

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

Organized in 1999, Alabama Appleseed added to the ever-emerging number of independent state advocacy centers affiliated with the Appleseed Foundation, founded in 1994, located in Washington, D.C. The mission of the Appleseed Foundation is to develop and help sustain a network of state advocacy centers that address local issues and to develop and promote practical solutions that will insure equal justice. Garnering its name-sake from the legendary Johnny Appleseed character, the work of Appleseed Centers focuses on sowing seeds, bearing good fruit, and assuring adequate provisions for all. Alabama Appleseed is a non-profit, non-partisan legal advocacy organization. Our mission is to identify root causes of injustice and inequality; namely, those practices, policies or other situations which advance an unfair and detrimental impact on the citizens of Alabama. We work for constructive and lasting systemic change of policies and practices and we are dedicated to creating a just and equitable society in Alabama and to improving the legal and social systems that serve Alabama's citizens. We research the issues, develop practical solutions, and advocate for positive change. We work in partnership with community leaders, other non-profit organizations, business, academia, and the legal and judicial communities. The organizing Board of Directors for Alabama Appleseed, formed in 1999, consisted of a number of prominent and well-known Alabamians, including former Governor Albert P. Brewer, former Chief Justice C.C. Torbert, Jr., former Justice Janie Shores, J. Mason Davis, Jr., and Dean Kenneth Randall of the University of Alabama School of Law. Governor Brewer, Chief Justice Torbert, J. Mason Davis, Gregory S. Cusimano, and Judge John England, Jr., remain on our Emeritus Board. Justice Shores is still an active, current member of our Board, along with the following individuals: Nick Gaede, Chair, Birmingham; Dean John L. Carroll of the Cumberland School of Law; Max Cassidy, Fairhope; Herman Cobb, Dothan; Bill Coleman, Montgomery; Patricia Diak, Birmingham; Bryan Fair, Tuscaloosa; Merceria Ludgood, Mobile; Davis Marsh, Birmingham; Sue McInnish, Montgomery; Dudley Reynolds, Birmingham; David Silverstein, Birmingham; and Judge Sharon Yates, Montgomery.

In 2002, Alabama Appleseed began building a staff, when John Pickens became the Executive Director. In August

ALABAMA APPLESEED CENTER FOR LAW & JUSTICE

Organization Name: Alabama Appleseed Center for Law & Justice, Inc.

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4864, Montgomery 36103-4864

Physical Address: 434 N. McDonough Street, Montgomery 36104

Phone number: (334) 263-0086

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Very rarely

Brief description of services provided: Advocacy on public interest and public affairs issues particularly from a legal perspective

Program description: Advocacy on public interest and public affairs issues particularly from a legal perspective

2005, Shay M. Farley left private practice in Montgomery and joined the staff as an Advocacy Staff Associate, working on our various advocacy projects. In August 2006, Craig H. Baab, a lawyer and former chief governmental affairs officer for the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C., joined the staff as the Katrina Fellow, to work on the Appleseed collaborative project focused on the gulf coast states' response to Katrina evacuees.

Since our founding in 1999, the board has approved our advocacy efforts on a wide-range of issues, including: Small Business Health Insurance and Work Supports for Employees of Small Businesses; Living Wage/Self-Sufficiency Standards; Hispanic Financial Access; Judicial Election Reform; Payday Lending Reform; and Indigent Defense Reform. We often use volunteers from law firms, law schools, colleges and corporations to work with us in our public interest advocacy projects.

Recently, through the tireless efforts of advocates including Alabama Appleseed, Alabama Arise, the Southern Poverty Law Center, Legal Services Alabama, Alabama Watch, and Bob McCurley of the Alabama Law Institute, Alabama, finally, enacted its first modern and comprehensive residential landlord/tenant law. The law which addresses the rights and obligations of both landlords and tenants was passed during the 2006 fall legislative session and became effective, January 1, 2007. Presently, Alabama Appleseed is working with the aforementioned advocacy groups to draft and publish, for general distribution, educational materials explaining the new law.

We believe in our mission to build a more just society here in Alabama. We invite you to join us in this work and visit our website (<http://alabama.appleseeds.net/servlet/Center>) or to contact us directly, at 334/263.0086, for more information. ■

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The Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS), formerly known as the Commission on Aging, was created in 1957. ADSS receives its primary funding under Title III of the Older Americans Act of 1965. ADSS consists of 41 employees and the executive director is Irene Collins.

ADSS strives to ensure that the objectives of the Older Americans Act are provided for all seniors in the state of Alabama. These objectives include adequate income in retirement, the best possible physical and mental health, suitable housing, adequate long-term care services, opportunity for employment, retirement in health, honor and dignity, participation in meaningful activities, efficient community services, benefit from research knowledge, and the freedom, independence and ability to plan and manage their own lives.

ADSS coordinates and oversees all services for seniors in the state of Alabama. These services are provided at the local level through 13 area agencies on aging. Services provided through the area agencies on aging include nutrition services, caregiver assistance, legal assistance, disaster relief, counseling, elderly and disabled waiver, and employment services.

Recently, a grant was awarded to ADSS to establish a legal assistance system to improve and expand the current delivery of legal services to better protect the rights and financial security of older Alabamians, enhancing their choice and independence. These services will be targeted primarily to those seniors in greatest social and economical need. A critical element in efforts to provide quality, comprehensive legal services to Alabama's low-income elders is ADSS's collaboration with Legal Services Alabama, Inc. (LSA), to establish the Elder Law Helpline in which seniors can call to obtain legal counseling and assistance. This will be a dedicated statewide toll-free helpline for seniors only. The helpline will be manned by staff trained in the special needs of seniors and extended hours will be offered for ease of access. Seniors may also submit questions by e-mail

ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF SENIOR SERVICES

Organization Name: Alabama Department of Senior Services

Mailing Address: 770 Washington Avenue, Suite 470, Montgomery 36104

Physical Address: same

Phone number: (334) 242-5743

Are you a non-profit? State agency

Do you accept donations? No

Do you provide direct client services? No

Brief description of services provided: Services are provided at the local level through 13 area agencies on aging. Some of the services available are nutrition, caregiver assistance, legal assistance, disaster relief, counseling, employment services, and elderly and disabled waiver.

How do clients qualify for your services? Services are targeted primarily to seniors of greatest social and economic need.

Program description: Alabama Department of Senior Services coordinates and oversees all services for seniors in the state of Alabama. These services are provided at the local level through the 13 area agencies on aging. DSS consists of 41 employees and the executive director is Irene Collins. The mission of ADSS is to ensure that the objectives of the Older Americans Act are met regarding seniors.

through the helpline's Website. Additionally, a comprehensive Elder Legal Guidebook will be designed and published by ADSS and LSA. Copies will be made available to seniors on existing Websites as well as dissemination among the 13 regional Area Agencies on Aging and other community organizations. Extensive community outreach and educational events will be provided to seniors regarding their legal rights and interests so they may become self-advocates. The implementation of these legal services is expected to increase the number of seniors who receive statewide legal assistance and obtain elder rights information and assistance via phone, Website, training and information by 25 percent.

ADSS responsibilities include the collecting of facts and statistics, studying problems pertaining to conditions affecting the welfare of seniors, keeping abreast of developments in the field of aging and interpreting them to the public, providing exchange of ideas and information on national, state and local levels, reporting of activities to the Legislature and making recommendations for needed improvements as well as serving in an advisory role in regard to new legislation.

To obtain information about available services, ADSS may be reached at (334) 242-5743 or the department's Website may be accessed at www.ageline.net. ■

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

When some people think of ADAP, they think of our work in special education. And that's right. When others think of ADAP, they think of our work in mental health and developmental disabilities issues. And that's right. Still when others think of ADAP, they think of our work in foster care reform. And that's right. ADAP does all those things and more.

The Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP) is part of the nationwide federally mandated protection and advocacy (P&A) system. ADAP's mission is to provide high quality legal advocacy services to Alabamians with disabilities to protect, promote and expand their rights. ADAP's vision is one of a society where persons with disabilities are valued and exercise self-determination through meaningful choices and equal opportunity.

Congress created the P&A system in 1975 in response to horrific reports of abuse and neglect suffered by persons with mental retardation housed in state institutions in cases such as *Wyatt v. Stickney*. The P&A system was charged with protecting this vulnerable population from such treatment. Governor George Wallace designated ADAP to the University of Alabama and ADAP began its work as Alabama's P&A in 1976.

In 1986, the mission of P&As was expanded to include advocacy on behalf of persons with mental illness who lived in psychiatric facilities. During the last twenty years, Congress expanded the work of the P&A system beyond its original purpose of addressing abuse and neglect of institutionalized persons. Through seven federally-funded programs, P&As such as ADAP address a broad spectrum of human and legal rights on behalf of persons with disabilities who live in institutions and in communities.

ADAP receives more than 10,000 requests for information or legal assistance each year. We are especially active in a broad range of children's issues such as:

- Special education
- Mental health

ALABAMA DISABILITIES ADVOCACY PROGRAM

Organization Name: Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program (ADAP)

Mailing Address: Box 870395, Tuscaloosa 35487

Phone number: (205) 348-4928

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: ADAP provides information and referral, individual case services, education/training as well as systemic advocacy.

How do clients qualify for your services? Based on disability, not income.

Program description: ADAP is the statewide legally based protection and advocacy program for the State of Alabama

- Foster care
- Juvenile justice

Likewise, we represent adults who are dealing with issues such as:

- Mental health and developmental disabilities
- Guardianship and forensic cases
- Medicaid
- Employment
- Housing
- ADA and related claims

While most of ADAP's work is achieved in individual cases, we have also been involved in a variety of important cases in the last ten years such as *Wyatt v. Sawyer* (mental health/retardation), *R.C. v. Walley* (foster care), and *Aris v. Allen* (prison conditions).

ADAP celebrated its 30th anniversary of serving Alabama in Fall 2006. We look forward to continuing our work with the Bar and the public to zealously protect the rights of all Alabamians with disabilities. ■

"REMEMBER WHEN YOU BELIEVED IN JUSTICE FOR ALL?"

"IT'S STILL POSSIBLE."

JOIN US - ALABAMA STATE BAR VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

ALABAMA STATE BAR VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FORM

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ADOPTION/LEGITIMATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> BANKRUPTCY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CONSUMER (TO INCLUDE UTILITY, CREDIT, PROBLEMS DEFENSE OF CONTRACT ACTIONS) | <input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY LAW (CATEGORY INCLUDES DIVORCE, ALIMONY, CHILD SUPPORT, CUSTODY, SEPARATION AND POST DIVORCE PROCEEDINGS) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PROPERTY (TO INCLUDE DEEDS, MORTGAGE FORECLOSURES, EVICTIONS) | <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCE (INVOLVING ABUSE) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSING (TO INCLUDE PRIVATE LANDLORD/TENANT, FAIR HOUSING DISPUTES) | <input type="checkbox"/> PROBATE (SIMPLE WILLS, SMALL ESTATES) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GUARDIANSHIPS, CONSERVATORSHIPS | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER _____ |

COMPLETE AND FAX TO (334) 261-6312

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

“Promoting access to justice and respect for and understanding of the law” is the mission statement of The Alabama Law Foundation (ALF). Before ALF there was only the Alabama State Bar Foundation. Its job was to own and pay for the state bar building. Its narrow charter prevented it from being a charitable vehicle through which Alabama’s lawyers could serve the public good. The Alabama Law Foundation was established in 1987 as the recipient of funds from the Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts (IOLTA) program.

The Alabama Law Foundation makes grants for law-related public service projects and awards several endowed scholarships. Since 1989 the foundation has awarded \$12.8 million in grants of which \$7.9 million, or 62%, has been awarded to Legal Services Corporation funded providers and pro bono programs throughout the state. \$3.7 million, 29%, has been awarded to projects to improve the administration of justice. The remainder has been awarded for law-related education for the public and to local law libraries. A grants committee composed of 12 members, both lawyers and non-lawyers, carefully researches the proposals that are submitted and makes recommendations to the board as to which projects should be funded and at what levels.

The majority of the foundation’s revenue comes from the IOLTA program. However, in 2001 interest rates began to drop and revenue went from a high of \$1.2 million in 1999 to \$287,674 in 2004. That year ALF made some tough decisions regarding its finances because we had no way of knowing when the Federal Reserve Board would begin raising interest rates again. We went from two employees to one and one half. More significantly, we stopped using money from reserves built up in good times to make grants in the bad times and established an endowment with the remaining \$1 million of reserve funds. We now award grants each December based on the amount of IOLTA revenue over expenses at the end of our March 31 fiscal year as well as earnings from our endowment. In 2004 ALF awarded its lowest amount of grants ever, \$118,000. However, we awarded \$249,000 for 2006 and expect to award \$364,000 for 2007.

To build the endowment to secure its future, ALF has established the Atticus Finch Society, named for the character in Harper Lee’s novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The initial goal of the society is to double the foundation’s endowment from \$1 million to \$2 million through a \$10,000 commitment from 100 Atticus Finch Society charter members. Atticus Finch Society pledges are payable

ALABAMA LAW FOUNDATION

Organization Name: Alabama Law Foundation

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 671, Montgomery 36101

Physical Address: 415 Dexter Ave., Montgomery 36104

Phone number: (334) 269-1515

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? No

Program description: We award grants for law-related public service projects, primarily to organizations that provide services to individual clients in civil cases. We also give grants for projects to improve the administration of justice.

over three years. For information on becoming a member contact Tracy Daniel at (334) 269-1515.

Alabama has 763,000 citizens living at or below the poverty level, which is approximately 191,272 families. According to past American Bar Association studies each poor family has on average 1.1 legal needs per year, or 210,399 overall. In 2005 Alabama’s civil legal aid providers assisted 8,278 families with their legal needs. The poverty level is just under \$20,000 for a family of four and therefore many cannot afford to hire private attorneys.

It is the foundation’s goal to help close the gap between those receiving legal assistance and those who need it. To do so, we need to increase financial resources to organizations serving the poor. Alabama ranks 51st in the country—behind even Puerto Rico—in spending on civil legal aid for the poor. Our staffed legal services program needs funding to hire and retain competent staff to serve clients as well as case management technology to help them more efficiently manage cases. Our volunteer lawyers programs need funding for staff to help screen and refer cases to private attorneys who have so generously volunteered to provide free legal assistance to low-income people.

The foundation believes that citizens of our state deserve access to justice regardless of their financial means. Through our grant making policies we will work to ensure that clients receive high quality legal assistance. We owe this not only to our donors, but to those clients served by our grantees. ■

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

The Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) is a project of the Alabama State Bar. Its purpose is two fold. We provide free legal services to low-income Alabamians in civil matters and provide you a simple, well organized mechanism for fulfilling your professional responsibility to make legal counsel available to indigents consistent with a true sense of professionalism and Rule 6.1 of the Alabama Rules of Professional Conduct.

The VLP provides pro bono legal services in civil, non-fee-generating matters. Our clients include low-income persons who cannot afford an attorney's fee—*An elderly couple threatened with eviction from their apartment, a young woman with small children seeking child support, a couple overwhelmed by medical bills trying to save their home from foreclosure, a terminally ill parent trying to prepare for his children's future*—these are just a few of the difficulties that can spring up in a person's lifetime. For an attorney with the skills to navigate the system, these are not difficult challenges. For the person with no financial resources and a limited understanding of the options, they are overwhelming crises. Just a little of your time can make a major difference. By contributing even a small amount of your expertise, you could solve the life-shattering legal problems that confront many of the low-income persons living in your community.

For new attorneys the Volunteer Lawyers Program allows you to gain excellent client and courtroom experience since you are fully in charge of their pro bono cases. For more seasoned attorneys, program participation provides an avenue for sharing expertise with newer members of the profession by serving as mentors. Most important of all, VLP volunteer attorneys gain great personal satisfaction from helping the less fortunate and from making a positive, visible difference in their communities. I think our clients say it best:

"I finally got my kids for a weekend visit after a court visit. I am grateful for what my VLP attorney did for me. Thank God for people like yall to help the little people. I did not have funds enough for a lawyer but I had to try something, my kids needed to see me."

ALABAMA STATE BAR
VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

Organization Name: Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 671, Montgomery 36101

Physical Address: 415 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery 36104

Phone number: (334) 269-1515

Are you a non-profit? No

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? No

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: The VLP provides free legal services to low income individuals through private attorney volunteers.

How do clients qualify for your services? Clients must meet eligibility guidelines for subject matter and financial need, income must be below 125% of the federal poverty level.

Program description: The Alabama State Bar Volunteer Lawyers Program is a program of the Alabama State Bar established by the Board of Bar Commissioners in 1990. The VLP provides free legal services to low-income individuals in civil matters and provides members of the Alabama State Bar with a simple well-organized way to fulfill their professional obligation to make legal counsel available to indigents.

"My Volunteer Attorney was the best lawyer anyone could have, there was never a moment I felt mistreated. You are all so kind may God bless all of you."

Although helping others in trouble is often its own reward, VLP volunteer attorneys also receive recognition for their service through the pro bono honor roll and annual awards given by the Alabama State Bar, special events spotlighting community pro bono activities, articles in the Alabama State Bar publications, and free training seminars for CLE credit.

The Volunteer Lawyers Program continues to grow and provide more services to indigent clients. With our volunteers from the private bar we strive to represent those who might have otherwise gone unrepresented. If you wish to join us in achieving this goal please complete the registration form in this issue of *The Alabama Lawyer*, or on line at www.alabar.org. ■

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

Our most vulnerable neighbors are hurting—and we can do something about it. That's the belief that drives Arise Citizens' Policy Project (ACPP), a non-partisan coalition of 140 congregations and community groups promoting fairer state policies for low-income Alabamians since 1994. Our sister organization, Alabama Arise, was founded in 1988 as a citizens' lobby that equips Alabamians to speak out to state policymakers on poverty issues. The ACPP staff, headquartered in Montgomery, comprises an executive director, four community organizers, three policy analysts, a development director and a communications director.

ACPP's policy work begins and ends with community participation. During the summer months, staff organizers hold listening sessions around the state to identify concerns facing low-income Alabamians. At the coalition's annual meeting in September, member groups review these concerns and set an issue agenda that guides staff activity for the coming year. The priority issues for 2007 are Medicaid reform, environmental justice, constitutional reform, tax reform, campaign finance reform, public transportation and a moratorium on executions. In the months leading up to the spring legislative session, ACPP policy analysts research these priority issues and develop recommendations for policymakers. The organizers then return to the field, educating constituents on the issues and recruiting people to share our agenda with lawmakers and editors. All of this activity reflects the core ACPP belief that low-income Alabamians deserve a well-informed voice in shaping the policies that affect their lives.

The work of ACPP also reaches beyond our membership. In 2005, we partnered with VOICES for Alabama's Children to publish *The Alabama Tax & Budget Handbook*, which received editorial endorsements from all major papers in the state. *The Montgomery Advertiser* called it "surely one of the finest examples of public service in Alabama history." We used the handbook to educate the public—and public officials—on how our tax system works, how it compares with those of other states, and how we could improve it. One theme running through the handbook is that Alabama shouldn't tax people deeper into poverty. We can't claim all the credit, but by the time the Legislature convened in January 2006, Alabama's \$4,600 income tax threshold—the

ARISE CITIZEN'S POLICY PROJECT

Organization Name: Arise Citizens' Policy Project

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1188, Montgomery 36101

Physical Address: 207 Montgomery Street, Suite 810, Montgomery 36104

Phone number: (334) 832-9060

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? No

Brief description of services provided: Community organizing, research and education on state policies affecting low-income Alabamians

Program description: ACPP is a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of 140 congregation and community groups that promotes fairer state policies toward low-income Alabamians through research and education.

lowest in the nation—was the talk of the State House. In April, lawmakers passed a bill raising the threshold to \$12,600, and the Governor signed it into law. ACPP staff and members will continue to use the handbook—now updated—to raise awareness about Alabama taxes and budgets and the need for further reform.

Also in 2006, we worked with the Alabama Law Institute, Alabama Appleseed, Alabama Watch and the Southern Poverty Law Center to pass a landlord-tenant law. With this compromise legislation, hammered out in lengthy negotiations with the Realtors Association, Alabama loses its distinction as the only state failing to offer tenant protections. In late 2006, ACPP partnered with Appleseed and Legal Services Alabama to publish *The Alabama Tenants' Handbook* explaining all aspects of the new law and offering general advice for renters.

ACPP's greatest organizational strength is the experience of our 140 member groups. We continue to marvel that a Deep South state could have 140 congregations and community groups that agree that people are suffering because of policy decisions, that state budgets for health care, child care and education should increase, and that ordinary Alabamians can make a difference. ■

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

The Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc. (BVLVP) was established in 1995 to provide free legal assistance to the low-income citizens of Jefferson County through referral of non-emergency civil cases to volunteer private attorneys. The BVLVP is staffed with a part-time director, Debra W. Jenkins, contract services help, Cumberland School of Law externs and other volunteers. We recruit private attorneys to join the BVLVP and accept up to two cases per year without payment (pro bono) or serve as mentors to less experienced volunteer attorneys. We have grown to a membership of over 600 volunteer attorneys. In 2005, we handled over 248 cases. We also offer an externship program that allows law student volunteers from Cumberland School of Law to gain legal experience through their service at the BVLVP. The BVLVP sponsors seminars every year to show appreciation to our volunteer attorneys and to train them to better serve our clients. Each volunteer attorney can earn up to 12-hours of CLE credit, free of charge, by attending our trainings. Board members Anne W. Mitchell and Timothy M. Lupinacci assist in designing the probate law and bankruptcy law trainings.

An example of a recent success story concerns the purchase of a used car by one of our clients. This client had serious health problems that required frequent transportation for medical care. Due to our client's illness, he was unable to continue paying for the car and it was repossessed. Volunteer panel attorney John A. Earnhardt of Maynard Cooper & Gale, PC negotiated the return of \$900 to our client, which represented the majority of the money he had paid for the used car.

Many supportive people and organizations donate their time, expertise and money to help make the BVLVP a success. We thank the following board members for their support and assistance: LaVeeda M. Battle, Robert A. Jones, Jr., Anne W. Mitchell, Timothy M. Lupinacci and past board member and president, Douglas I. Friedman. We would like to thank the Birmingham Bar Foundation for their financial support, the Birmingham Bar Association for providing us free office space and receptionist services, the Alabama Law Foundation for their past financial support and other assistance and Legal Services Alabama for their financial support and intake assistance. We thank the law firm of Adams and Reese/Lange Simpson, LLP for their annual donation of \$2,500 and the law firm of Maynard

BIRMINGHAM VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM, INC.

Organization Name: Birmingham Volunteer Lawyers Program, Inc.

Mailing Address: 2120 2nd Avenue North, Birmingham 35203-3703

Physical Address: Birmingham Bar Center

Phone number: (205) 250-5198

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: We provide free legal services to about 300 low-income citizens in the Jefferson County area (except the Bessemer Cut-off) during the year. We provide these services through referral of cases to BVLVP panel attorneys and through pro bono clinics co-sponsored with local law firms. We provide 12 hours of free CLE training to our panel attorneys, or to those private attorneys who wish to join the BVLVP. We also provide opportunities to extern students from Cumberland Law School.

How do clients qualify for your services? Clients are first screened and found eligible by Legal Services staff according to the national poverty guideline.

Program description: The BVLVP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation that provides free legal services to the low-income citizens in the Jefferson County area through referrals of non-emergency cases to local volunteer panel attorneys.

Cooper & Gale, PC for their annual donation of \$1,500. Several other law firms and individuals have made smaller donations and we also thank them for their support. We also thank the local judges and attorneys who have served on many occasions as trainers in our annual CLE training events, including Judge J. Gary Pate, Judge Allan King, Judge Tamara Mitchell, Judge J. Russell Hoover, Robin Burrell, Rick Fernambucq, Robert Lusk, Ted Stuckenschneider, Suzanne Shinn, and D. Sims Crawford.

Even with the efforts of all those mentioned above, the BVLVP is in need of more volunteer panel attorneys and additional financial support. If you want to become a volunteer panel attorney or donate funds to the BVLVP, please contact Debra W. Jenkins at the Birmingham Bar Center, 2021 2nd Avenue North; telephone (205)250-5198 or birminghamvlpinc@bellsouth.net. ■

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

Since 1989, the Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama (EJI) has provided legal assistance to the poor, imprisoned and condemned. EJI has developed a national reputation for effective legal advocacy and innovative community education and legal training programs. EJI has won relief for dozens of death row prisoners, established important legal precedents through litigation in state and federal courts in the Deep South, as well as in the United States Supreme Court, and provided aid to scores of imprisoned people facing unjust confinement.

Providing Legal Assistance to Death Row Prisoners and Capital Defendants. Alabama is the only state in the country without a state-funded program to provide legal assistance to death row prisoners. In the last several years, Alabama has sentenced more people to death per capita than any other state in the country. Two-thirds of the nearly 200 people currently under sentence of death in Alabama were represented at trial by appointed counsel whose compensation for out-of-court preparation was capped by law at \$1000. Alabama is the only state in the country that allows elected state court judges to override jury verdicts of life imprisonment and impose death sentences without any limiting standard. Over 20% of all death sentences are imposed as a result of judge override.

EJI has provided legal representation to over 170 death row prisoners and won new trials, reduced sentences or exoneration in dozens of cases. EJI produces the ALABAMA CAPITAL POSTCONVICTION MANUAL, the ALABAMA CAPITAL DEFENSE TRIAL MANUAL, the EJI LEGAL QUARTERLY and the recently introduced LEGAL UPDATE for scores of attorneys who provide legal representation to capital defendants and death row prisoners. EJI hosts training programs for lawyers, operates a clinical training program for law students and issues reports on capital punishment and related issues.

Challenging Excessive and Harsh Punishments. EJI has recently succeeded in obtaining relief for dozens of non-violent offenders who were sentenced to life imprisonment without parole (LWOP) as a result of Alabama's notorious Habitual Felony Offender Act. The law mandates an LWOP sentence for a fourth felony even if it is a non-violent crime like stealing a bicycle, writing a bad check or drug possession. Through successful litigation in the Alabama Supreme Court and in trial courts across the state, EJI has assisted non-violent offenders who have been unfairly condemned to die in prison. As a result of EJI's efforts, many have now won their freedom.

EJI has recently launched a campaign to abolish life imprisonment without parole for young children who have been convicted of violent crimes. There are dozens of 13- and 14-year old children who have been condemned to die

EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE OF ALABAMA

Organization Name: Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama (EJI)

Mailing Address: 122 Commerce Street, Montgomery 36104

Physical Address: Same

Phone number: (334) 269-1803

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: We provide legal assistance to condemned prisoners on death row and to those sentenced to excessive and harsh terms of imprisonment, juveniles, the mentally ill and others unfairly convicted. We also provide training to lawyers and law students and document the need for criminal justice reform.

Program description: The Equal Justice Initiative of Alabama (EJI) is a private, non-profit law project that provides assistance to the poor, people of color and the disadvantaged who must confront unfair administration of criminal justice.

in prison as a result of LWOP sentences. Through litigation efforts, EJI has taken on the cases of several imprisoned people who have been unfairly or wrongly sentenced to LWOP. Challenging excessive and harsh sentencing policies has become a central concern at EJI.

Confronting Racial Bias and Helping the Poor in the Criminal Justice System. During the last 30 years, mass incarceration policies have devastated poor and minority communities. Disenfranchisement of offenders and the erection of permanent barriers for employment and re-entry have created a growing underclass of largely poor people. EJI is committed to challenging racially discriminatory policies, sentencing and tactics that have made mass imprisonment a crisis in many communities of color. Indigent defense reform and providing legal assistance to the poor is vital to alleviate the problems caused by unfair criminal justice policies. Through education, community outreach efforts, litigation and policy reform, EJI attempts to address some of these issues.

Community Education and Legal Training Programs. EJI has recently introduced a community education effort aimed at underserved communities in the Deep South that focuses on human rights education and details the problems of the poor and people of color in the criminal justice system. With films, handouts, discussion groups and other outreach, we hope to educate and empower community members to reshape the debate on crime and social policy in this country.

(Continued on page 62)

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

A young couple with a toddler at home, each parent working two minimum wage jobs, with no healthcare insurance, facing the costs of a catastrophic illness—and potential homelessness as result. A disabled woman with no living family members in subsidized housing facing eviction because of her “housekeeping.” Elderly hurricane victims preyed on by unscrupulous contractors live for more than a year in a tiny, dark aluminum trailer next to their “home—still only a pile of unlivable rubble. A bruised and battered woman too scared to leave her abusive husband because she is afraid she will lose her children—because she has no money of her own to feed, house and clothe them. These are the kinds of clients Alabama’s statewide legal aid provider, Legal Services Alabama, sees every day.

Legal Services Alabama (LSA) is a statewide non-profit organization created in February 2004 as the result of a merger of three organizations with decades of history in Alabama: Legal Services of North Central Alabama, Legal Services of Metro Birmingham and Legal Services Corporation of Alabama. LSA’s 70 dedicated attorneys and paralegals located in 11 offices and four integrated regional call centers throughout Alabama provide free, high-quality legal assistance in civil matters to low-income individuals, families and communities. In 2006, LSA closed more than 9,000 cases. Yet, according to the Alabama Poverty Project’s 2005 Picture of Poverty, there are more than 915,000 Alabamians who live at 125 percent of the federal poverty level and are financially eligible for LSA’s services. One quarter of those in poverty in Alabama are children; 15 percent are over the age of 65.

LSA is able to resolve many client issues outside the courtroom with a phone call or letter from a staff attorney or through negotiation, helping to lessen the load on Alabama’s judicial system. When LSA attorneys do go to court with clients, clients are not appearing *pro se* who otherwise might be. LSA also practices “preventative law”—educating community groups on their rights and responsibilities in order to prevent individuals from getting into situations which might require access to the judicial system to resolve.

LSA’s intervention and involvement complements the efforts of family shelters, law enforcement, social services, mental health, and other agencies. LSA collaborates with the Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence and local domestic violence shelters, is involved in local homelessness and affordable-housing coalitions and works closely with dozens of nonprofit organizations, community colleges, universities and law schools and with local and state government agencies across Alabama. This makes LSA an important community partner in the effort to provide families the means to break the cycle of poverty or violence in order to reach or return to a safe, stable, productive existence.

LSA also works in close partnership with Alabama’s volunteer lawyer programs (VLPs), doing the initial client eligibility

LEGAL SERVICES ALABAMA, INC.

Organization Name: Legal Services Alabama, Inc.

Physical Address: Headquarters office: 207 Montgomery Street, Ste. 1250, Montgomery 36104. See www.alsp.org/AL for locations and phone numbers of offices statewide

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: Free civil legal assistance to qualified, low income individuals, families and groups as well as the elderly, victims of family violence and victims of hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Ivan; focused on critical legal needs in the areas of family law, housing, public benefits, consumer and community economic development. Also provides community legal education

How do clients qualify for your services? Must be low-income with a critical/basic survival legal need that fits into program priorities.

Program description: Statewide non-profit, 11 local offices, four integrated call centers (disaster/Spanish speakers legal hotlines; elder rights hotline in 2007); substantive law practice groups in the areas of family/dv, housing, public benefits, consumer and community economic development. 27-member geographically-diverse board of directors composed of one-third client-eligible members and two-thirds attorneys.

screening and intake on behalf of the Alabama State Bar, Birmingham Bar and Madison County programs. LSA also provides critical financial support to all four of Alabama’s volunteer lawyer programs, including the Mobile County Bar VLP.

After Hurricane Katrina, LSA launched a Disaster Hotline Network to supplement the Disaster Hotline operated by the ASB Volunteer Lawyers Program and Young Lawyers’ Section. Using an innovative, integrated phone technology infrastructure allowed LSA’s hotline to be accessible more evening and weekend hours than any other disaster legal assistance hotline in the country. LSA’s hotline staffing infrastructure was used to launch a legal hotline for Spanish speakers (in partnership with the Alabama State Bar and other organizations) in March 2006. In 2007, LSA will launch a toll-free elder rights hotline in partnership with the Alabama Department of Senior Services.

Legal Services Alabama’s largest single funder is the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), a private, non-profit corporation established in 1974 and funded through congressional appropriation. LSC does not provide legal services directly but grants funds to independent programs like Legal Services Alabama selected through a system of competitive bidding. Because LSA receives funding from LSC, it is subject to oversight by the LSC Office of Inspector General. LSA must undergo annual independent compliance and financial audits and is expected to follow guidance for program effectiveness included in the LSC Performance Criteria and the ABA

(Continued on page 61)

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program

This year the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program will have been in operation for twenty-five years. A silver anniversary!

One of the first organized pro bono programs in the state of Alabama, the program has seen many changes in the course of our silver anniversary. The biggest change has been from our operation as a lawyer referral service with a pro bono component, to a strictly volunteer pro bono program. Formerly we were known as the Lawyer Referral and Information Service of Madison County, Inc. We are now the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program. We have also unfortunately seen changes in funding, number of panel members, staff, and hours of operation. What has *not* changed is *need*.

Twenty-five years ago or today, our program still receives more requests for pro bono services than we have the ability to handle. We have and continue to have a dedicated core of committed and hardworking attorneys participating in the program, but again, the need is still there.

If you are not currently participating in the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers program, please consider it today. Even forgetting that we each have an obligation to provide pro bono services, you cannot ignore the personal satisfaction in knowing that you have had a part in making legal representation accessible to someone who may not have had the opportunity for representation as well as possibly improving their quality of life. It is easy to say it does not matter what we do because the need will always be there, but as director of the program, and as many of our participating attorneys will tell you, it does matter. They are making a difference everyday in the lives of these clients. They may be the advocate in ending an abusive marriage, in helping a family retain their home, or finding relief from debt and other consumer issues. One attorney reported that in completing an adoption for grandparents of a child, that he not only had helped the child to thrive, but had really become a mentor of the teenage mother of the child by encouraging the mother and helping her with entry into college.

The process to become a member of the Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program is easy. Call the office

MADISON COUNTY VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM

Organization Name: Madison County Volunteer Lawyers Program

Mailing Address: P. O. Box 2913, Huntsville 35804

Physical Address: 2000-C Vernon Avenue, Huntsville 35805

Phone number: (256) 539-2275

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: Referral of income-eligible clients for free legal services in specific areas of law

How do clients qualify for your services? Referred to the program after being screened for income eligibility by Legal Services Alabama

Program description: After being screened for income eligibility by Legal Services Alabama, eligible clients are then referred to our program. We place the client with a volunteer attorney who has indicated he/she will accept referrals in that area. We ask that each attorney perform a minimum of two civil cases per year or 20 hours of service, whichever comes first.

or e-mail us for a membership form and tell us the area(s) of law in which you would like to receive referrals. A client will be referred to you by our program only after being screened for income eligibility by Legal Services Alabama, Inc. These problems may range from divorce, adoption and other family law matters, bankruptcy, the need for a will, or other minor legal issues. We ask for a commitment of two civil case referrals or a total of twenty hours of legal work per year from our participating attorneys. A small commitment for what could be a great service to an individual in need.

Our goal in this silver anniversary year is to make it the best year yet in terms of participation and aiding our clients. Just like a marriage, it will require commitment and time, but if you help, the rewards could be great! ■

LEGAL SERVICES ALABAMA, INC. (Continued from page 60)

Standards for the Provision of Civil Legal Aid. LSA also competes for scarce financial resources like any other non-profit, conducting fundraising campaigns and submitting grant requests to local, regional, state and national funders and foundations.

What do low-income Alabamians face when LSA is not there to help them? They face homelessness, child and elder abuse and neglect and—for victims of domestic violence—sometimes even death.

What does it cost us when civil legal aid is not there for Alabamians and justice is just for those who can afford it? It costs us as taxpayers. Without the safety net of legal aid to

bridge the gap in a crisis, more of our neighbors teetering on the edge of self-sufficiency will drop off the edge of the cliff to reliance on government benefits. It costs us as people of faith. When Francis Bellamy, a Baptist minister, wrote the original Pledge of Allegiance in 1892 he concluded it with the words, “with liberty and justice for all.” It costs us as a civilized nation. The twin concepts of equal justice and of access for all to the courts of our land are among the founding principles of this country. In the words of Federal Judge Learned Hand, “If we are to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: Thou shalt not ration justice.” ■

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

The Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program has provided free legal service and advice to low-income citizens since 1989. It was the first volunteer lawyers program in Alabama, and it continues to thrive due to the strong support from the Mobile legal community. Over the past 17 years, the program has grown dramatically in both the number of clients served and the number of attorneys who participate by donating their time and resources to the program. Over 600 lawyers—about half the attorneys in Mobile—volunteer their time and services *pro bono* to the Volunteer Lawyers Program and its clients. A good number of those attorneys and area law firms also contribute financially to support the program’s operating budget.

The MBA Volunteer Lawyers Program employs three full-time staff: an executive director, an intake specialist, and an administrative assistant. The executive director and her staff screen clients for eligibility and assign cases to the volunteer attorneys. The VLP assigns cases to volunteer lawyers on a rotating basis. Some lawyers come into the VLP office and interview clients who have made appointments through the program; other lawyers accept case referrals by telephone based on their skills and experience and the specific needs of clients. Cases range from family law issues to guardianships and conservatorships to landlord/tenant disputes. Volunteer attorneys have also assisted victims of recent hurricanes with insurance claims and other related issues. In recent years, the Volunteer Lawyers Program has referred out about 500 cases a year.

The Mobile VLP recognizes the top volunteer lawyers each year with awards at one of the local bar association’s monthly meetings. The program also maintains an “Honor Roll” of law firms which are 100 percent *pro bono*, that is, all of their lawyers participate as volunteers. The Mobile VLP sponsors a continuing legal education seminar each

**MOBILE BAR ASSOCIATION
VOLUNTEER LAWYERS PROGRAM**

Organization Name: Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program
Mailing Address: 107 St. Francis Street, Suite 2102, Mobile 36602
Physical Address: 2102 AmSouth Bank Building
Phone number: (251) 438-1102
Are you a non-profit? Yes
Do you accept donations? Yes
Are donations tax-deductible? Yes
Do you provide direct client services? Yes
Brief description of services provided: Volunteer lawyers provide pro bono assistance to low-income citizens of Mobile County in critical types of civil matters.
How do clients qualify for your services? Clients must meet guidelines for residency, subject matter and financial eligibility (income below 125 percent of the federal poverty level).
Program description: The Mobile Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Program was established in 1989 and currently has 625 participating attorneys—over half of the local bar membership. The program has three full-time staff who handle intake and referral of cases.

year on poverty law topics, and the VLP director speaks frequently to social workers and community groups to let them know about the program’s services and the good work local lawyers are doing. The program is in the process of developing a short video which it can use to inform the public about its mission and services.

The Mobile VLP is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and is a United Way agency. It is funded by Legal Services Alabama, United Way, the Mobile Bar Foundation, the Alabama Bar Foundation, and the generous contributions of Mobile lawyers and law firms. ■

EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE OF ALABAMA (Continued from page 59)

EJI additionally brings law students and lawyers together at training programs that are designed to improve the quality of legal aid to the poor in underserved areas.

EJI believes that the character of a society must be judged by how we treat the poor, the disadvantaged, the imprisoned and the disfavored. The commitment to equal justice requires tremendous improvements in the current plight of the poor and people of color in the criminal justice system. For more information about EJI, please visit our website at www.eji.org. ■

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

Hundreds of exploited workers brought to New Orleans to clean up and rebuild the city after Katrina are now collecting the back wages due them. In two Louisiana parishes, children with special educational needs are finally getting the services they need to be successful in school. And in Alabama, mentally ill prison inmates, formerly warehoused and neglected, are receiving proper care in a humane environment.

These are examples of the effectiveness of the Southern Poverty Law Center's litigation and advocacy efforts.

Founded as a small civil rights law firm in 1971 by Montgomery lawyers Morris Dees and Joe Levin, the Center today is internationally known for its tolerance education program, its legal victories against white supremacist groups, its tracking of extremism in the United States and its sponsorship of the Civil Rights Memorial.

When Dees and Levin created the center, their mission was to win equal rights for the poor and minorities by taking high-impact, high-risk cases that other lawyers had neither the willingness nor the resources to tackle.

In the decades since then, the practice of law at the center has been characterized by the same imagination, daring and dogged persistence that marked its beginning. Center attorneys have fought segregation, protected society's most vulnerable members, and battled hate groups whose followers have violated the rights of others.

The center prides itself on handling pioneering lawsuits, some taking years to complete. Many of these cases have resulted in landmark rulings.

In a series of successful lawsuits, the center's legal staff developed novel strategies to shut down white supremacist paramilitary activity and to help victims of hate crimes win monetary damages against groups like the Klan and the Aryan Nations. These cases have toppled many of the nation's most notorious hate groups.

The center has also litigated scores of civil rights cases in other areas of the law—cases on behalf of minorities, women, factory workers, poor people in need of health care, average citizens suffering under the yoke of unfair tax

SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER

Organization Name: Southern Poverty Law Center
Mailing Address: 400 Washington Avenue, Montgomery 36104
Physical Address: Same
Phone number: (334) 956-8200
Are you a non-profit? Yes
Do you accept donations? Yes
Are donations tax-deductible? Yes
Do you provide direct client services? No
Program description: Southern Poverty Law Center lawyers handle strategically chosen class-action lawsuits, primarily in the areas of education, juvenile justice and immigrant rights.

practices, mentally ill persons, children in foster care, prisoners facing barbaric conditions of confinement, immigrant workers cheated of wages, and many other victims of injustice.

Today, the center continues to handle strategically chosen class action lawsuits, primarily in the areas of education, juvenile justice and immigrant rights.

In 2004, it launched one of the boldest initiatives in its history, the Immigrant Justice Project (IJP), created to ensure that the rights of immigrant workers are protected in the southeastern states. The project focuses on the rights of a population routinely exploited and for whom few legal resources are available. IJP is currently litigating several federal class actions on behalf of farmworkers in Georgia, pine tree planters throughout the South and hotel workers in New Orleans.

In Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi, combining advocacy, litigation and training, center legal staffers are working to reform those states' broken juvenile justice systems. They are also working to ensure that youths with special educational needs get the services they are entitled to so they will not end up in the juvenile justice system. ■

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

In 1970, Frank Samford, III, with the help of newly-licensed attorney Bill Dawson and at the initiative of then third-year law students Jim Blacksher and Larry Menefee, obtained a small grant from the state to start the first law clinic program at The University of Alabama School of Law. The clinic's first cases were typical poverty law cases, mostly domestic relations and landlord-tenant, although it did manage to sue the state agency that provided its initial funding, with the predictable result that the grant was terminated. Nevertheless, an alternate source of funding was found, and today that small program has grown to encompass six law clinics and up to 60 students each semester, all housed in a new 11,500 square foot state-of-the-art law office in Tuscaloosa.

The law school's law clinics all have dual goals: to provide hands-on training in the professional skills and values needed for the successful, ethical practice of law and to provide free legal assistance to needy residents and non-profit or governmental organizations in Alabama. Training in professional skills and values is accomplished by placing the law clinic student, as much as possible, into the role of attorney on the case under the close supervision of experienced law school faculty. Thus, with the client's consent and as allowed under the state's student practice rule, students are the primary or "first chair" attorneys on most cases. As student attorneys, they are given responsibility for client interviewing and counseling, case planning and management, factual investigation, legal research, drafting pleadings, briefs and other legal documents, negotiations, alternative dispute resolution, settlement, and trial and appellate advocacy. In the process of taking responsibility for actual cases, students move from observers to participants in the legal system and learn to integrate substantive law, procedures, and ethics with the professional skills needed for all aspects of their professional lives.

The law school's six law clinics, the Civil Law Clinic, Elder Law Clinic, Criminal Law Clinic, Capital Defense Law Clinic, Community Development Law Clinic, and Domestic Violence Law Clinic, provide free legal assistance to a wide range of clients on an assortment of cases.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW
CIVIL LAW CLINIC

Organization Name: Civil Law Clinic-The University of Alabama School of Law

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 870392, Tuscaloosa 35487-0392

Physical Address: The University of Alabama School of Law, 101 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa 35401

Phone number: (205) 348-4960

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes, through the University of Alabama Law School Foundation.

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: The Civil Law Clinic provides free legal assistance on civil matters to University of Alabama students and members of the community.

How do clients qualify for your services? By contacting the clinic and setting up an intake interview at (205) 348-4960

Program description: The University of Alabama School of Law's Civil Law Clinic provides free legal assistance on a full range of civil matters and certain municipal infractions to University of Alabama students and to others on a referral basis. Through its student attorneys, the Civil Law Clinic provides free legal advice and services on matters such as: landlord/tenant disputes; employment concerns; contract issues; automobile accidents; insurance claims; consumer complaints; financial and debt management; immigration; drivers' license problems; alcohol violations; domestic relations; and civil rights claims.

Civil Law Clinic: The Civil Law Clinic is the Law School's oldest clinic, having provided legal assistance for over 35 years. Under the direction of Professor Anne Hornsby, students in this clinic provide free legal advice and representation to university students and represent members of the community in civil matters on a limited referral basis. Civil clinic students annually handle over 200 cases from intake interviews through negotiations and to hearings and trials, if necessary, in state small claims, district, and circuit courts, as well as federal district court. The clinic's caseload encompasses a wide variety of legal claims, including consumer law, debt collection defense, domestic relations, housing, insurance, municipal court infractions (misdemeanors), torts, and other civil matters.

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW
ELDER LAW CLINIC**

Organization Name: Elder Law Clinic-The University of Alabama School of Law

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 870392, Tuscaloosa 35487-0392

Physical Address: The University of Alabama School of Law, 101 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa 35401

Phone number: (205) 348-4960

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes, through the University of Alabama Law School Foundation

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: The Elder Law Clinic provides free legal assistance to individuals 60 years of age and older residing in West Alabama. Assistance is limited to non-criminal matters and is provided according to a set of priorities. As a Title III legal provider, there is no fee for the services and no income qualification required.

How do clients qualify for your services? By contacting the clinic at (205) 348-4960 or 1-800-452-9036

Program description: The University of Alabama School of Law's Elder Law Clinic provides legal advice, assistance, and representation on civil matters to persons 60 years of age or older residing in Pickens, Hale, Bibb, Fayette, Lamar, Greene, or Tuscaloosa county. Through its student and staff attorneys, the Elder Law Clinic provides legal assistance on matter such as: nursing home issues; Medicaid/Medicare; Social Security; consumer fraud; housing; public benefits; elder abuse and exploitation; probate; and health care planning and decision-making.

Elder Law Clinic: With the nation's population aging, elder law has become one of the fastest growing areas of law practice. Since the mid-1970s, students in the Elder Law Clinic have provided free legal advice and representation to individuals aged 60 and over in the seven West Alabama counties of Bibb, Greene, Hale, Fayette, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa. Last year, the clinic, under the guidance of clinic director Hugh Lee, assisted over 800 elderly persons. Legal assistance includes all necessary assistance and advocacy in matters such as health care, Medicare, Medicaid and other public benefits, protection from abuse, neglect and exploitation, advance directives and durable powers of attorney, will drafting, consumer fraud, and a broad array of other civil legal needs. The Elder Law Clinic also pro-

**UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW
CRIMINAL LAW CLINIC**

Organization Name: Criminal Law Clinic-The University of Alabama School of Law

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 870392, Tuscaloosa 35487-0392

Physical Address: Tuscaloosa County Public Defender's Office, Tuscaloosa County Courthouse, 714 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa 35401

Phone number: (205) 354-8200

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes, through the University of Alabama Law School Foundation

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: The Criminal Law Clinic provides free legal assistance to indigent persons charged with crimes in Tuscaloosa County.

How do clients qualify for your services? Through judicial appointment upon proof of indigence

Program description: The University of Alabama School of Law's Criminal Law Clinic provides free legal assistance to indigent persons charged with crimes in Tuscaloosa County. Through its student attorneys and operating out of the Tuscaloosa County Public Defender's Office, the Criminal Law Clinic provides legal representation on all aspects of misdemeanor and felony cases in Tuscaloosa County's municipal, district and circuit courts.

vides education on elder law matters to community and nursing home residents and operates an informational website at www.uaelderlaw.org/.

Criminal Defense Law Clinic: The Criminal Defense Clinic has operated out of the Tuscaloosa Public Defender's Office for over two decades; prior to that, law students worked in the Public Defender's and District Attorney's Offices as externs. Professor Joe Morrison directs this clinic, which represents indigent defendants in misdemeanor and felony criminal matters in Tuscaloosa County's municipal, district, and circuit courts. Students handle preliminary hearings, motions, pleas, and bench and jury trials in almost 200 cases each year.

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW
CAPITAL DEFENSE LAW CLINIC

Organization Name: Capital Defense Law Clinic-The University of Alabama School of Law

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 870392, Tuscaloosa 35487-0392

Physical Address: The University of Alabama School of Law, 101 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa 35401

Phone number: (205) 348-6845

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes, through the University of Alabama Law School Foundation

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Yes, but only by assisting private attorneys in their direct representation

Brief description of services provided: The Capital Defense Law Clinic assists attorneys representing individuals in Alabama who are facing capital charges or have been sentenced to death.

How do clients qualify for your services? Because the clinic does not provide direct client representation, attorneys can contact the clinic at (205) 348-6845 or ndiaz@law.ua.edu.

Program description: The University of Alabama School of Law's Capital Defense Law Clinic assists attorneys in Alabama representing individuals facing capital murder charges or a death sentence. Through its students, the clinic provides assistance on matters such as: case strategy; fact investigations; legal research and writing; trial preparation (including the penalty [mitigation] phase of trial); and organizing evidence and other materials for trial or post-conviction petitions.

Capital Defense Law Clinic: Just three years old, this law clinic assists members of the private bar representing individuals who have been sentenced to death and are seeking relief in state and federal courts or are facing trial in a capital case. In the course of their work, clinic students assist with case strategy, conduct factual investigations, organize materials for trial or post-conviction petitions, research and write motions and briefs, and help with preparation for the penalty phase of capital trials (mitigation). Nicole Self-Drake Diaz directs the clinic.

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT LAW CLINIC

Organization Name: Community Development Law Clinic-The University of Alabama School of Law

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 870392, Tuscaloosa 35487-0392

Physical Address: The University of Alabama School of Law, 101 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa 35401

Phone number: (205) 348-6845

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes, through the University of Alabama Law School Foundation

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: The Community Development Law Clinic provides free legal assistance to individuals and organizations seeking to improve the economic, cultural, social and environmental conditions of underserved or disadvantaged communities in Alabama.

How do clients qualify for your services? By contacting the clinic at (205) 348-6845 or ndiaz@law.ua.edu.

Program description: The University of Alabama School of Law's Community Development Law Clinic provides free legal assistance to individuals and organizations seeking to improve the economic, cultural, social and environmental conditions of underserved or disadvantaged communities. Through its student attorneys, the Community Development Law Clinic provides legal assistance on matters such as: entity formation (e.g., articles of incorporation, bylaws); tax-exempt status; leases and contracts for goods and services; housing and land use; local and state licensing and other regulatory requirements; improving local and state laws and regulations; and public participation rights.

Community Development Law Clinic: This clinic began in 2005 as a means to provide free legal assistance to individuals and non-profit or community organizations seeking to improve the economic, cultural, social, or environmental well-being of disadvantaged or underserved communities. Under the direction of Professor Robert Kuehn, students provide legal advice or representation (as well as assisting private attorneys providing similar pro bono assistance) on matters such as entity formation (e.g., articles of incorporation, bylaws), tax exempt status, leases and contracts, public participation rights (e.g., public records and open meetings), improving local and state laws and regulations, licensing requirements, and zoning and land use.

• PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP •

The University of Alabama School of Law Clinic Programs

Domestic Violence Law Clinic: The Law School's newest clinic, the Domestic Violence Law Clinic provides free legal assistance on civil matters to around 300 victims each year of domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking in the seven west Alabama counties of Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa. The Clinic takes a holistic approach to a victim's civil legal needs, with the clinic student first representing the victim in obtaining a protection from abuse order and then, in order to meet the victim's other legal needs, providing legal assistance in matters relating to divorce, custody and support, employment and debt issues, housing, property recovery, and public benefits. The Clinic, directed by Professor Kim Bart, also provides outreach and educational services to inform victims, service providers, and law enforcement personnel about legal rights and remedies to address domestic violence.

Together, the students in these six law clinics provide approximately 15,000 hours of free legal assistance each year to needy individuals and organizations; clinic faculty and staff provide over 10,000 hours of additional assistance. Annually, over 1,500 individuals and organizations are aided by law clinic program students and staff.

As the only public law school in Alabama, The University of Alabama School of Law is dedicated, through its law school clinics, both to ensuring that the next generation of lawyers are well trained in the skills necessary for the successful practice of law and to helping fulfill the bar's mission to provide competent legal services for all persons. With a brand new facility, new clinical faculty and overwhelming student interest, the clinical program at The University of Alabama School of Law is poised to become a leader nationally in clinical education while continuing to serve the legal needs of more and more of Alabama's poorest citizens. ■

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA SCHOOL OF LAW
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LAW CLINIC

Organization Name: Domestic Violence Law Clinic-The University of Alabama School of Law

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 870392, Tuscaloosa 35487-0392

Physical Address: The University of Alabama School of Law, 101 Paul Bryant Drive, Tuscaloosa 35401

Phone number: (205) 348-7129

Are you a non-profit? Yes

Do you accept donations? Yes, through the University of Alabama Law School Foundation

Are donations tax-deductible? Yes

Do you provide direct client services? Yes

Brief description of services provided: The Domestic Violence Law Clinic provides free legal assistance to victims of domestic violence, stalking or sexual assault residing in West Alabama. There are no income restrictions on qualifying for services from the clinic.

How do clients qualify for your services? By contacting a domestic violence shelter in West Alabama or the clinic at (205) 348-7129

Program description: The University of Alabama School of Law's Domestic Violence Law Clinic provides free legal services to victims of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault in the west Alabama counties of Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens, and Tuscaloosa. Through its student and staff attorneys, the Domestic Violence Law Clinic provides legal assistance on protection from abuse, family law, housing, employment, and other legal matters as needed to assist victims escaping domestic violence.

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