



The
Legal Aid Society
of Cleveland
Since 1905

MEDIA ALERT

November 13, 2008

Contact: Melanie A. Shakarian, Esq.
Director of Development
216-861-5217 or melanie.shakarian@lasclev.org

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland Highlights Program Today
Follows Governor Strickland's November 12 declaration of "Legal Aid Day" in Ohio

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland, Northeast Ohio's law firm for low income individuals, will hold its Annual Luncheon and Report to the Community today, November 13, at the Cleveland Marriott Downtown, Key Center (127 Public Square, Cleveland, Ohio 44114), from 11:45 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The event follows Governor Ted Strickland's announcement of "Legal Aid Day" in Ohio on November 12. Chief Justice Thomas J. Moyer joined Strickland in officially recognizing legal service organizations across Ohio. The statewide day of recognition celebrates the efforts of those who provide free legal services for low-income Ohioans. "Because of the help of many dedicated, selfless lawyers who have provided legal assistance, many Ohio homeowners have been able to remain in their homes through these tough economic times," said Chief Justice Moyer.

The November 13 lunch program features personal experiences with Legal Aid, including:

- **Jayne Juvan, Esq.**, an associate with Benesch Friedlander, discussing an emotional foreclosure case she handled *pro bono*.
- **Nathan Szep**, a student at Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, reflecting on his experience handling a Legal Aid case through a law school clinical program.
- **Anne Sowell, LISW**, a social worker at The MetroHealth System, describing how Legal Aid attorneys partner with social workers to remove legal barriers to individuals' good health.
- **Charles Pugh, Esq.**, as associate with Jories Day, describing an eviction matter he handled *pro bono* through a creative partnership Legal Aid has with his firm.
- **Karen Reese**, a former Legal Aid client and survivor of domestic violence. She is finishing her degree at Kent State University, and living a life she could only dream of a few years ago.
- **Jennifer Martinez Atzberger, Esq.**, a Legal Aid staff attorney, reflecting on her legal work focused on children with special needs and her career as a public interest attorney.

Proceeds from the event benefit Legal Aid and its mission to secure justice and resolve fundamental problems for those who are low income by providing high quality legal services and working for systemic solutions.

The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland is a nonprofit law firm that focuses on issues of poverty. Legal Aid's 55 full-time attorneys and 700 volunteers handle about 8,000 civil cases annually. Legal Aid's clients live on the edge. They are individuals who are confronted with a legal problem – if left unresolved – may result in lack of housing, access to education, income, food, safety or family stability. The problems they face are life problems that have a legal resolution. These clients have legal rights but without an attorney those rights will not be enforced.

###

Cuyahoga County
& ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
1223 West Sixth Street
Cleveland, OH 44113
Phone: 216.687.1900
Toll-Free: 888.817.3777
Fax: 216.687.0779

Ashtabula County
121 East Walnut Street
Jefferson, OH 44047
Phone: 440.576.8120
Toll-Free: 866.873.9665
Fax: 440.576.3021

Lake & Geauga Counties
8 North State Street
Suite 300
Painesville, OH 44077
Phone: 440.352.6200
Toll-Free: 888.808.2800
Fax: 440.352.0015

Lorain County
538 West Broad Street
Suite 300
Elyria, OH 44035
Phone: 440.323.8240
Toll-Free: 800.444.7348
Fax: 440.323.8526

www.lasclev.org