

# East Bay Community Law Center

EBCLC E-Newsletter

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## Dear EBCLC Friends,

I am delighted to send you our fourth and final **E-Newsletter** this year.

We have a lot of exciting news to report this quarter, not the least of which is that **EBCLC is currently under contract to purchase a permanent home in the community!** More details will follow, but we anticipate launching a **capital campaign** in the coming months to help turn this dream into a reality!

I am also happy to announce that we have recently completed a substantial upgrade to the [EBCLC Website](#), where – among other things – you can view all **EBCLC E-Newsletters**.

In addition, you should have received our **2003-2004 Annual Report**, which features the work of our **Community Economic Development** practice. Please check out the **Annual Report**, visit the [Website](#) when you get a chance, and let us know what you think!

## Ø **Program Highlights**

Before describing selected recent program highlights at EBCLC, I want to share with you a recent note from a family member of one of EBCLC's Pacific Renaissance clients – who faced eviction from a development in Oakland's Chinatown – and who passed away on October 29th:

**“I believe that my mother's life was extended because of the support that allowed her to stay in the comfort of her own home. We have been blessed. We owe much to the East Bay Community Law Center, Just Cause, APEN, CJWP, CAA, Oakland Tenants Union and the other tenants. Thank you.”**

- In August, **EBCLC Suitcase Clinic Legal Services Director Tirien Steinbach** and student **Jessie Warner (Boalt '05)** served on the Program Committee for the inaugural **Peace and Justice Community Summit** sponsored by **All of Us or None**, an organization founded by formerly incarcerated people and their families to change policies that limit their opportunities upon release. Under Tirien's supervision, Jessie researched and wrote the list of policy changes sought by All of Us or None from the elected officials in attendance, many of which already have been included in Alameda County's legislative agenda at the state and local level. Tirien and Jessie worked on a similar summit in October in **San Francisco**, and are involved in planning for one in **East Palo Alto** later this month.
- In September, **HIV/AIDS Law Attorney Manel Kappagoda** presented the **AIDS Lanka** project at the **Stanford School of Medicine's Fall Forum on Community Health and Public Service**. The forum featured a wide range of service and partnership research projects undertaken by students in underserved communities around the world. **AIDS Lanka** is a collaborative with **Boalt Hall's International Human Rights Law Clinic** and the **Samuelson Law, Technology and Public Policy Clinic** to bring affordable medications to Sri Lankans living with HIV.
- In October, under the supervision of **HIV/AIDS Law Supervising Attorney Linda Tam**, EBCLC prevailed in **Immigration Court** on behalf of a gay, HIV-infected client seeking asylum from Mexico. Like many asylum cases, this was a difficult and hard-fought victory, which benefited from the efforts of multiple student advocates, including **Pamela Neufeld (Fall '03)**, **June Beack (Summer '04)** and **Richard Oberto (Fall '04)**.
- In October, **EBCLC Housing Attorney Marc Janowitz** was an invited speaker at the **State Bar Annual Meeting** in Monterey, where he presented "**Righteous and Wrongful Evictions 2004: Strategies for Ethical and Effective Representation**" to more than 100 conferees. In August, **Verdict Search California** reported a successful jury verdict in one of Marc and **Laura Lane's** cases, Keller Plaza v. Juan Carlosa Miller, in which the landlord was found to have breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing in seeking to evict Mr. Miller who had lived in one of their apartments for 21 years.
- This fall, EBCLC conducted its first-ever **Non-Partisan Voter Registration Drive**. Under the leadership of **Tirien Steinbach** and **Margaretta Lin**, and with the financial support of the **San Francisco Foundation**, EBCLC successfully reached out to many hundreds of traditionally-disenfranchised voters.
- Also this fall, the **HIV/AIDS Law Practice** has conducted numerous trainings and presentations for scores of clients and dozens of service providers on HIV-related legal issues, including at:
  - ✓ **Women Organized to Respond to Life-Threatening Diseases Retreat**
  - ✓ **Tri-City Health Center**
  - ✓ **UCSF AIDS Forum (to medical and pharmacy students)**

- ✓ **Alameda County Office of AIDS**
- ✓ **Latino HIV Support Groups in Richmond and Fremont**
- ✓ **AIDS Project of the East Bay**
- ✓ **AIDS Education and Training Center**
- ✓ **The Center for AIDS Services**

From November 18-21, 2004, the **Center for the Contemplative Mind Law Program Director** and **EBCLC alumni Douglas Chermak** will host a **Law Retreat** at Spirit Rock Meditation Center. For more information about the retreat, please click [here](#).

## ∅ **Clinic News**

- **30 Boalt students** are in their last month at EBCLC as **Fall 2004 Clinic Interns**, including 24 new students and 6 returning students.
- EBCLC recently admitted **30 Boalt students** for the **Spring 2005 Clinic**, including 23 new students and 7 returning students.
- The long-awaited **EBCLC Alumni/ae Directory** – which we hope will serve as a useful resource for current and former students – will be mailed out before the end of the year. Please send us your updated contact information so we can make it as accurate as possible!

## ∅ **Recent Awards**

EBCLC staff, students and board members continue to receive well-deserved recognition for their work.

- In September, **EBCLC Executive Director Jeff Selbin** was one of two legal services lawyers in Northern California named a "**Super Lawyer**" by *Law & Politics* and the publishers of *San Francisco Magazine*. Awardees were selected based on a survey of 50,000 attorneys in Northern California followed by review of a blue ribbon panel.
- In September, **EBCLC Executive Director Jeff Selbin** was named to the **Triage Task Force** of the **California Commission on Access to Justice**. The long-term goal of the task force is to meet the legal needs of poor Californians through more effective use of resources in a statewide delivery system.
- In October, **EBCLC Board Member Eric Brooks** of **Morrison & Foerster** began a term as chair of the **State Bar of California's Ethnic & Minority Relations Committee**.
- In October, **EBCLC Executive Director Jeff Selbin** began a 3-year appointed term on the **State Bar of California's Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal**

**Services**, dedicated to improving and increasing access to justice for low-income Californians.

- In October, **EBCLC** received the **Berkeley Community Award** from the **Berkeley Community Fund**, which recognizes two organizations annually for their exemplary achievements in improving the quality of life in our community. We are grateful to our longtime friend and supporter **Judge Thelton Henderson** who nominated EBCLC for this prestigious award. Click [here](#) for more information about the **Berkeley Community Fund**.
- In October, **EBCLC Co-Counsel Alan Yee** received the State Bar of California's **President's Pro Bono Service Award** for a small law firm for his work with **EBCLC's Community Economic Development Practice** to stop the evictions of elderly Asian tenants in **Pacific Renaissance Plaza**. This important partnership continues with the law firms of **Paul Hastings, Heller Ehrman, Siegel & Yee**, the **California Affordable Housing Law Project**, and a consortium of community groups.

These honors come on top of a number of local, state and national awards for EBCLC's teaching and service during the last few years.

#### ∅ **Donor & Pro Bono Appreciation**

Many thanks to those of you who already have responded to our **Annual Fall Campaign**. We are encouraged by the early response of new donors and many people who have increased their giving to EBCLC. **If you have not yet had a chance to return your reply card and gift, please do so as soon as possible.**

We would like to extend special gratitude for three recent *cy pres* distributions made to EBCLC through the generosity of a number of local law firms, including **Lieff, Cabraser, Heimann & Bernstein, LLP**, **The Sturdevant Law Firm**, **Alexander, Hawes & Audet, LLP**, and **Law Center for Families**.

Special thanks also to pro bono attorneys **Marc Gottschalk** and **Jenna Jones of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati** for their assistance to EBCLC's **Community Economic Development** practice in submitting extensive CEQA comments on behalf of low-income residents in West Oakland who are struggling to secure community benefits from large-scale development projects in their neighborhood.

Our recently released **2003-2004 Annual Report** acknowledges hundreds of **individual, law firm, foundation, corporate and government gifts** made through June 30, 2004 – **thank you to all of our donors, whose sustained support makes our work possible!**

#### ∅ **Keep in Touch**

In order to improve our ability to communicate with EBCLC alums and friends, please send address changes, news or updates to **EBCLC Development Associate Michelle Eddleman Shin**, at [shin@ebclc.org](mailto:shin@ebclc.org).

To **make a gift to EBCLC**, and allow us to continue to provide critical legal services to clients and clinical opportunities to law students, please visit our [website](#).

## Ø **EBCLC's Mission**

A core value of our society must be equal access to justice. The complex nature of the legal system limits equal access, especially for people in poverty and those faced with language and cultural barriers. Well-trained legal advocates should be available to all, regardless of economic status. To that end, EBCLC provides:

- hands-on **clinical education** to law students to make these future lawyers aware of and skilled in addressing the needs of indigent communities; and
- desperately-needed **legal services** to the low-income community in the areas of housing, welfare, HIV/AIDS, homelessness and community economic development.

Since its founding in 1988 by law students at UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law, EBCLC has become the largest provider of free legal services in the East Bay and a nationally-recognized poverty law clinic.

**EBCLC's work makes the lives of East Bay community members more healthy, secure, productive, and hopeful.**

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