

2007 has been another extraordinary year at EBCLC, during which we served more than 5,000 low-income members of the East Bay community. Following are some of the highlights.

COMMUNITY LEGAL ACCESS SERVICE SITE (CLASS)

In August, we launched the Community Legal Access Service Site at our original office at 3130 Shattuck Avenue. Directed by EBCLC attorney Osha Neumann, with assistance from coordinator Jen Neuber and staff attorney Liam Galbreth, CLASS provides essential tools to enable community members to navigate the legal system, including computer stations, self-help materials, referral guides, and legal forms and instructions. CLASS's daytime self-help center is staffed by Berkeley Law students supervised by EBCLC staff and volunteer attorneys, and is open several mornings each week. Most evenings, CLASS hosts free legal workshops on topics including: Tenants' Rights, Workers' Rights, Health and Disability Law, and Criminal Citation Defense. If you are interested in volunteering at CLASS, please contact: osha@dsp.com or 510-548-4064.

CLEAN SLATE

The Clean Slate Practice provides legal information and assistance to people with prior criminal records who have paid their debt to society and now are trying to successfully reintegrate in the community. The goal of the program is to reduce recidivism and promote societal reentry by removing civil barriers to jobs, education, housing, and civic participation. This year, practice director Margaret Richardson, along with staff attorneys Eliza Hersh and River Abeje, intake specialist Serena Rankin, and their students served over 1,000 clients at our two court-based clinic sites in Oakland and Hayward. Plans are now underway for the Third Annual Clean Slate Summit, cosponsored by U.S. Representative Barbara Lee, All of Us or None, Supervisor Keith Carson, and a number of other local officials. The Summit will be held Saturday, November 3, 2007, 9am-4pm, at Berkeley High School, and will provide attorney consultations, social services referrals, and workshops for Alameda County residents.

HOUSING

The Housing Practice, with director Laura Lane, staff attorneys Jaimee Arnone Modica, Sharon Djemal, Luan Huynh, and Marc Janowitz, intake specialist Gracie Jones, and student interns, continues to serve hundreds of clients each month through direct representation, at Tenants Rights workshops throughout the East Bay, and at self-help clinics at the Alameda County Courthouse-based Low-Income Eviction Project. The practice recently co-counseled with tenants' attorneys Robert Salinas and Jorge Aguilar to favorably settle a lawsuit against the Oakland Housing Authority, preserving housing for 19 families who faced wrongful evictions.

HEALTH

The Health Practice is now an umbrella for three distinct projects related to law and health: (1) the HIV/AIDS Law Project, delivering holistic services to low-income, HIV-positive clients throughout Alameda County, including the Family Care Network that focuses on HIV+ women and children; (2) the HIV Immigration Project, providing vital legal assistance to immigrants with HIV, allowing

them to come out of the shadows and gain access to life-prolonging care and treatment; and (3) the Medical-Legal Partnership with Children's Hospital Oakland, serving children and families at a CHO outpatient clinic. Through the work of director Sheila Hall, staff attorneys Liam Galbreth, Linda Tam, and Yvonne Troya, and their clinical law students, the Health Practice serves as a model for multidisciplinary advocacy for low-income individuals and families.

INCOME SUPPORT

The Income Support Practice, after 19 years, continues to serve welfare recipients who are facing reductions in their grants and services by the Social Service agency. The practice maintains a focus on clients with language barriers, particularly within the Southeast Asian community. Director Ed Barnes, fellow Keo Chea, and clinical students have worked with clients to preserve and increase the base income provided by welfare. Additionally, they have advocated for broader policy and practice changes for low-income people, including Ed's and Keo's work to push for state-wide repeal of the law that excludes children from welfare assistance if they were born when a family is already on benefits. Also, Ed is spearheading the effort to block a reduction of General Assistance in Alameda County – a diminution of already meager cash and employment assistance that would be devastating to our client community.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC JUSTICE (CEJ)

The Community Economic Justice Practice works alongside labor, neighborhood and community groups, organizers, and politicians to bring meaningful, sustainable, and community-centered progressive change to Oakland's diverse working class communities. Practice director Margaretta Lin, fellow Vien Truong, their interns, and pro bono attorneys have worked on several important collaborative efforts over the course of the year. Notably, after four years of litigation and negotiation, CEJ recently celebrated the settlement of the Pacific Renaissance Plaza case. On September 18, the Oakland City Council approved a settlement agreement which preserves and expands low-to-moderate income housing in the heart of Oakland's Chinatown. This victory was driven by a coalition of housing advocates, including EBCLC, who will continue to work together to build on this model agreement. The goal will be to create a community-driven housing plan for Oakland that is responsive to the entire community's needs, and which will increase affordable rental housing and home ownership in Oakland, while protecting the rights of existing low-income residents.