

Free Legal Aid Clinic Summer 2007 Newsletter

2007 - 2008 Board Of Directors

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FLAC Is On The Move

Dear Friends:

It causes me great pain to report to you that it has been decided once and for all that FLAC will move into LADA's new building in January. The move is scheduled to take place in between the Fall and Winter semesters. Hopefully, the transition will be smooth. I am going to try my very best to make sure that we keep as much of ourselves as we can but I must admit that I am hesitant in believing that I will be able to do so. Being in the new location will provide some new opportunities for the students involved in the Free Legal Aid Clinic. They should be able to gain experience in other areas of law, in addition to our primary focus of family law.

Regrettably, we were unable to come up with a viable solution in the little time that we had that could have offered us the same

resources, opportunities, and allowed us to remain in our current location. Nor, were we able to secure our own funding to become wholly independent. These are my aspirations for FLAC and are the goals that I will be pursuing for the rest of my time here. FLAC has overcome many tumultuous times in its existence and I am positive that this move will not stop it from what it has become and what it can be. I will continue to strive for excellence. I will continue my quest to help FLAC obtain its autonomy.

Now for the fun stuff! This summer has just been full of fun! The new student attorneys are wonderful, I love all of them! They work very hard, many times staying late to help clients. They are very concerned for the wellbeing of our clients and I know that the clients appreciate all the hard work that we provide.

Inside this Issue:

Moving	1, 3
Race for the Cure	1
Student Attorney "blog"	2
Alumni Softball	2
Fundraising	2, 3
FLAC Shirts	4
Keep in Touch	4

Race for the Cure

On June 16, 2007, FLAC students woke up bright and early and sacrificed their Saturday morning for a great cause. The community rallied together to Race for the Cure in support of finding a cure for breast cancer and FLAC fell right in stride with the other 5k walkers and runners. We had a great time while showing Detroit that we care!





Behind the scenes at our office



Mr. and Mrs. Yeager enjoy some delicious food



These students are dedicated to FLAC even before being hired!



Bernisha and Michal's smiles welcome guests at the front door.

Starting Out at FLAC

By: Amanda Morris, Student Attorney

The first day at FLAC was a breeze. Names, introductions, instructions, and a group lunch downtown made the transition into a real-world legal job easy. It was the morning of the second day that I realized that I had no idea what I was doing. Another new student attorney and I attended a seminar for individuals filing for divorce on their own. She and I stood in the corner, unsure of what to do when the barrage of questions started. I took a deep breath and started answering them the best that I could. Some how, the things that I said made sense because one of the women remembered my

name and has called me almost every day since then. Since that day, I tell all the clients I work with that navigating through the legal system isn't easy for anyone, even those that spend their whole lives working in it. This reassurance seems to make them feel more at ease with the whole legal process and me as their student attorney. What I don't tell them is that I probably learn more from them than they do from me. I appreciate every day and every person that comes through the door because it all makes me a better student attorney.

Students vs. Alumni Softball

Calling all alumni... Come take on FLAC students in our annual Student/Alumni softball game. We have to warn you that we've been practicing, though, so make sure you bring everything you've got!

Date: August 16, 2007

Time: 6:00 pm

Place: Wayne State University IM Fields
(Trumbull and Forest)

RSVP to flac@wayne.edu

Annual Fundraiser a Hit

The 2006-2007 and the 2007-2008 Boards would like to express a wholehearted thank you to everyone who helped make this year's fundraiser a huge success. Alumni and friends gathered at Ron and Mary Helveston's beautiful home in Detroit on May 19, 2007. Guests mingled, bidded on silent auction items, and bought raffle tickets while listening to live music from the Cats Pajamas.

An extra special thank you, as always, to the Helvestons for opening their home to FLAC. Can't wait to see everyone next year!



Student Attorneys Make Fundraising Fun!

This summer, the students at FLAC are taking matters into their own hands. With the guidance of Treasurer Neil Williams, the student attorneys have been split into two fundraising teams. Each team's goals, obviously, are to raise the most money for FLAC, to get the most people involved, and to raise awareness in the community of what we do. We'd be honored if our alumni could come out to support us and to have a good time! "Team Woodward" is hosting a bar night at PROOF Martini Lounge on July 27, 2007. Stay tuned for news from "Team Detroit"!



FLAC says no to Styrofoam...

Every year, FLAC students go through hundreds of styrofoam cups while at work. This summer, a decision was finally made to get rid of the styrofoam and opt for a more environment friendly option. Students ordered coffee mugs that say "FLAC" on them with a spot to write their name and then each decorated theirs to their taste! If you'd like to order a mug for yourself or for a friend, just call or email us and we'll send one your way!

On the Move continued...

FLAC has a MySpace page now! "FLAC" on MySpace is a 42 year old divorcee who is looking for all her old friends from over the years. Seek us out at www.myspace/freelegalaid-clinic and post some pictures, or let us know what you have been up to. We would love to hear from you and it's a great way to reconnect with some old buddies and keep up on current FLAC news.

We have FLAC-tivities all the time. Don't know what a FLAC-tivity is? It's an activity that FLACies participate in after

work or whenever. But please, don't give me all the credit for this creativity, this word's origin comes from a former FLACie by the name of Chelsea Ditz. This summer's FLACtivities include: starting a FLAC yearbook, going to Cedar Point and volunteering with Habitat for Humanity. And don't forget about the alumni softball game that Mike Waldo is putting together!

We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events. Have a great rest of the summer!



FLACies help save the environment!



Say goodbye to our building on campus

The Free Legal Aid Clinic, Inc.
5435 Woodward
Detroit, MI 48202



Phone: 313-831-3871

Fax: 313-831-3874

Email: flac@wayne.edu

www.law.wayne.edu/organization/flac

Staffed by Wayne State University Law Students~ Supervised by Legal Aid & Defender Association

Show Your FLAC Pride!!

If you have not already ordered a FLAC alumni shirt, now is the time to do so. We have blue polo shirts with white embroidery that say "FLAC Alumni" for only \$20! This is a great way to make a donation to your favorite non-profit organization while showing off your FLAC pride at the same time.

If you would like to order a shirt, please send \$20 with your mailing address and your shirt size to:

Free Legal Aid Clinic, Inc.
Attn: Bernisha Waller
5435 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202



Movin' on up? Retiring down South?

Whether you're finding a new job or leaving an old one, be sure to keep your current FLACies in the know.

There are three easy ways for you to do this:

1. Send us a postcard with your new address
2. Call (313) 831-3871 and ask for any available Board member
3. Drop us a line at flac@wayne.edu

Another great way to stay informed is to subscribe to the FLAC alumni list! Just send an email to: listserv@lists.wayne.edu. Leave the subject line blank and include "subscribe flacalumni your name" in the text portion of the message.

Example: subscribe flacalumni Joe Schmo

Updating your address with us is a great way to learn about various FLAC events! And we promise not to bombard you with tons of junk emails or sell your email to anyone else.
