabula County. The Clinic will be held on Wednesday, November 15, 5pm – 7pm, at Legal Aid's Ashtabula Office (121 East Walnut Street in Jefferson, OH). This event is part of an ongoing series of drop-in legal clinics sponsored by Legal Aid's Volunteer Lawyers Program in various Northeast Ohio neighborhood locations. Attorneys from the Ashtabula law firm of Andrews & Pontius LLC will staff the civil legal clinic for low-income individuals and families.

Davida Dodson, Managing Attorney of Legal Aid's Ashtabula office says, "Access to justice is an ethical obligation shared by all Ohio attorneys. We are grateful for the opportunity provided by Andrews & Pontius attorneys to offer the low-income population in Ashtabula a Brief Advice and Referral Clinic."

Pamela D. Houston, partner with Andrews & Pontius, worked closely with Ms. Dodson to coordinate the Clinic. She remarks, "Ashtabula County has many wonderful things to offer to its residents, one of which is a local Legal Aid office for indigent clients. As part of the Ashtabula County Bar Association's effort to help provide pro bono services for qualifying Ashtabula County residents, we are pleased to offer our legal services during this clinic."

Legal Aid's Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) mobilizes private attorneys to assist in making legal advice and representation more accessible to low income persons and families. During the VLP 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.

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.

To schedule an interview for the Brief Advice Clinic please call the Legal Aid office in Jefferson at 440-576-8120. Otherwise appointments will be on a first come/first served basis or as time permits.

To schedule an interview with Ms. Dodson (Legal Aid) or Ms. Houston (Andrews & Pontius) call 216-861-5217 or e-mail melanie.shakarian@lasclev.org.

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#### Ashtabula County

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