"Civil rights means doing uncomfortable things"

On Thursday, July 31st, human rights lawyer and activist Bryan Stevenson
important reminder of the civil rights challenges that remain and the road ahead in our continued quest for justice and equality. Thanks to the generous support of our friends and partners, CLC raised $60,000 to support its civil rights litigation and community development work. Read on to learn more about our current efforts and exciting things to come.

Out with the old, in with the new!

In June, construction crews kicked off Chicago Lawyers’ Committee’s first-ever office renovation. After weeks of hard hats and hammers, CLC is back and better than ever! Stop by our offices at 100 N. LaSalle, Suite 600 and check out our new look!

Project News

Educational Equity Project celebrated a victory in June when the Board of Education approved changes to the CPS code of conduct. Staff Attorney Jessica Schneider and Candace Moore, an Educational Equity Fellow and Staff Attorney, are now

Save the Date

Link by Link

When: Thursday, November 13, 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Where: Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP (155 N. Wacker Drive)

On Thursday, November 13th, The Law Project will host its “Link by Link” event, a fundraiser and tribute to our dedicated clients and volunteer attorneys. The event will feature drinks, appetizers, and a variety of locally made goods from former TLP clients, offering guests a unique opportunity to purchase one-of-a-kind items while supporting the work of social entrepreneurs. The Law Project provides high-quality, pro bono transactional legal counsel to nonprofit organizations and small businesses. Working in collaboration with private bar
Additionally, the Educational Equity Project has been busy this summer setting up a new student advocacy project called Standing Up for Each Other (SUFEO), which will be a law student project providing information for parents and students about school discipline. The project will take the form of a hotline and provide self-advocacy training around issues of suspension and suspension appeals to students. CLC’s Educational Equity Project is working in partnership with Loyola law school’s Center for Education Law and Policy and will house an intern affiliated with SUFEO at CLC this fall! Interested in volunteering with the Educational Equity Project and supporting its ongoing efforts to increase access to education in Chicago? Contact Candace Moore at CMoore@clccrul.org

**Fair Housing Project**
The Fair Housing team has focused in the last few months on affirmatively furthering fair housing regulation. The Project is developing an aggressive plan and outreach effort for not just addressing discrimination, but also encouraging more integrated communities. Toward this end, they are honing in on neighborhoods whose residents often complain about housing discrimination or a lack of diversity and offering trainings to housing providers and landlords in those areas in partnership with community attorneys, TLP provides the legal tools necessary for our clients to sustain and grow their organizations so that they may continue in their efforts to build strong communities. Many thanks to our generous host Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

"Help support the work of The Law Project by sponsoring this year’s Link by Link event. For more information contact jadler@thelawproject.org.

**Skadden Fellow Sarah Hess to Join CLC**
The Chicago Lawyers’ Committee is thrilled to welcome Skadden Fellow Sarah Hess to its class of 2014 Fellows. Hess, who graduates from the John Marshall Law School this spring, will be working with the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee to promote child and community wellness during her two-year public interest fellowship. Her fellowship will
Fair Housing Project Director Betsy Shuman-Moore and Staff Attorney Danielle McCain are advocating for source-of-income cases to be added to the Fair Housing Act as a protected class, and they have been on the forefront in taking on these cases. Interested in getting involved? Contact Fair Housing Project Director Betsy Shuman-Moore at BShuman-Moore@clccrul.org.

**Voting Rights Project**

On July 1st, Gov. Pat Quinn signed a historic voting reform plan that will increase voter access to registration. HB105 allows Illinois voters to cast ballots on Election Day, gives them more time to vote early, and removes the photo identification requirement in allowing them to vote early. This plan is the first of its kind in the nation and is expected to attract hundreds of thousands of new voters. It is predicted to have a particularly significant impact in attracting minority voters. The work of the Chicago Lawyers’ Committee of Civil Rights was instrumental in the development of this new plan which will make it much easier for Illinoisans to vote and register to vote. On Friday, May 30, our Staff Attorney Marissa Liebling testified in support of HB105.
Renee Hatcher co-authored a shadow report on worker’s rights in Northwest Indiana in April. The paper will be presented in Geneva to the U.N. under CERT review later this year. The report will be an important advocacy tool when the U.S.’s compliance with CERT is being taken into consideration. The subject of the report was Indiana’s “right-to-work” laws. The laws have affected workers and the workplace in a negative way. The report highlighted that since right-to-work laws went into effect there has been more punitive discipline on the part of employers, who have also become less willing to bargain and negotiate with unions, and more restrictive in budgetary matters involving employees. The report highlighted how those who have historically been left out of economic opportunities continue to be left behind due to current structural issues in Northwest Indiana.

Renée also served alongside Merle Ratner as an observer at a human rights hearing about worker’s rights in Indiana on July 31st. Those testifying at the meeting included four or five union organizers; the Teamsters regional director; and workers from Wal-Mart distribution centers. The workers testified to human rights violations in the workplace. The goal of the hearing is to eventually allow workers to communicate amongst themselves, and to improve labor policy and advocacy in the region.
Headed up by Executive Director Jay Readey, with a team of fellows and interns, CLC's Transforming Neighborhoods initiative, has done footwork this summer to establishing itself as an idea, a project, and a movement. Summer interns worked on branding the project’s presence on social media so as to become established in relation to other community organizations, and developed a new website, slated to roll out within the next two weeks.

Materially, the first phase of the project has involved researching properties and talking to people around Chicago who own real estate in attempts to set up the first “Innovation House.” Transforming Neighborhoods is hoping to set up Innovation Houses initially in one or more of the following neighborhoods: North Lawndale, Engelwood, Brighton Park, Little Village, Roseland, and Woodlawn. To contact Transform Neighborhoods, tweet @transformchi or email transformneighborhoods@gmail.com

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