Shriver Housing Project

Fifty years after the U.S. Supreme Court issued its famous decision granting a right to counsel for indigent defendants in criminal cases (Gideon v. Wainwright), Inner City Law Center and its partners are providing free representation to low-income tenants in civil eviction cases where they are at risk of becoming homeless.

Since February 2012, four legal services nonprofits, Inner City Law Center, Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and Public Counsel, have joined forces to provide free legal representation at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse to low-income tenants who cannot afford counsel. As part of the Shriver Housing Project, ICLC prepares pleadings for thousands of low-income litigants, offering them legal advice about their cases and providing full-scope representation for qualifying litigants. The project provides full-scope representation in 2,000 families per year, and limited scope services to another 3,000 families seeking help with answers and legal advice.

For many clients, ICLC services make the difference between homelessness and staying housed. Our legal representation gives value to their rights which otherwise go unenforced. Having an attorney makes an enormous difference in these cases. ICLC attorneys and paralegals have enabled hundreds of low-income families to stay in their homes overcoming illegal and defective attempts to evict them and preserving affordable housing units, and also have successfully resolved through amicable settlements hundreds of additional cases resulting in more than two million dollars in relocation fees and waiver of rent enabling families who agree to move to avoid debt and homelessness.

As part of this project, many local law firms have provided invaluable pro bono representation to low-income families facing eviction. Inner City Law Center has worked most closely with Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP, Latham & Watkins LLP, O’Melveny & Myers LLP, and Perkins Coie LLP.

Assisting People Living with HIV/AIDS

In December 2012, Mr. Scott Thomas (not his real name) had a severe reaction to his new HIV medication. The reaction left him sick and bed-ridden for weeks. During this
time, Mr. Thomas sent his monthly rent check to his apartment manager. Unfortunately, his check bounced. Mr. Thomas called the landlord and offered to pay cash but the management refused, and demanded that he pay by cashier's check. Still struggling with his illness, which he has only disclosed to a few people, Mr. Thomas was unable to make it to the bank to get a cashier's check. By this time, Mr. Thomas had also missed his January rent payment. The landlord then served Mr. Thomas with a three day notice to pay rent or leave. During the three-day period, Mr. Thomas again tried to pay in cash but was rebuffed.

Facing eviction from the rent-controlled, one-bedroom apartment where he had lived for fifteen years, Mr. Thomas came to Inner City Law Center for help. ICLC attorneys quickly moved to dismiss the eviction action based on a technical defect in the landlord's three day notice and also reached out to the landlord's counsel. After a few conversations, the landlord agreed to allow Mr. Thomas to stay if he paid the past-due rent. Mr. Thomas will now be able to stay in his home of the last fifteen years. Just as important, Mr. Thomas was also able to keep his HIV diagnosis private.

**Thirteenth Annual Awards Luncheon**

*Inner City Law Center invites you to join us on Wednesday, June 5, 2013, from 12:00-1:30 p.m., at The L.A. Hotel Downtown to honor:*

**The Honorable Hilda L. Solis**
*Katharine Krause Award Recipient*
Former United States Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis shares Inner City Law Center's vision that "no one should experience homelessness - no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home." From her upbringing as the daughter of immigrant parents, to her leadership in Congress and at the Department of Labor, Ms. Solis' efforts align perfectly with the mission of Inner City Law Center. The late Sen. Ted Kennedy called her "a voice for the voiceless with a true passion for fairness and justice."

**Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP and Margaret Levy**
*Humanitarian Award Recipient*
Manatt's pro bono work with Inner City Law Center has spanned all of our legal projects. Manatt attorneys have helped guide Inner City Law Center's policy work, represented low-income tenants facing habitability issues or unlawful evictions, assisted veterans who were improperly denied VA benefits, and fought against discrimination targeting people living with HIV/AIDS.
Sharing the award will be Margaret Levy in recognition of the extraordinary depth of her commitment to providing free legal services to the poor and her two decades of service on Inner City Law Center's Board of Directors.

Inner City Law Center's annual Awards Luncheon is our single most important fundraising event, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars to power ICLC's efforts to provide the poorest among us with the same access to justice as the richest and most powerful.

Please click here to download our sponsorship form. To purchase tickets or sponsorship opportunities online click here. For more information contact Harry Batt, ICLC's Director of Development at (213) 891-3203 or hbatt@innercitylaw.org.

Thirteenth Annual Awards Luncheon
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About Inner City Law Center

Inner City Law Center is the preeminent housing and homelessness legal-services organization working on behalf of poor people in Southern California. As the only provider of legal services located on Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles, ICLC combats slum housing throughout Los Angeles and develops strategies to end homelessness.

Each year, ICLC's staff of 40 (including 20 attorneys) provides free, high-quality legal representation to thousands of 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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Inner City Law Center

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