Criminal Charges Filed Against Slumlord

In April, ICLC, along with our pro bono partners at Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., filed a habitability lawsuit against a landlord who converted his single family home into 44 illegal units. Click here to read the Los Angeles Times article discussing the criminal action that LA City prosecutors just filed against this landlord.

Record-Breaking Awards Luncheon

Our annual luncheon event was an enormous success! Over 400 leaders from the legal, civic, and business communities gathered to celebrate ICLC’s work. We honored Dr. Judith Broder of The Soldiers Project with the Katharine Krause Award for her compassionate and effective program that provides free mental health counseling to veterans and their families.

We also honored Munger, Tolles & Olson with the 2012 Humanitarian Award for their generous and longstanding support of the clients and work of ICLC. We are proud to report that the gala was our largest ever and raised a record-breaking $405,000 to power ICLC’s work with low-income tenants and homeless veterans. You can see the video that we showed at the luncheon by clicking here.

Special thanks to luncheon co-chairs Margaret Levy of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP and James Evans of Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P., to our Luncheon Sponsors, and to our Luncheon Committee for making our event such a fabulous success.

Because of your support, we will keep more families in their homes, force more slumlords to repair their buildings, help more homeless veterans to get off the street, and promote improved City and County housing and homelessness policies. Your generosity will allow us to continue serving the poorest and most vulnerable in Los Angeles.

Ordinance Would Devastate Housing Opportunities for Poor and Disabled

ICLC is helping to lead the fight against a proposed Los Angeles City ordinance called the Community Care Facilities Ordinance that would eliminate housing for veterans and low-income families, discriminate against people with disabilities, and significantly increase homelessness in Los Angeles. If passed, this ordinance would eliminate all shared housing, in 90% of the residentially zoned land in the City. Since at least 50,000 families in Los Angeles share housing, the impact would be enormous.

ICLC has worked with the United Way of Greater Los Angeles and others to build an unprecedented coalition of over 80 nonprofit organizations, government agencies, neighborhood councils, and business groups who strongly oppose the ordinance.
Working as pro bono counsel for ICLC, attorneys from Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP produced a 16-page legal brief that clearly demonstrates the illegality of the ordinance. Click here to see the letter opposing the ordinance that ICLC and eleven other legal services organizations recently sent to the LA City Council. In the past four weeks, the Los Angeles Times published an Editorial, an Op-Ed, and letters to the editor opposing the ordinance. Steve Lopez also quoted ICLC’s Adam Murray in his article calling for the Council to go back to the drawing board on the ordinance.

Even with all of this consensus, most City Council members are still reluctant to openly oppose the motion which is supported by some home owner groups. The fight continues. For more information or to get involved, go to www.stopccfo.org, follow on Twitter at #StopCCFO or contact ICLC’s Director of Public Policy Greg Spiegel at gspiegel@innercitylaw.org.

ICLC Helps a Homeless Veteran Obtain Benefits

Mary, a homeless veteran, came to ICLC’s clinic for female veterans seeking assistance with her VA benefits claim. A survivor of military sexual trauma, Mary’s Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms greatly impact her life and effect her ability to do even the smallest of tasks. Despite clear evidence of the sexual assault Mary experienced in the military, including a pregnancy and medical treatment records, the VA denied her claim. Pro bono attorney Elizabeth Iglesias from Irell & Manella LLP worked closely with Mary to successfully appeal the denial of benefits, obtaining $49,000 in retroactive benefits and over $2,700 in monthly benefits going forward. These benefits allowed Mary to obtain stable housing and continue with her medical treatment. Mary said of Elizabeth "I just know that having a law firm in my corner was what did it - and she was so nice."

Collaboration between pro bono attorneys and ICLC is crucial for the success of our work with disabled homeless veterans in our community. If you are interested in volunteering your time to support ICLC’s work with veterans, please contact ICLC’s Director of Pro Bono Lisa Mead at lmead@innercitylaw.org.

Honor Your Graduate

We invite the families of the Class of 2012 to honor their graduates and to introduce them to ICLC’s fight for justice for low-income tenants, working-poor families, immigrants, people who are homeless or disabled, and veterans. Make a gift to Inner City Law Center in their honor and we will send them a special congratulatory card.

About Inner City Law Center

The only full-time provider of legal services on Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles, Inner City Law Center combats slum housing while developing strategies to end homelessness. We are recognized for our expertise in housing issues, veterans’ benefits, and homelessness prevention. Our staff of 40, including 19 attorneys, provides quality legal representation for people who have nowhere else to turn. We fight for justice for low-income tenants, working poor families, immigrants, people who are homeless or disabled, and veterans. Driven by the fundamental principle that every person should always be treated with dignity and respect, ICLC works for long-term, positive, and meaningful change.

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