

East Bay Community Law Center

EBCLC E-Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 3

August 2004

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Dear EBCLC Alumni/ae and Friends,

I am delighted to send you the third **E-Newsletter** this year, and share developments at **EBCLC** during the last few months. I hope your summer has been as rewarding and exciting as ours has!

➤ **Program Highlights**

In addition to serving hundreds of clients each month – with critical legal needs in the areas of housing, income, health care and economic development – selected recent program highlights at EBCLC include:

- In May, with **The Asian American Bar Association's Civil Rights Committee**, **EBCLC's HIV/AIDS Law Unit** co-sponsored **Transgender 101**, a training on representing transgender clients which included basic information about the transgender community, cultural competency considerations, and substantive, cutting-edge transgender legal issues.
- In June, at a reception in San Francisco, **EBCLC's Community Economic Development Unit** celebrated its continuing partnership with the law firms of **Paul Hastings**, **Heller Ehrman**, **Siegel & Yee**, the **California Affordable Housing Law Project**, and community groups including **APEN** and **Just Cause Oakland**, to stop the evictions of elderly Asian tenants in **Pacific Renaissance Plaza**. Awards were presented to the participating firms and lawyers, who have provided well over \$100,000 in pro bono legal assistance to this important case! For more information about the event and Pacific Renaissance case, click [here](#).

- In June, **EBCLC's Employment & Income Support Unit** and the **Homeless Action Center** led a coalition – including **Bay Area Legal Aid**, the **Alameda County Continuum of Care**, the **Alameda County Food Bank**, the **Public Health Institute**, and the **Public Interest Law Project** – that persuaded the **Alameda County Board of Supervisors** to reject a plan by its own **Social Services Agency** to impose a 3-month time limit on **General Assistance** (county welfare) benefits. Without EBCLC's leadership, thousands of low-income welfare recipients would have lost benefits in spite of actively looking for work or suffering from major functional barriers, including 1,452 people who would have lost all aid immediately.
- Also in June, **EBCLC's Employment & Income Support Director Ed Barnes** and **EBCLC Student Board Member Ann O'Leary** attended the **California Dream Foundation's** inaugural founding convention on **Ending Poverty in California**. Ed and Ann proposed 13 improvements to benefits programs in resolutions to end poverty, including draft legislation to extend CalWORKs (state welfare) benefits for families who meet monthly welfare-to-work requirements through employment.
- In July, **EBCLC Housing Unit Director Laura Lane** and consulting attorney **Marc Janowitz** conducted a training on California landlord-tenant law at a **National Business Institute Training** in San Jose. Laura is also on the faculty of the **Benchmark's Institute's** October 2004 **Housing Law & Eviction Defense Overview**.
- This summer, **HOPE (Helping Oakland's People Eat) Enterprises**, a project incubated by **EBCLC's Community Economic Development Unit**, successfully piloted a youth-led social enterprise program, providing leadership development and social entrepreneurship skills to three dozen East Oakland high school youth. Click [here](#) to read an August 1, 2004 article in the *San Francisco Chronicle* about HOPE's important work.
- This month, **Myvan Khuu**, a 2004 graduate of **Santa Clara School of Law**, joins EBCLC as the inaugural **Shartsis Friese & Ginsburg Public Interest Fellow**. Myvan will work in **EBCLC's Employment and Income Support Unit**, providing services primarily to Southeast Asian families who are being improperly denied welfare benefits due to their disability or language access needs. Click [here](#) to read the EBCLC press release about Myvan.

➤ Clinic News

- 16 law students recently completed **EBCLC's Summer Program**, from schools including: **Boalt Hall, Boston College, Harvard, Hastings, Iowa, Lewis & Clark, McGeorge, Michigan, NYU, Santa Clara, UCLA and Yale**.
- Later this month, **32 Boalt students** will join EBCLC as **Fall 2004 Clinic Interns**, including 24 new students selected from more than 50 applicants.

- The first-ever **EBCLC Alumni/ae Directory** – which we hope will serve as a useful resource for current and former students – is only weeks away from publication. Former interns should keep an eye out for it early this fall . . .
- In July, **Boalt Hall** welcomed new **Dean Christopher Edley**. To learn more about his exciting vision for Boalt, register [here](#) to meet Dean Edley at the August 18th **East Bay Alumni Luncheon** (non-alumni can attend), 12:00, Scott's Restaurant, Jack London Square in Oakland. For more details on this and other upcoming **Boalt Alumni** events, click [here](#).

➤ Recent Awards

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

- In June, **EBCLC Board Member Eric Brooks** of **Morrison & Foerster** was one of 12 attorneys in the state selected to participate in the **State Bar's Access & Fairness Leadership Academy**.
- In July, **EBCLC Board Member Bill Lann Lee** spoke on the topic “**Diversity Builds Strong Communities**” at the **Democratic National Convention** in Boston. Bill is the former Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice, and currently directs the Human Rights Practice Group at the law firm of **Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein, LLP**. Click [here](#) to read the text of Bill's speech.
- In August, **EBCLC Executive Director Jeff Selbin** was appointed to the **State Bar Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services**, dedicated to improving and increasing access to justice for low-income Californians. Jeff's term begins in October.
- In October, EBCLC will receive 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 longtime friend and supporter **Judge Thelton Henderson** who nominated EBCLC for this prestigious award. Click [here](#) for more information about the Berkeley Community Fund.

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 Appreciation

Many thanks to the more than 120 donors who responded to our summer appeal. We reached our goal of raising \$25,000, matched generously by the challenge grant from the law firm of **Alexander, Hawes & Audet, LLP**.

We ended our fiscal year June 30 with record giving from **law firms** and **individuals**, two of our most essential sources of support in this difficult climate for non-profits.

Our forthcoming **2003-2004 Annual Report** will acknowledge each of you, but **thank you to all of our donors, whose sustained generosity makes our work possible!**

➤ **Keep in Touch**

In order to improve our ability to communicate with EBCLC alumni/ae and friends, please send address changes, news or updates to **EBCLC Development Associate Michelle Eddleman Shin**, at 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, at: <http://www.ebclc.org/support.htm>.

➤ **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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