

CEDLP Newsletter

Community Economic Development Law Project of the



Chicago Lawyers' Committee
for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.

Chicago's Partnership for Equal Justice

E-mail: www.cedlp.org Phone: 312-939-3638

Summer, 2004

Annual Luncheon

On August 17th, the **Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.** will be holding its 35th anniversary luncheon. Among this year's honorees is **Studs Terkel**, Pulitzer Prize winning Chicago author. The luncheon speaker, **Clarence Page**, is a columnist and member of the editorial board at the Chicago Tribune. He is a frequent contributor to Public Broadcasting System's program "The McLaughlin Group" and to the "News Hours". He is also a Pulitzer Prize winner whose nationally syndicated column appears in over 200 newspapers.

Judson Miner, of **Miner Barnhill & Galland**, former City of Chicago Corporation Counsel under Harold Washington, will receive the Edwin A. Rothschild Award for Lifetime Achievement. **Maryann C. Woo** of **Sachnoff & Weaver** will receive the Outstanding Young Lawyer of 2004 award.

The luncheon will take place in the Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House Hotel. Individual tickets are \$120. Tickets for representatives from nonprofit organizations are \$60. Please call 312.630.9744 for additional information. We hope you will join us.

Beyond the Call of Pro Bono CEDLP Volunteer E. Lynn Grayson



Whether she is acting as a defense attorney in a criminal matter, or assisting families whose children are denied access to free medical care. **E. Lynn Grayson**, a partner at **Jenner & Block**, has always made pro bono an integral part of her work.

Ms. Grayson is using the environmental research she is doing on behalf of **NeighborSpace**, to examine local and national standards & regulations governing community gardens. In the Fall of 2004, an open forum on these issues will be convened. **Mary Jo Schnell**, the Executive Director of **NeighborSpace**, has been "overwhelmed" by **Ms. Grayson's** interest in the work of the organization. For **NeighborSpace**, environmental issues take center stage as they partner with the City of Chicago, the Park District and the Forest Preserve of Cook County and non-profit organizations, to preserve and expand open spaces. Their sites are open to the public and focus on conservation, recreation, preservation, community gardening and beautification.

The **Working Women's History Project** was struggling to determine how to secure non-profit tax exemption

when CEDLP recruited **Ms. Grayson**. She analyzed their issues and obtained tax-exempt status for the group. She also introduced them to other organizations that can act as additional resources. These grateful clients sent Ms. Grayson flowers.

According to **Ms. Grayson**, Jenner & Block is committed to pro bono and makes all of its resources available to its pro bono clients. She said, "I couldn't be happier than doing good work for people in need in the Chicago area".



A SMALL BUSINESS SUCCESS REAPS TASTY REWARDS FOR THE CEDLP



In early 2000, **Prickly Pear Foods** was a struggling catering business operating out of a church basement in the south west side of the City. On the recommendation of the **Latin Chamber of Commerce**, **Roberto Orozco** came to CEDLP offices for pro bono legal assistance. He spoke to CEDLP staff about the situation that he and his business partner were confronting: little money, terrific cooking skills. Both were graduates of Washburn School of Culinary Arts. In order for the business to grow they needed to be incorporated, to apply for the appropriate licenses and to develop client contracts. CEDLP staff assisted them with all of these issues and addressed their concerns as the business grew.

In the early stages of their business, **Mr. Orozco** and his partner would hop on a bus, carrying their pots and pans to cater private parties. Today they own their own building in LaGrange and **Prickly Pear Food, Inc.** is a thriving business. The partners have built the kitchen of their dreams, they have hired 5 full time employees and will be employing three additional employees in the fall. They provide jobs for part-timers who work as bartenders and servers at the events they cater. Their cooking style spans the globe from Morocco to Latin America. If you haven't already sampled this client's delicacies, you'll be able to do so at a future

CEDLP event.



CHAC UPDATE

Since its inception, CEDLP attorneys and volunteers have represented first-time, low-income home buyers participating in **CHAC's Home Ownership Program**.



The program moves eligible families out of federal rental assistance housing and into their own homes. Our outstanding volunteers, like **Joseph A. Miron of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom**, and **Matthew C. Joly and Kal Gibron of Sears Roebuck and Co.**, have helped make this program the most successful of its kind in the country. This program is also remarkably successful at moving families into more racially integrated and higher income neighborhoods than the neighborhoods where they formerly rented.

A press conference was held in June at the home of a CHAC participant. The HUD Midwest Regional Director, Alderman Theodore Thomas, and CHAC Executive Director William Riley spoke to the gathered media. As we look toward reaching that 100 home purchase mark we still need volunteers - **particularly Spanish speaking attorneys**. So please contact Charles Petroff, cpetroff@clccrul.org or Susan Kaplan, skaplan@cedlp.org.

Community Economic Development Law Project—2004 Advisory Committee

Calvin Holmes, Chicago Community Loan Fund - Nicole A. Jackson, Applegate & Thorne-Thomsen PC
Laura Tilly, Miner Barnhill & Galland - Katrina Van Valkenburgh, Corporation for Supportive Housing
Danielle Cassel, PiperRudnick - Dick Hess, Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago
Reid Mandel, Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman - Gregory A. McConnell, Winston & Strawn
Erica Pascal, Hispanic Housing Development Corp.
Mark Simon, Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman

To Get Or Not To Get a Business License



Rumors are spreading throughout the nonprofit community. Do we really need a City of Chicago business license? The answer is yes. There is no exception for not-for-profit corporations. It appears that the \$125 annual license fee is generally a revenue generating tool, rather than a regulatory device. However, once you apply, the Zoning Department is notified and it determines if your business address is zoned for your type of activity. Their approval or denial is sent to the Dept. of Revenue. Check your zoning before you submit an application. <http://www.cityofchicago.org/zoning/> While some organizations operate for many years without a license, should that group need to do business with the City (i.e. want a building permit?) not having a license will certainly delay the process. Basically, once an organization has an office location, it should apply for a license. It is the cost of doing business in Chicago. For more information see <http://www.cityofchicago.org/zoning/>



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Susan Kaplan

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Equal Justice Works Fellow
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Fellow—Corey A. McClendon

QUITE AN HONOR FOR THE CEDLP!!



On July 22nd, **Susan Kaplan**, CEDLP Director, will receive the **THOMAS H. MORSCH PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD**. This award honors an attorney who, in choosing to devote him or herself to a career of public service, has demonstrated lifelong excellence in the quality of their work, leadership within their agencies and significant leadership and service on behalf of the poor and disenfranchised. The award includes a \$10,000 gift provided by the family of **Thomas H. Morsch**, a former partner at **Sidley & Austin** and currently the Director of the **Small Business Opportunity Center** at **Northwestern University School of Law**, and an advocate for public interest lawyering for over 40 years.

Pro bono transactional legal assistance for nonprofit organizations
and for low-to-moderate income small businesses

is only a click away:

download our applications at www.cedlp.org

SINCE WE LAST MET. . .

Thank you to the following attorneys who took new matters or did workshop presentations between March 2004 and June 2004:

Ancel Glink - David Silverman; **Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum Perlman Nagelberg—Andrew Grossmann, Janelle Savage; Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP**—Tina Dalman, Kevin Freeman, L. Robert Guenther, Mary Wilson, Doug Swill, Brooks Newman, Jonathan Hyun; **Chapman & Cutler**—Edward Sommer, Shawn Leist; **Coffey & Associates LLC**—Karen Sue Coffey; **Holland & Knight LLC** - Brian Crowley, Matt Norton, **Robert Mintz, Tom Kinasz, Dennis A. White; Jenner & Block LLC** - Tim Costa, Gail Morse, Frank Eichenlaub, Matthew J. Renaud, S. Tony Ling, George Leon, David Drachler, Gregory M. Wu, Jordan Peev; **Jones Day** - Michael Gray, Megan Wolfinger, **Sabrina Spitznagle; Katten Muchin Zavis Rosenman**— Mark C. Simon, Katherine A. Majewski, Gregory S. Grossman, Victoria Shusterman, Denise M. Devine; **Lord Bissell & Brook** - Rob Drobnak; **McDermott Will & Emery** - Miles Hughes, Donald B. Hilliker, Robert A. Schreck; **McGuire Woods LLP** - Joelle Palmer, Philip Spahn and Stephen Matheny; **Piper Rudnick** - Andrew Scott, Gregory W. Hayes; **Skadden Arps** - Andy Eckstein, Sarah Lee, Laura Hazelwood, Wei Chen, Melissa Brazwell, Brooks Giles; **Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal** - **Jack Lawlor, Glenn Becker, Eric Decator, Bredale Rucker, Melissa Weber, Eric Marshall; Vedder Price Kaufman & Kammholz PC** - Kathryn L. Stevens; **Wildman Harrold Allen & Dixon LLP** - Jeffrey Gray; **Winston & Strawn** - Karl M. Ahlm, Patrick Owen Doyle. **Workshop & Seminar Leaders: Winston & Strawn** - Mary Christine Graff, L. Timothy Halleron, Thomas J. Pauloski.; **Gardner Carton & Douglas**—Katie Ashton, Jeff Blumberg, Elizabeth Williams, Melinda Jesse Smith, Ira Kalina, David Frey, Nikki Murray, L. Robert Guenther Julie Workman, Will Goldbeck; **Goldberg Kohn Bell Black Rosenbloom & Moritz**—Barbara M. Flom.



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