



P R O B O N O P R O G R A M

*Formerly the Public Service Activities Corporation*

## Community Economic Development Pro Bono Project

### Neighborhood Clinic Fact Sheet

#### Clinic Overview:

The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program is working in partnership with Community Development Corporations in the District of Columbia to provide legal services which complement the CDCs anti-poverty and community building strategy in their respective neighborhoods. Volunteer attorneys will be identified to provide pro bono business law advice to non-profits and small businesses identified by the CDC.

Organizations eligible to receive service are:

- \* Start up non-profit and new for-profit entities (e.g. for profit micro-enterprise with less than \$25,000 in start up capital)
- \* Existing non-profits with an economic development or neighborhood improvement mission or focus
- \* Existing businesses with 10 or fewer employees, owned by community residents or employing residents in CDC s service area. Existing businesses identified by the CDC will be those seeking assistance through the CDCs business counseling programs that are hampered by virtue of limited access to credit and investment capital and who have a demonstrable inability to pay for legal services. These entities are valuable as community controlled institutions, which provides goods, services and employment opportunities to the targeted neighborhoods. Business owners must identify net revenues including salary drawn from business operations.

Through brief advice and legal representation to these entities, the neighborhood development clinic supports and extends the CDCs mission of poverty alleviation by:

- \* Building community capital in the form of goods, services and employment available in distressed communities
- \* Preparing small neighborhood institutions for the opportunity and challenges that are likely to accompany welfare reform, the revitalization of the District s neighborhood and the economic expansion of the region
- \* Supporting redevelopment and elimination of blight by addressing the legal needs of organizations devoted to those outcomes for the neighborhood

The Clinic promotes the Pro Bono Program s mission by:

- \* Proactively identifying unmet legal needs and implementing a way to serve them
- \* Expanding the pool of volunteer attorneys by including lawyers from a diverse range of practice settings and practice specialties as volunteers (eg solo practitioners, government attorneys, corporate counsel, lawyers from large national firms)
- \* Serving unmet legal needs by leveraging the bar s resources through partnerships with key community service organizations and law school clinical programs

**Client Recruitment.** The CDC recruits clients for the clinic as part of its ongoing community development and small business counseling programs. Our goal is to serve a docket of fifteen organizations through each clinic.

**Client Screening.** Case screening through client interviews, document collection and preparing legal memoranda. Legal memos are prepared by students from law school clinical programs, and during the summer, by law firm summer associates.

**Lawyer Recruitment** will be coordinated by the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program with the community outreach coordinators from the Bar sections.