

Want free advice?

Legal Aid has it

By SHAUNTIN LILLY
Contributing Writer

When facing a legal issue, the highbrow vocabulary and "big words" of legal documentation can be quite confusing and overwhelming, but The Legal Aid Society is helping low-income people by hosting free legal advice clinics.

The clinics, for civil issues only, were implemented because The Legal Aid Society had offices in the Glenville and Hough neighborhoods that were closed due to funding so the people can still receive the legal services.

"When legal aid closed because of funding, we needed more access into the neighborhoods," said Legal Aid attorney Ann Porath, director of intake and referral.

According to Nicholas Costa, development intern with Legal Aid, the closing of the offices left downtown as the only location for people to receive free legal advice.

"The turnout wasn't very high," he said, "so it was decided that [bringing] the help to the people would be more beneficial."

The clinics are held every last Saturday of the month; one at an East Side location and the other at a West Side location. The clinics give people a chance to receive help when their legal problems seem over their head. The organization also refers

lived the incident, while the Catholic Center and July 21, at the Friendly Inn Settlement Court. All clinics begin at 9:45 a.m. For information on more clinic dates or questions, go to lasclerve.org.

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When guests arrive, they sign in and speak with law students concerning their civil discrepancy. The students then refer them to the appropriate attorney to speak with, determined by their issue.

Linda Bryant, a woman who received legal advice at the last clinic, feels that they are very beneficial for those unfamiliar with legal processes.

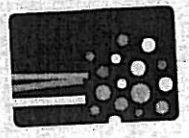
"I think anyone in a legal situation that doesn't know what to do should be able to have help available," she said. "I appreciate the advice."

The next clinics will be held July 14, at the West Side



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