

January 2012

[Ribbon Cutting Invitation](#)

[Walking Tours](#)

Every day, Inner City Law Center's staff performs miracles for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Your support provides ICLC with the tools and flexibility we need to creatively respond to poverty and homelessness.

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Thank you for your continued generosity, and for supporting ICLC's mission.



Ribbon Cutting and Open House Invitation

Inner City Law Center has just expanded our office space at our 1309 East Seventh Street location with a brand new wing. It is our pleasure to invite you to our Ribbon Cutting and Open House Reception on January 17 from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. We will be celebrating our new space and all of our fabulous partners who have made our over 30 years of legal services on Skid Row possible.

Please [click here](#) to see the invitation and RSVP to MSalazar@innercitylaw.org.

We hope to see you here!

Homeless Veterans Project Update

After nine years, the last troop transport has left Iraq. Yet for veterans and their families, the physical and emotional trauma of war will continue for many years to come -- jeopardizing their jobs, their housing, and their families.

The Pentagon estimates that 20 percent of veterans returning from Iraq will suffer from post traumatic stress disorder or major depression. Less than half will seek professional help. Studies from the Journal of the American Medical Association show that because of these mental health problems veterans returning from Iraq face high risks of homelessness. Moreover, historically high unemployment rates combined with increased levels of physical and mental injuries dramatically increases the risk of homelessness.

Already, over 8,000 veterans living in L.A. are homeless.

So even though the troops are home, much needs to be done to ensure they are safe. Here are a few examples of what ICLC is doing to help veterans re-build their lives after they return home:

- When a young Iraq war veteran with severe combat disabilities had an erroneous warrant issued for his arrest, the VA cut off his benefits. He was unable to pay his rent and he became homeless. ICLC got the warrant rescinded and his benefits restored. The veteran is now living in his new home.
- When a young Iraq war veteran suffering from PTSD, depression, and injuries from a roadside bomb became at-risk of becoming homeless because he could not pay his rent, ICLC helped him to document his injuries, apply for and obtain disability benefits, and protect his housing. The veteran is now receiving mental health treatment and attending school.
- When ICLC learned that many homeless veterans were being denied disability benefits because doctors did not know how to adequately document disabilities,

ICLC developed a training to teach doctors how to write compelling letters of support for disability benefits applications.

ICLC will continue to provide veterans with the legal assistance they need to get access to the healthcare and benefits they've earned that will help get them off the streets and into stable housing

We Won Pepsi by a Nose!

All of your clicks, tweets, posts, texts and votes for Inner City Law Center paid off with a \$50,000 grant in December for our Homeless Veterans Project. This was no small feat, as all of you who voted daily know. This took a major effort. At one point in the last week we fell to #11, and it looked like we weren't going to make it back into the top ten finalists before the end of December. But all of your votes and support helped snatch this victory from the mouth of defeat.

\$50,000 is a tremendous grant! Because of you we will be able to fund even more work to get homeless veterans the benefits and healthcare they deserve and that will allow them to get off of the streets and into housing.

From all of us here at Inner City Law Center, and on behalf of our clients, we thank you for making this possible.

Thank you for your support!

About Inner City Law Center

Inner City Law Center has been serving the poorest and most vulnerable individuals and families in Los Angeles. Founded on the basic principle that every human being should be treated with dignity and respect at all times, ICLC, through its staff of 35 attorneys, advocates, tenant organizers, social workers, and other professionals, provides free legal representation and social service advocacy to thousands of homeless and working poor clients each year.

As the only full-time provider of legal services headquartered on Skid Row, ICLC is widely recognized for its expertise in housing issues, as well as government and veterans benefits.

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