UPCOMING EVENTS

Lobbying and Civic Engagement:
Laws and Regulations in a Time of National Change

WHAT YOUR NONPROFIT NEEDS TO KNOW

Tuesday, March 14
12pm - 1pm CT

Register here

PRESENTERS
Laura Abel, Senior Policy Counsel
Lawyers Alliance for New York

Ronnie Pawelko, Elections Counsel
Alliance for Justice
March Updates from The Law Project

More than ever, many nonprofits want to speak out about how federal government policies will affect their communities. Others want to encourage voter participation in the 2018 midterm elections. Even organizations with 501(c)(3) status can do this, but they need to comply with the tax code and other applicable laws. This webinar will explain how nonprofits can engage in nonpartisan civic engagement and in issue advocacy consistent with their tax status. It will also let participants know how to find information about whether they are subject to state and local lobbyist registration requirements. Finally, it will identify steps that organizations can take to manage risks that may arise when an organization takes a position on a controversial issue. **This is a free event. However, registration by March 9, 2017 is required.** [Register here.](https://us7.campaign-archive.com/?u=811a46f526453227512778957&id=c9869474ee)

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**Building Community Equity: Tax Increment Financing**

In late March, TLP will host an evening workshop on **Tax Increment Financing (TIF)** districts. TIFs provide public subsidies for redevelopment, infrastructure, and other community improvement projects. This will be the first workshop in our new **Building Community Equity** workshop series on land use & planning practices in Chicago.

- A representative from **Cook County Clerk David Orr**’s division of Real Estate and Tax Services will discuss how TIFs work and how community organizations may provide input on TIF fund allocation.

- **Cecile Carrol, Co-Director of Blocks Together** in Chicago’s West Humboldt Park neighborhood, will discuss efforts to democratize tax increment financing through participatory budgeting in the 27th Ward.

- Several possible **TIF reform options** will also be covered.

We will send another announcement once the final date is set, and stay tuned for information on additional workshop topics!

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**NEW SERVICES FOR SMALL BUSINESS**

**Monthly Legal Help Desk in Rogers Park**

TLP is providing legal consultations for the business community in Rogers Park via a monthly legal help desk at the Rogers Park Business Alliance (“RPBA”), 1448 W. Morse, on the second Wednesday of each month. To reserve your 30-minute appointment, contact RPBA at 773 508 5885 or info@rpba.org. The next scheduled date is 3/8. Future dates and topics are listed below:
March Updates from The Law Project

4/12: Business Structures
5/10: General Legal Advice Related to Your Small Business
6/14: Intellectual Property
7/12: General Legal Advice Related to Your Small Business
8/9: Business Structures
9/13: General Legal Advice Related to Your Small Business
10/11: Intellectual Property
11/8: General Legal Advice Related to Your Small Business
12/13: Contract Negotiations

If you’d like more information about these sessions, contact Angie at ahall@thelawproject.org.

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**Business License Headaches? The Law Project Can Help!**

We know that completing a City of Chicago business license application can be a daunting process. The Law Project will assist you in completing your business license application. We are launching this new service for Chicago entrepreneurs. To request assistance with obtaining a business license, complete this form and email it to Angie Hall at ahall@thelawproject.org.

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**NEW ALERTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

**Does your business have a 403(b) retirement plan?**

Do you know that employers who sponsor 403(b) plans are generally required to file annual returns for each 403(b) plan that they have? Employers who have failed to file Form 5500s for prior years face significant penalties. If this is your organization, don’t despair, this can be fixed. Read our latest legal alert here.

"**Where should I incorporate?**"

"I keep hearing that I should incorporate my business in Delaware. Should I?"

According to the Delaware Division of Corporations, approximately 169,000 new businesses were incorporated in Delaware in 2014 which set a record for the state. But new businesses should not assume that Delaware’s popularity
New Funding for Illinois Nonprofits
Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs announced that the Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund has begun accepting applications. The Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund will award grants of up to $25,000 to Illinois non-profits with an operating budget of $1 million or less. For the calendar year of 2017, the Charitable Trust Stabilization Fund will focus on grant-making in three categories: Food Programs, Housing, and Workforce Development. Grants will be awarded twice in 2017. Applications will be accepted during two periods, from February 1st 2017 through March 31st 2017, and from July 1st through September 30th 2017. For more information go to http://illinoistreasurer.gov/Office_of_the_Treasurer/Charitable_Trust.

The Law Project extends a sincere thank you to our most recent pro bono attorneys!

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<tr>
<td>Jeffrey P. Gray</td>
<td>Barnes &amp; Thornburg LLP</td>
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<td>Keith M. Cyzen</td>
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<td>Emily C. Hogan</td>
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<td>Mark R. O'Meara</td>
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<td>Nathan A. Simington</td>
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<td>Agostino S. Filippone</td>
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