CELEBRATING 45 YEARS ON THE MARCH TOWARD JUSTICE

2013 – 2014 HIGHLIGHTS
“The civil rights movement didn’t begin in Montgomery and it didn’t end in the 1960s. **It continues on to this very minute.**”

— JULIAN BOND

Martin Luther King Jr. once said we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. As we celebrate the 45th Anniversary of the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law (CLC) and the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we’re reminded of those values – how far we’ve come, and how far we must go.

As we embark on a new era of civil rights work, reforming the criminal justice system and improving access to counsel will be a critical strategy in our work. Urgent work in our courts, reform of our laws, and advocacy on behalf of disadvantaged communities is undertaken daily by the lawyers, staff, and friends of CLC. Since 1969, CLC has been committed to continuing the revolution for racial equality on the broad spectrum of issues that disproportionately and negatively impact people of color.

Today, educational disparities have never been greater; housing discrimination has taken on new, more discreet forms; challenges to voting rights threaten to strip voters of their voices; and imprisonment for young African-American men remains a fact of life.

According to the US Bureau of Justice Statistics, African-American boys are five times and Latino boys nearly three times as likely as white boys to go to jail. Once in prison, barriers for young men of color only intensify – access to quality legal representation, and a fair trial and sentencing, are all too often compromised or ignored. For youth leaving the juvenile justice system and wishing to return to school, a lack of support services and unfair school policies make it nearly impossible to re-enroll.

In 2013–14, CLC’s Educational Equity Project made significant gains in addressing structural barriers to education and advancing school discipline reforms. The Voting Rights Project was instrumental in the passing of a groundbreaking Online Voter Registration bill, increasing voter access to registration in Illinois. Our Settlement Assistance Program continues to assist pro se, low-income litigants in federal court for settlement conferences, and is a favorite of District Court judges for its ability to
streamline the justice system. The Law Project is finding new ways to expand its impact in low-income communities and strengthen nonprofit organizations across Chicago and its surrounding suburbs. The Fair Housing Project continues to serve as Chicago’s largest legal service for victims of housing discrimination. And the Initiative for Northwest Indiana (INWIN) is supporting nonprofit organizations and small business entrepreneurs in rebuilding the economies of Gary, East Chicago and Hammond.

Through all of our work, we serve a large community of citizens seeking equal justice and striving to build stronger neighborhoods, businesses, homes and organizations. Just as important, this work allows CLC to continue building a community of lawyers who advocate for equal justice and opportunity – values that make Chicago and America great. Hundreds of volunteer lawyers continue to contribute thousands of hours of pro bono service, with an annual value of more than $8 million, to protect and promote civil rights and expand opportunity across Greater Chicago.

As we celebrate our 45th Anniversary Year, please join the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee in reaffirming our values and commitment to the least advantaged individuals and communities in our society. Through your generous support and pro bono service, we can continue the revolution for rights and opportunity that drew so many of us to law school.

WARM REGARDS,

JAY READEY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MAX STEIN
BOARD CHAIR

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MAX STEIN
BOARD CHAIR
The Chicago Lawyers’ Committee acknowledges that race still plays a prominent role in determining the lives of many Chicagoans, from where they live to where they work, to the quality of education and healthcare that they receive, and even their basic safety. As we commemorate our 45th anniversary on the front lines in the fight toward equal justice in Chicago, we acknowledge the progress we’ve made and the work that still remains in battling today’s evolving and intersecting social and economic justice issues.

**FAIR HOUSING PROJECT**

“We have come some of the way, not near all of it. There is much yet to do.”
– President Lyndon B. Johnson after signing the Fair Housing Act on April 11, 1968

In 1968, a year after a series of open-housing marches in Chicago and just one week after the assassination of Dr. King, Congress finally enacted the Federal Fair Housing Act. Today, inequities in housing continue, but are often cleverly disguised. One of the most rampant forms of housing discrimination today is against Housing Choice Voucher holders (formerly Section 8) – many of whom are African Americans, families, individuals with disabilities and veterans. On May 8, 2013, CLC celebrated a significant victory with the passage of a Cook County Human Rights provision making it illegal to discriminate against Housing Choice Voucher holders. Fair Housing Project Director Betsy Shuman-Moore advocated for the amendment, which now prohibits landlords in suburban Cook County from refusing to rent to tenants with low incomes who have vouchers, removing a major barrier preventing them from moving to opportunity areas. The Chicago Lawyers’ Committee continues to lead the charge for equal housing by educating tenants and landlords on their rights and responsibilities under the Fair Housing Act and other laws, complaint investigation, aggressive litigation and advocacy efforts, and recently launched an awareness campaign on today’s widespread discrimination against Voucher Holders.

As part of its advocacy efforts, CLC staff and member firms continue to provide legal representation in a wide range of housing discrimination claims. In partnership with member firm Schiff Hardin, CLC successfully settled a case brought in state court alleging that a property management company discriminated against an African-American client and his teenage son based on race and disability and defrauded them. The company paid damages and agreed to staff fair housing training. CLC is currently representing clients in claims involving neighbor racial harassment, discriminatory eviction and harassment, and discrimination against a Housing Choice Voucher holder by companies at four buildings.
When President John F. Kennedy called on Congress in June 1963 to pass what would eventually become the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he shared a disturbing glimpse into the country’s racial divide. African Americans born that year, Kennedy said, had “about one-half as much chance of completing high school as a white baby born in the same place on the same day, one-third as much chance of completing college,” and “one-third as much chance of becoming a professional man.”

Nearly 50 years later, educational equity remains one of the biggest civil rights concerns of the 21st century. While steps have been taken toward integrating schools, they remain segregated. Additionally, unjust school policies, high dropout rates, and high incarceration rates continue to have a devastating impact on Chicago communities of color.

With support from our network of volunteer attorneys, the Educational Equity Project continues to protect students’ rights and access to education by addressing Chicago’s notorious “school push out crisis.” In 2013 the Educational Equity Project kept 22 students in the classroom, through representation in expulsion hearings, provided brief legal counsel to 21 families, and trained more than 70 attorneys to handle expulsion hearings. Additionally, Project staff successfully advocated for the release of quarterly school discipline reports outlining suspensions and expulsions by race throughout the district – the first time ever the Chicago Public School system has released such data. The Chicago Lawyers’ Committee will use the data to advocate for progressive school discipline in Illinois as a civil rights issue and address the disparate impact discipline has on African-American students.

Also in 2013, in response to the closing of 49 public schools, CLC and the Education Law and Policy Institute at Loyola trained and dispatched over 60 volunteers for the first two days of school (August 26th and 27th 2013). Volunteers reported on issues at welcoming schools, connected students and parents who needed legal services to an attorney, and handed out Know Your Rights materials. The project was the first of its kind and a very successful effort.

CLC’s judicial advocacy efforts have proved equally strong. In June 2013, the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee celebrated another Educational Equity victory in McFadden v. Board of Education for Illinois School District U-46, a case involving educational inequities in the school district that includes Elgin. On July 11, 2013, Illinois federal District Court Judge Robert Gettleman issued a decision holding that the school district had discriminated against Hispanic students in the operation of the District’s gifted program. Over 40% of the students in the school district are Hispanic, but in recent years only 2% of the students in the district’s elementary school gifted program have been Hispanic.
VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT

“So long as I do not firmly and irrevocably possess the right to vote I do not possess myself. I cannot make up my mind — it is made up for me. I cannot live as a democratic citizen, observing the laws I have helped to enact — I can only submit to the edict of others.”

– Martin Luther King, Jr. in a 1957 speech titled “Give Us The Ballot”

For nearly 50 years the Voting Rights Act has been used to protect the rights of minority voters. While much progress has been made since the hard-fought victory in 1965 and the monumental voter registration effort of Freedom Summer, low-income and minority voters continue to face challenges in accessing the ballot in Illinois and throughout the country.

In early 2013, the Voting Rights Project hosted State of the Vote: Illinois, a public forum aimed at gathering testimony from election officials, voting rights activists, community leaders and voters on good and bad election practices and to hear suggestions for voting reform. The information is now being used to explore litigation strategies and to advocate for changes to laws and policies that would further protect and expand the right to vote. In July, 2013, the Voting Rights Project celebrated the signing of HB2418, bringing online voter registration to Illinois, a result of the Project’s aggressive advocacy efforts. The Project joined with other organizations to issue key recommendations, and maintain pressure on administrative agencies, that will ensure that the new system is user-friendly, informative, and accessible to all communities. In the latter half of 2013, the Voting Rights Project worked with civic groups in Chicago to devise a program to promote youth voter registration and seize on the opportunity provided by the Suffrage @ 17 law signed by the Governor in July 2013. In December 2013, the Voting Rights Project started a joint effort with MALDEF to promote minority representation at the local level across Illinois, and in particular in the collar counties.
THE LAW PROJECT

“White Americans must recognize that justice for black people cannot be achieved without radical changes in the structure of our society...There is no separate white path to power and fulfillment, short of social disaster, that does not share power with black aspirations for freedom and human dignity.”
– Martin Luther King, Jr. in his 1967 book “Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community”

Today, with poverty approaching levels unseen since the 1960s and persistent segregation and inequity, there’s never been a more critical time to act.

The Law Project continues to answer that call and to be a bridge to greater economic opportunity for residents in Chicago. In 2013, The Law Project assisted its 426th first-time homebuyer in securing homeownership; educated 21 emerging nonprofit leaders on the basics for running effective organizations through its Nonprofit Boot camp; facilitated four technical assistance workshops/webinars for existing nonprofit community organizations; and conducted four small business clinics, reaching more than 150 small business owners. Additionally, TLP attorneys helped close loans that are supporting the creation of 360 units of affordable housing in the City of Chicago.

NONPROFIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: NEW MOMS, INC.

The Law Project began working with New Moms in 2008, connecting the organization to volunteer attorneys from the City’s top law firms to address a variety of legal issues. Most recently, volunteer attorneys with Baker & McKenzie LLP, Holland & Knight LLP, and Proskauer Rose LLP guided New Moms through the long and complex legal process involved with the launch of a new supportive housing development. In October, New Moms moved its supportive housing center for adolescent parents from a 6,000 sq. foot open space into a brand new 52,000 sq. foot residential facility called the “Transformation Center.” The three firms provided an estimated $350,000 in free legal services to help New Moms develop this new $12 million space. Without The Law Project, New Moms would not have been able to access such counsel.

TLP Staff and Volunteers stop for a photo on TLP’s 2013 Community Development Bus Tour – a guided tour of community development projects and TLP clients from across Chicago.
2013 marked a year of significant growth for the Initiative for Northwest Indiana (INWIN), yielding increased access to legal services and opportunity for Northwest Indiana residents. In the spring, INWIN launched its Second Chance Clinic, providing low-cost expungement services to individuals seeking to rejoin their communities and secure employment. Staff Attorney Renee Hatcher continued to increase direct legal services to qualifying NW Indiana small businesses, nonprofits and individuals, serving 52 small business owners in improving their operations and longevity, 28 nonprofits in building their capacity to carry out critical community services, and 74 individuals seeking expungement, helping them to eliminate significant barriers to successful re-entry. INWIN also presented 5 community forums on expungement in 2013. INWIN continued to lead regional discourse on economic development in Northwest Indiana, and to ensure that all communities have a voice in economic development efforts and access to the region’s social, economic and educational assets. On November 24, 2013, Renee joined more than 150 supporters of the Northwest Indiana Interfaith Federation Job Coalition to urge board members of the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority to sign on to a community benefit agreement that would provide for training and preferential hiring for citizens living in underserved areas in Northwest Indiana, including those in Gary, Hammond, East Chicago, Lake Station, and Michigan City.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROJECT

“The dignity of the individual will flourish when the decisions concerning his life are in his own hands, when he has the assurance that his income is stable and certain, and when he knows that he has the means to seek self-improvement.”
— Martin Luther King, Jr. in his August 1967 speech “Where do we go from here” to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference

The Employment Opportunity Project secured significant settlements in 2013, challenging systemic discrimination and barriers to opportunity in the work place. In Dara Cooper v. Fresh Moves, CLC settled a sex discrimination case for a woman who was terminated after a new manager was brought in to run the business she had built. The case serves as an exemplar that even very small employers can be held liable for discrimination. In Tricia Diaz v. Car Credit
Center, a case involving a car dealership’s refusal to hire a highly-qualified woman because she had small children, the dealership owner said he didn’t believe a woman with children could be depended on to be at work reliably. The Chicago Lawyers’ Committee brought Ms. Diaz’s case to the Chicago Commission on Human Relations where it was successfully settled.

In Michaela Stauffer v. TCF Bank the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee and lawyers at member firm Eimer Stahl worked on behalf of a client who was subject to harassment and was terminated because she was pregnant. Working together, they successfully reached a settlement before filing a complaint, a quick and effective resolution of a basic discrimination problem.

Also in 2013, The Employment Opportunity Project launched its first-ever wage theft clinic, in partnership with the Interfaith Workers Justice Initiative. The clinic links individuals seeking to recover lost wages to pro bono attorneys. Experienced lawyers are available weekly to help individuals who worked without being paid, were not paid the minimum wage, were not paid overtime, or were improperly classified as independent contractors; EOP volunteers also provide referrals for other types of employment problems that come up in the clinic.

THE SETTLEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

“It is fundamental that justice should be the same, in substance and availability, without regard to economic status.”

– Lewis Powell, Jr., U.S. Supreme Court Justice (ret.)

The Settlement Assistance Program provided mediation services to 56 pro se litigants in 2013, including workers with discrimination law cases and prisoners with constitutional rights claims. Seventy-two percent of SAP cases that went to settlement conference had a positive outcome.

The Settlement Assistance Program has proven to be very effective in achieving favorable outcomes for pro se litigants, due in large part to its pool of dedicated attorneys, eager to serve the public interest.

In 2013, the Settlement Assistance Program greatly expanded its volunteer base by training more than 200 new attorneys from Chicago’s leading law firms to represent pro se litigants.

“To be able to get negotiation practice and also make a real impact – it’s fantastic,” said Laura McNally, Principal at Grippo & Elden and SAP volunteer.
investigating the practice of confining juveniles in adult detention facilities.

1971  On the basis of a study, two member firms represent four organizations in an Illinois Supreme Court amicus brief, arguing that the procedures for transferring juveniles to adult court are unconstitutional. (D’Ancona, Pflaum, Wyatt & Riskind; Schiff Hardin Waite Dorschel & Britton)

1972  As part of its ongoing commitment to continuing legal education, CLC co-sponsors a conference on the scope and impact of the Jack Spring v. Little decision, which recognized that a lessee’s obligation to pay rent is dependent on the lessor’s fulfillment of the implied warranty of habitability.

1973  With the Leadership Council as co-counsel, the Committee files Metropolitan Housing Development Corporation v. Village of Arlington Heights, challenging the municipality’s refusal to rezone vacant land for the construction of low- and moderate-income, integrated housing. (Schiff Hardin & Waite)

1974  The 7th Circuit adopts the arguments made by a member firm in an amicus brief filed on behalf of five Spanish-speaking organizations. The court agreed that the Chicago Board of Elections must provide instructional materials in Spanish at the polling places in predominantly Latino wards. (Foss Schuman & Drake)

1975  CLC successfully settles an action against the Mayor of Cairo, Illinois and the Alexander County Board of Commissioners when the County agrees to appoint Blacks to nine public boards in proportion to their numbers in the general population. (Isham Lincoln & Beale)

1976  Three years after CLC brought suit alleging racial and ethnic employment discrimination by the Chicago Police Department, Judge Prentice Marshall finds intentional discrimination, permanently enjoins the Chicago Police Department from hiring and promoting employees from the challenged officers’ and sergeants’ eligibility lists, and imposes hiring goals for Blacks, Latinos, and women. (Kirkland & Ellis; Schiff Hardin & Waite)

1977  In P.A.S.E. v. Chicago Board of Education, CLC challenges the Board’s use of discriminatory tests that result in the disproportionate placement of minority children in Educationally Mentally Handicapped classes. (Lord, Bissell & Brook)

1980  CLC successfully files an administrative complaint with HUD on behalf of the various fair housing groups, challenging DuPage County’s use of Community Development Block Grants, particularly its failure to fund adequately any activities that would benefit low- and moderate-income people.

1981  A consent decree settles Chicago Lawyers’ Committee v. City of Chicago, filed in 1976 when CLC discovered that the defendants had engaged in covert activities and data collection, including surveillance of attorneys, the use of undercover agents, and reporting on confidential attorney-client conversations. (Jenner & Block)

1981  CLC begins working on projects to address discrimination against people with disabilities. Projects are developed in the virtually untested areas of housing and public accommodations, as well as employment
to establish strong standards for the new Illinois Human Rights Act prohibitions.

1982  CLC successfully settles the nine-year-old N.O.W. v. City of Chicago equal pay case, benefiting hundreds of women janitresses and women clerks through salary upgrades, retroactive pension benefits, and $4.5 million in back pay. (Ross, Hardies, O'Keefe, Babcock & Parsons)

1983  Damages of more than $500,000 are awarded to the leaders and members of the Afro-American Patrolmen’s League to compensate for police harassment during the pendency of their suit charging systemic racial discrimination. (Kirkland & Ellis)

1984  Minority voters win an important victory in Ketchum v. Chicago City Council, when the 7th Circuit holds that an aldermanic redistricting plan had been designed to dilute minority voting strength. (Kirkland & Ellis)

1985  The Community Economic Development Law Project, a joint effort of CLC, Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago, and the Young Lawyers Section of the Chicago Bar Foundation is launched to provide tax, corporate, and real estate counsel to community groups in low-income neighborhoods that undertake projects to improve local housing, employment, and community services.

1986  A consent decree in Kissane v. Brown ends 6 1/2 years of litigation and prescribes procedures governing virtually every aspect of the administration of the Lake County Jail, including disciplinary and grievance procedures, inmate classification, and medical care. (Schiff Hardin & Waite)

1987  CLC negotiates substantial settlements in seven separate cases against suburban Cook County building owners, management companies, and realtors who deny rentals to families with children. (Coffield Ungaretti Harris & Slavin)

1988  Two member firms conduct a ten-week trial in Jones v. CTA, a case of first impression, in which the Illinois Human Rights Commission rules that as a public accommodation, the CTA must provide access to people with disabilities by having wheelchair lifts on buses. (D’Ancona & Pflaum; Sachnoff Weaver & Rubenstein)

1989  CLC establishes the Project to Combat Bias Violence to provide assistance in civil and criminal court to victims of hate crime. In the first civil action in which damages are awarded under the Illinois Hate Crimes Act, an all-white jury awards $475,000 in damages to an African American victim of a hate crime in Bridgeport. (Schiff Hardin & Waite)

1990  In Rochon v. FBI, CLC joins in the suit against the FBI, the Department of Justice, and individual FBI agents for extreme, prolonged racial harassment, including death threats. Counsel seeks to have Edwin Meese, Bradford Reynolds, and the entire Civil Right Division of the Justice Department disqualified from participation in the grand jury. (Kinoy Taren Geraghty & Potter; Sachnoff Weaver & Rubenstein)

1990  CLC attorneys represent an African American family, seven of whose twelve children were poisoned by lead paint, in a lawsuit against current and past owners, alleging violations of the residential Landlord and Tenant Ordinance and breaches of the implied warranty of habitability. (Mayer Brown & Platt)

1991  CLC sues the Immigration and Naturalization Service, challenging the INS detention system, under which alien detainees are rotated daily among several unsanitary, inaccessible facilities operated by the County and suburban municipalities. (Foley & Lardner)

1992  Filed in 1973, the race, national origin, and sex employment discrimination case, brought against the Chicago Police Department, is finally resolved as hundreds of officers receive their long overdue back pay and are given their proper seniority rights.

1993  On behalf of various women’s low cost health services providers, the Committee files an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in NOW v. Scheidler, arguing that the protesters’ criminal attempts to shut down these clinics do not impinge on 1st Amendment rights.

1994  CLC files Marie O. v. State Board of Education, alleging that Illinois failed to meet its obligations under federal law to provide early childhood intervention for children with disabilities. The court’s 1996 order required defendants to inform families of their rights under the Act, and eliminate the waiting lists for services. (Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal)

1995  CLC secures significant settlement, in Ramos v. Kraft, a vicious 10-year campaign of harassment and hate crime garnering international media attention, and bringing much needed attention to the breadth of hate crime in America. The settlement includes an agreement by the Krafts to sell their house and move. (Altheimer & Grey)

1995  CLC’s Small Business Program is established as part of the Community Economic Development Law Project to provide legal assistance to new entrepreneurs setting up businesses in inner-city neighborhoods.

1996  Working as part of the steering committee of the state-wide Coalition for Equal Opportunity, CLC successfully organized opposition to proposed legislation to abolish affirmative action in Illinois.

1996  After a year-long investigation, CLC releases a report entitled Environmental Injustice: Community Perspectives on Silver Shovel, which detailed the efforts of residents of the Lawndale community to shut down two of the largest Silver Shovel dumps, only to be frustrated by the inaction, delay and weaknesses of the public agencies charged with protecting health.
and the environment. The report proposes a series of reforms to protect Lawndale and other minority communities from the destructive effects of waste dumps. (Miller Shakman Hamilton Kurtzon & Schlifke)

1997 A lawsuit filed on behalf of the South Austin Coalition Community Council and a number of home-purchasers alleges that Easy Life Real Estate System, Inc. and Ace Realtors, Inc bought fire-damaged, abandoned homes in the Austin area, performed minimal cosmetic repairs, marketed them to unsuspecting low-income, first time buyers, and sold them at inflated prices, resulting in a rash of foreclosures. A settlement was reached, under which the defendants agreed to pay $1.13 million to the class. (Rudnick & Wolfe)

1998 CLC files Lewis, et al. v. City of Chicago, a class action alleging that a written examination policy – under which only persons who scored 89 or above were allowed to continue on in the hiring process and take the other primary pre-employment test, a physical agility examination – had a disparate impact against African Americans, and did not measure the skills which are important for firefighting. In 2005 the United States District Court held that the Fire Department test had arbitrarily excluded 6,500 African Americans from firefighter positions.

1999 CLC joins a coalition of fair and affordable housing advocates in examining the use of Tax Increment Financing (“TIF”) in Illinois, and the often negative impact TIF districts have on the minority and low and very low income households in those districts. As a result of this examination, the coalition determined that the most effective way to prevent the abuse of TIFs was to amend the Illinois legislation. The Coalition’s proposed TIF amendments become law in 1999.

1999 CLC files suit against the United States, U.S. Customs, and a number of Customs inspectors on behalf of 1,300 African American women who disembarked at O’Hare International Airport and were subject to an invasive search for drugs, including strip-searches and x-rays. The suit alleges constitutional rights were violated when the inspectors targeted the women because of their race and gender and detained and searched them without legal cause or due process. (Miner Barnhill & Galland; Ed Fox & Assoc.)

2000 Under a U.S. E.E.O.C. mediation program, charging parties and employers engage in voluntary efforts to settle charges of employment discrimination without litigation. Because defendants frequently have counsel, CLC represents claimants at mediation, securing thousands of dollars in compensation for victims of discrimination, plus reinstatements, accommodations for disabilities, favorable references and other relief. (Piper Marbury Rudnick & Wolfe; Altheimer & Gray; Eimer Stahl Klevorn & Solberg; Miner Barnhill & Galland; Sachnoff & Weaver)

2001 CLC files a class action on behalf of approximately seventy women who worked at a regional car dealership, when the management unleashed a campaign of sexual harassment on its female workers and refused to provide its workers, many of whom were low-wage, temporary employees, with information on their right to protest the harassment. The settlement terms include treating the temporary workers as employees entitled to sexual harassment protection.

2001 The Project to Combat Bias Violence initiates an outreach campaign to the Chicago area Arab and Muslim population in the wake of September 11th backlash crimes. The Project presented information on hate crimes, harassment, discrimination, racial profiling, and unreasonable interrogations at meetings convened by the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago, Muslim Bar Association, Muslim Americans for Civil Rights and Legal Defense, the Mosque Foundation, the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, Northwestern University Law School, Center for New Community, the Illinois Center for Violence Prevention, Governor’s Commission on Discrimination and Hate Crimes, and federal civil rights officials.

2002 CLC staff and volunteer attorneys begin representing Chicago Housing Authority (CHIA) tenants through an innovative program called Choose to Own – assisting tenants in using Housing Choice Vouchers, formerly Section 8 vouchers, as mortgage payments. Business lawyers, including many from corporate law departments, provided pre- and post-purchase counseling to these homebuyers. (Sears Roebuck & Co.; Piper Rudnick; Holland & Knight; Winston & Strawn; Sachnoff & Weaver; D’Ancona & Pflaum; Jones Day Reavis & Pogue; Sidley Austin Brown & Wood; Wildman Harrold Allen & Dixon)

2002 In a post 9/11 hate crime on the near west side, two citizens of Indian descent were attacked. Joseph Gutierrez and George Petroski repeatedly said, “Are you Taliban?” and “Go back to your country!” before punching, kicking and striking the two with beer bottles. One victim suffered a blowout fracture to his face and the other sustained a three inch gash to the back of his head. In August of 2007, a Cook County judge awarded $1.3 million to the victims. (Katten Muchin Rosenman)

2002 In Dupuy v. McDonald, Seventh Circuit Federal District Court orders the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services to change its administrative review process, in cases of child abuse and neglect, in order to insure sufficient consideration of evidence against accused abusers. Dupuy’s plaintiff class exceeds 150,000. (Lehrer & Redleaf)

2005 CLC files a lawsuit in federal court claiming that Craigslist violated the Fair Housing Act when various ads were posted on its website. Although in 2008 the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals held that the Internet service provider could not be held liable under the Act’s advertising
provision for the posting of discriminatory ads by third parties, CLC pursued a series of discriminatory internet advertisement cases against the individuals who placed them. CLC settled seven fair advertising cases, four of them involving the Internet, for affirmative relief and damages. (Howrey LLP)

2005  CLC secures nearly $1.5 million in compensatory and punitive damages for racially motivated attacks that occurred in 2000. Antonio Ray was threatened with hanging and beaten by four white men while another held his girlfriend Jennifer Klands. (Winston & Strawn) Richard Burrell was forced to flee a restaurant because of racial slurs and death threats and was beaten by one of the restaurant patrons. (Piper Rudnick LLP) Ronald Ross was driving a CTA bus when two men blocked the bus with their car and, screaming racial epithets, kicked in the bus door and windows, in an attempt to enter the bus and attack Ross. (Jenner & Block; Grippo & Elden)

2006  CLC launches the Settlement Assistance Program, a new federal court pro bono program which offers legal assistance to pro se civil rights plaintiffs facing a settlement conference. Since we implemented the program we have assisted pro se litigants in over 250 cases.

2008  In HUD v. Godlewski, a discriminatory advertisement case against a landlord who posted a “no kids” sign at his Chicago three-flat building, CLC secured $55,394 in damages ($20,000 to the apartment seeker, and an $11,000 civil penalty to HUD), $24,394 to CLC for frustration of mission and diversion of resources) and an additional $56,742 in attorneys’ fees for a total of $112,137. The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination against families with children in the rental of housing. (Latham & Watkins LLP)

2009  The Community Economic Development Project’s first-time home buyers program expands to provide legal representation to first-time homebuyers using other government subsidies to buy homes, and also begins to provide assistance with will and estate planning.


2011  CLC and member firm Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP secure $1.44 million in damages on behalf of three young African-American men who were brutally beaten by a mob of white men in a racially motivated and unprovoked attack that took place outside Manteno, Illinois in 2005.

2012  A class action lawsuit final judgment is reached in Lewis v. City of Chicago before the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals after CLC won on several questions before the United States Supreme Court. The city agrees to hire 111 firefighters from the pool of 6,000 and pay out more than $74 million in back pay. (Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym, Ltd.; Miner, Barnhill & Galland; Robinson, Curley & Clayton)

2012  In Parker and Pierce v. New Jerusalem Christian Development Corp, the Commission on Human Relations awards $110,000 to two first-time home buyers and CLC clients that attempted to use Housing Choice Vouchers to buy houses, but were unlawfully turned away. This is the highest amount in damages awarded by the Commission to Fair Housing Project clients. (Kirkland and Ellis LLP)

2012  The Law Project launches the widely popular Nonprofit Boot Camp geared toward emerging nonprofit organizations. Participants earn a “Certificate of Training” after completing a series of five workshops on the basics of running and sustaining a nonprofit.

2012  CLC goes through significant organizational growth, including the re-launch of the Educational Equity Project and the Voting Rights Project and the inception of the Initiative for Northwest Indiana, an economic development project and sister program to The Law Project.

2013  CLC’s Fair Housing Project celebrates a significant victory with the passing of the Cook County provision making it illegal to discriminate against Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) holders in Cook County.

2013  Chicago Lawyers’ Committee secures Educational Equity triumph in McFadden v. Board of Education for Illinois School District U-46, a case involving educational inequities in the school district that includes Elgin, Illinois. Federal District Court Judge Robert Gettleman issued a decision holding that the school district had discriminated against Hispanic students in the operation of the District’s gifted program. Over 40% of the students in the school district are Hispanic, but in recent years only 2% of the students in the district’s elementary school gifted program have been Hispanic.

2014  Chicago Lawyers’ Committee celebrates its 45th anniversary on the march toward equal justice – marked by a strengthened commitment to promoting social and economic justice throughout Chicago. CLC also unveils its Legacy Circle, an inaugural group of honorees whose demonstrated commitment to advancing civil rights in Chicago laid the foundation of success of the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee.

LAW FIRM INVOLVEMENT

FAIR HOUSING PROJECT
Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP
Leonard Kurfurst
Teresa Sullivan
Foley & Lardner LLP
Thomas K. Anderson
Thomas C. Hardy
Mary Kay Martire
Grippo & Elden LLC
Jessica M. Jax
Laura K. McNally
Matthew C. Wolfe
Jenner & Block LLP
Andrew J. Olejnik
Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP
David F. Benson
Kathleen M. Flannery
William J. Krauss
Kirkland & Ellis, LLP
Heather Afra
Jaran Moten
Law Offices of Benjamin P. Kailin, P.C.
Benjamin P. Kailin
Miller Shakman & Beem LLP
Edward Feldman
Morgan, Barnhill, & Galland
Jeffrey I. Cummings
Paul Hastings LLP
Christopher Allen
Mark Pollack
Progressive Law Group
Ilan Chorowsky
ReedSmith LLP
Michael L. DiMarino
Thomas M. Levinson
Max A. Stein
William S. Weltman
Casey L. Westover
Schiff Hardin LLP
Paul E. Greenwalt III
Paula M. Ketcham
Jamal S. Muhammed
Brian O’Connor Watson
Xiaorong Jajah Wu
Sidley Austin LLP
Linton J. Childs
Leah K. Holt
Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon
John W. Young III
Elizabeth Peters Wassef
Winston & Strawn LLP
Andrew M. Johnstone
Jennifer Miller
James Winn
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY PROJECT
Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP
Chris Hagale
Katherine Minarik
Andy Polovin
DLA Piper
Ross Eberly
Michael Sheehan
Eimer Stahl Klevorn & Solberg, LLP
Alexis Chardon
Sarah Malkerson
Amanda Wendorff
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The Chicago Lawyers’ Committee’s 2013 financial report reflects a broadening of support from a greater variety of sources. Member law firm contributions remain one of the chief sources of support for the Committee. Chicago area foundations also responded affirmatively and generously to requests for support for the broad range of civil rights programs supported by the Committee.

In addition a case that the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee filed in 1998 went to the U.S. Supreme Court in 2011 and was decided in the Committee’s favor. As a result attorneys fees in the amount of $965k were received in 2012. The board decided to utilize some of those resources to expand programs in 2013 as well as to set aside other funds to stabilize the organization.

**CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2013**

**REVENUE**

**PUBLIC SUPPORT**

- Law Firm Contributions $ 314,750
- Foundation Grants 136,000
- Government Grants 374,948
- Individuals 38,070
- Fundraising Events (net) 61,175
- Released from Restriction 312,481

**OTHER SUPPORT**

- Court Awards, Attorney Fees $ 46,340
- Fee for Services 44,399
- Investment Gains / (Losses) 89,811
- Interest and Dividends 22,347
- Miscellaneous 50,017

**TOTAL REVENUE** $ 1,490,338

**EXPENSES**

- Program Services $ 1,328,747
- Management, Fundraising and General 430,872

**TOTAL EXPENSES** $ 1,759,619

- Change in Net Assets $ (269,281)
- Net Assets—Beginning of Year $ 1,259,711
- Net Assets—End of Year $ 990,430
The Chicago Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc. is the public interest law consortium of Chicago’s leading law firms. From nineteen firms in 1969, the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee has grown to fifty member firms today. Each year, CLC member firms donate over 18,000 hours of professional legal services, with a value of more than $8.5 million, to challenge discrimination and other violations of civil rights in both the public and private sectors.