

# PRO BONO Matters



**PUBLIC** 1981-2006  
**LAW CENTER**  
25 Years of Service

The Newsletter of the Public Law Center

Spring 2006

## Mission Viejo Sued in Affordable Housing Lawsuit

On April 26, 2006, the Public Law Center filed a lawsuit on behalf of a low wage worker in Mission Viejo and a non-profit provider of housing services to the lower income community of Orange County against the City of Mission Viejo. The suit challenges the City's failure to facilitate the development of sufficient affordable housing to satisfy its obligations under state law. Joining PLC as co-counsel in the suit are the Legal Aid Society of Orange County and the California Affordable Housing Law Project in Oakland. The suit follows over two years of administrative advocacy before the City through which PLC, on behalf of our clients, along with the Kennedy Commission, urged the City time and time again to live up to its legal obligations under state law to foster more housing for lower income persons.

To avoid individual local jurisdictions from adopting a parochial approach to the issue of affordable housing, state law provides for a regional approach. Under that law, the

Southern California Association of Governments determines a Regional Housing Needs Assessment ("RHNA") figure, which is the amount of housing at all levels of the economic spectrum that each jurisdiction in Orange County will need to accommodate during a five year planning period. Each city and county in turn develops, as part of its general plan, a housing element that, among other things, must set forth its policies, goals and programs for meeting its RHNA obligation. Those housing elements are submitted to the California Department of Housing and Community Development ("HCD"), for review and approval. HCD approved Mission Viejo's housing element in April 2001, on the condition that Mission Viejo, by January 2003, rezone for high density multi-family development two sites identified in the element as the last remaining vacant sites available to accommodate the City's housing needs.

Not only did the City fail to rezone the two sites it was to have rezoned by January 2003, it actually rejected an affordable rental housing proposal for one of those sites in 2004 which would have met the City's outstanding RHNA for 154 lower income units. PLC brought this information to the attention of HCD and in June 2004, HCD withdrew its conditional approval of Mission Viejo's housing

element – an extremely rare move – and found the City out of compliance with state affordable housing law.

Undeterred, the City approved in September 2005 a development of 250 for-sale town homes on one of the two sites; and restricted the affordable component of that development to 38 lower income one bedroom for-sale town homes. Then, in February 2006, the City approved a mixed use development on the remaining 23 acre site which permits the development of a large retail store on more than half of the site. The other half of the site, which could accommodate at least 350 residential units, will instead produce only 144 for-sale town homes, only 22 of which can be affordable and again all one bedroom.

In approving these developments, the City shirked its responsibility to comply with state law. The approved developments ignore the need for rental housing in Mission Viejo and the needs of large families. One bedroom for-sale

"These are the last available parcels in town... if affordable housing is not built here, then where?"

town homes by definition will exclude even small families in need of affordable housing.

As we have been doing since 2004, PLC has voiced our clients' concerns that the City has not fulfilled its affordable housing obligations under state law or complied with its own housing element. "Yet knowing that these are the last remaining vacant sites, the City approved these proposals without identifying any other land for affordable housing," said PLC staff attorney Eileen McCarthy. "Since the City's own housing element demonstrates that these are the last available vacant parcels in town, if they're not going to ensure that the City's share of regional housing needs is built here, then where?"

The April 26 lawsuit seeks a writ of mandate to compel the City to comply with state housing element law and declaratory and injunctive relief claims. The petitioners do not seek money damages. The petitioners also assert claims under state and federal fair housing law because the City's actions have a disproportionate impact on the provision and availability of housing affordable to Hispanics in Mission Viejo. As of the date of printing, no hearing has been set in the suit. ↗

### Get Involved with PLC...

PLC offers a variety of volunteer opportunities for Attorneys, Law Students, and College Students including pro bono representation, staffing at community legal clinics and volunteering in-house at PLC. For more information or if you would like to volunteer, please contact Peri Doshi-O'Neill, Pro Bono Managing Attorney at (714) 541-1010 ext. 263 or [pdoshioneill@publiclawcenter.org](mailto:pdoshioneill@publiclawcenter.org)

### Public Law Center

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### Mission Statement

The Public Law Center, Orange County's *pro bono* law firm, is committed to providing access to justice for low income residents. Through volunteers and staff, the Public Law Center provides free civil legal services, including counseling, individual representation, community education, and strategic litigation and advocacy to challenge societal injustices.

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## From the Executive Director



Those who were there remember it well. In 1981, a reception was held at Anaheim Stadium to unveil a new organization designed to mobilize the county's pro bono resources.

Created by a small group of community leaders, including Judge Warren Ferguson, Justice John Trotter, Justice Sheila Sonenshine, Garvin Shallenberger, Frank Quevado and Bob Cohen, Amicus Publico was the new group's name. It was designed to match up indigent clients from the Legal Aid Society of Orange County with volunteer lawyers. Of course, to achieve this goal, lawyers would need to volunteer their time and expertise. As Judge Warren Ferguson admonished those assembled 25 years ago, "you will volunteer for this group."


Judge Ferguson was right. Lawyers would volunteer. Hundreds of them, year after year for the past 25 years. Our name changed, following a 1989 merger with the Orange County Public Interest Law Advocates, a group focused on pursuing impact litigation to address systemic injustices affecting the poor. Little by little our staff has grown, allowing us to serve more of Orange County's low income community. In 2003, thanks to the assistance of the Orange County Bar Association, we were able to achieve a major milestone in the life of any non-profit when we purchased our building at 601 Civic Center Drive West in Santa Ana.

Along the way, we've expanded services so that we're helping a wider array of clients through efforts like the Southeast Asian Legal Outreach Program, the AIDS Legal Assistance Program, the

Community Organizations Legal Assistance Program and Family Advocates. We're offering a greater number and variety of volunteer opportunities – individual client representation, brief counsel and advice clinics, large scale litigation designed to address widespread problems, community legal education are now all part of our regular docket of ways to become involved. We've even gotten the transactional bar engaged in the world of pro bono.

But at our core, we've remained the same organization. We have been and always will be deeply committed to serving Orange County's low income community – a community that continues to grow in size and diversity. And we remain just as committed to serving as the link between the legal needs of the poor and the incredible talent, dedication and passion of the Orange County legal community. Whether through a large firm lawyer or solo practitioner, in house corporate counsel or local law student, our ability to enable the delivery of pro bono legal services is our greatest strength.

That strength comes in large part from 25 years of current and former board members and staff too numerous to mention by name and 25 years of volunteers who number in the several thousand. Whether they helped a grandmother seeking to establish a guardianship, an elderly couple facing eviction, a domestic violence victim seeking a divorce and an adjustment of her immigration status, a young couple defrauded by a door to door salesman or a non-profit group seeking to incorporate, our volunteers have made a meaningful difference in the lives of Orange County's low income residents.

After 25 years, pro bono is alive and well in Orange County. Stay tuned or, better yet, be involved with us in making access to justice even stronger over the next 25 years. 

## New Faces at PLC

PLC was delighted to have the following members join the PLC Board of Directors effective January 1, 2006:

- **Mary Ann Foo** is the executive director of the Orange County Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) and a well respected policy advocate throughout the county. OCAPICA works to build a healthier and stronger community by enhancing the well being of Asians and Pacific Islanders through inclusive partnerships in the areas of service, education, advocacy, organizing, and research.

- **Mark E. Minyard** is a partner at Minyard Morris LLP. He is a State Bar Certified Specialist in Family Law and is a Fellow with the American

College of Trial Lawyers and the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He serves as the Treasurer of the Orange County Bar Foundation and is a member of the Orange County Bar Association Board of Directors.

- **John C. Murphy** is a partner with Nossaman Guthner Knox & Elliott LLP where he currently serves as head of the eminent domain practice group. He specializes in commercial litigation with an emphasis on eminent domain, inverse condemnation and other complex business disputes. John currently serves as the president of the Warren J. Ferguson American Inn of Court.

- **Alexander S. Polsky** is a mediator and arbitrator with JAMS and has resolved

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# Irell & Manella Helps Anaheim Tenants Faced With Loss of Housing

The Orange County office of Irell & Manella LLP recently came to the aid of a group of Anaheim tenants who found themselves in the way of progress and facing eviction. The tenants lived in a 40 unit apartment complex that Caltrans sought through eminent domain for a major road widening project near Imperial Highway and Orangethorpe Avenue. The tenants paid reduced rents because their apartments were part of a Project Based Section 8 complex, a subsidized rental housing program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Project Based Section 8 housing provides tenants the same reduced rents as are available under the Section 8 housing voucher program (which is more common for Orange County low income tenants), but provides tenants additional benefits, including a requirement that evictions only be for just cause.

Led by Irell volunteer attorneys Andra Greene, Brian Bark, Heather Freelin, Harry Schulz, Jill Sperber and former associate Wendy Sugg (now of Bienert & Krongold), a team came together to ensure that the residents of the Imperial Terrace Apartments received the maximum relocation benefits they were entitled to under federal and state law. The Coalition for Economic Survival, a tenants' rights organization, helped to organize the initial meetings with the tenants, and continued to assist with outreach and education. James Grow of the National Housing Law Project in Oakland provided technical assistance. Retired attorney Lon Watson, the former County Counsel of Orange County, volunteered by conducting valuable preliminary research. Summer law clerks at Irell, PLC and Legal Aid joined in the effort.

Initially, tenants had been notified that the apartments were scheduled to be demolished, and were frightened and unsure what their relocation benefits would include. Working with staff attorney Eileen McCarthy of the Public Law Center and Director of Litigation Crystal Sims of the Legal Aid Society of Orange County, the lawyers at Irell com-

plained to Caltrans, the City of Anaheim (whose Housing Department was scheduled to administer the replacement Section 8 Vouchers to which Imperial Terrace tenants were entitled as part of their relocation benefits) and to HUD, regarding several important issues, including certain tenants' entitlement to receive Section 8 Vouchers, the geographic areas where tenants would be able to use their Section 8 Vouchers, the characterization of relocation benefits (an issue critical to allowing tenants to receive Caltrans relocation benefits without risking the loss of Section 8 housing assistance), and requests for reasonable accommodation on behalf of certain disabled tenants.

The Imperial Terrace team caused Caltrans to change its posture and provide significant relocation benefits to the tenants. Irell attorneys took the lead in gaining the assistance of Caltrans, which joined with Irell in convincing HUD and the City of Anaheim that the tenants' receipt of maximum relocation benefits should not affect the tenants continued eligibility for the Section 8 housing program. The hard work of the Irell volunteers made for a happy ending to the sad circumstance of the demolition of affordable units, by assisting many of the tenants to satisfactorily relocate to truly comparable housing. Other tenants were able to achieve homeownership, by using their relocation assistance as a down payment.

Just before going to print, the Irell volunteers reported that one of the final tenants needing assistance, a 33 year old disabled man, was able to vacate his apartment at Imperial Terrace and, together with a live in assistant, move into a replacement 3-bedroom, 2-bath unit in a brand-new apartment building in Irvine. Caltrans paid for the cost to modify the unit to accommodate the client's disability, the cost of his move and a rent differential payment. Our congratulations to all on the Imperial Terrace team, and particularly to the volunteers at Irell & Manella for all their hard work on this challenging project.

## Recent PLC Cases

**J. Robert Meserve of Rutan & Tucker** represented a PLC client whose daughter's home was fraudulently transferred to a third party. The elderly client had gone to a real estate agency and believed they were assisting her in listing her daughter's home for sale. The client was to use the proceeds from the sale of the home to temporarily care for her minor grandson because her daughter was incarcerated. She then began receiving mortgage delinquen-

cy notices and eventually a notice for foreclosure of the property. Rob investigated and determined that the real estate agent had never listed the property for sale. Instead, they had transferred the property to the brother of the real estate company's owner without the client or her daughter's knowledge or consent. Thanks to Rob's assistance, the matter settled with the client receiving \$54,000, which was the amount of equity in the home after the mortgage was paid.

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## Recent PLC Cases (Continued from page 3)

**Scott Garner and David Bartels of Howrey** assisted a victim of identity theft who was being sued by a creditor for \$2,295 plus interest. In order to ascertain information on the alleged debt, Scott and David served discovery requests, including requests for admissions, to which they received no response. Scott and David's motion to compel was subsequently granted by the court, which ordered the RFAs deemed admitted, granted sanctions of \$1050, and gave the creditor 20 days to produce substantive responses to the other discovery. The creditor paid \$350 in sanctions, but did not provide further discovery responses and ignored several meet and confer letters. The court then granted Scott and David's motion for terminating sanctions and dismissed the complaint with prejudice.

**John Bowerbank from Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton** assisted a client and his family whose security deposit was wrongfully withheld after they moved. After the landlord refused to fix faulty pipes that twice had flooded the apartment or replace the molding carpet that resulted from the floods, the client contacted the fire department. The landlord retaliated by serving the client with a 60-day notice to terminate their tenancy. The client performed two walk-through inspections with the landlord before vacating and was assured that they would receive a full refund of their security deposit; however, the landlord deducted \$600 for cleaning and repairs made to the faulty pipes after the clients moved. John assisted the client in reaching a favor-

able settlement with the former landlord obtaining a return of substantially all of the wrongfully withheld security deposit.

**PLC assisted** a client whose dentures were lost during a hospital stay. The client was never given any instructions concerning the care of his dentures. After undergoing a test to diagnose his health problem, the client awoke to find that his dentures were not in his mouth. Hospital personnel allegedly looked for them but were unsuccessful in locating the dentures. The client complained to the hospital but received no response. Meanwhile, because he couldn't afford new dentures he was having difficulty eating which threatened to further complicate his terminal health condition. With PLC's assistance, the client prevailed in a small claims lawsuit against the hospital and was awarded \$1,550 to pay for new dentures.

**PLC successfully** obtained a court ordered installment payment plan for a client who faced medical bills following a hit and run accident. The client's insurance company covered a portion of the bills, but the client was left owing over \$2,000. Despite the fact that the client had paid his bills, the account went to collection. The client, who has limited English proficiency, wrote numerous letters to the collections agency and the hospital, but nobody responded to him. Thanks to PLC's involvement, this client is able to pay \$250 less each month to the collections agency, and can use this savings towards life necessities such as food and rent. ↗



## FAMILY ADVOCATES PROGRAM – EXPANDED, Doing Well and Doing Good

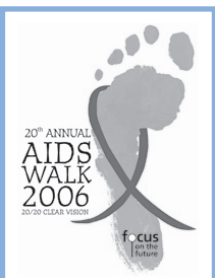
**T**wo years ago we proudly reported on the implementation of an exciting medical-legal collaborative program that was developed by the Public Law Center with St. Joseph Health System (SJHS). The Family Advocates program was designed to improve the health/quality of life of low income patients in the SJHS, specifically those with legal issues that are causing stress than can impair treatment or recovery.

A fledgling Family Advocates program began serving clients at the St. Joseph Health System La Amistad de Jose Family Health Center in Orange in February 2004. Initially clinics were held once a month. As health care staff and patients became more aware of the program, requests for services increased. The Family Advocates legal clinics were expanded to a twice-a month schedule. When the program had been operating for one year, PLC and SJHS collaborative team began focusing on the objective of making its unique services accessible to patients living in south Orange County. A few months later, in July 2005, a second clinic site was launched at the Camino Health Center in San Juan Capistrano. Both facilities are part of the St. Joseph Health System.

The Family Advocates collaboration is changing the way that health care and legal practitioners interact with each other in efforts that serve to broaden the perspective of preventive care and provide access to justice. It's an excellent example of the power of collaboration and commitment. ↗



First Lady Maria Shriver meets with PLC attorneys Julie McCormick, Peri Doshi-O'Neill, Hien Vo and Executive Director Ken Babcock at April 12 Santa Ana Community Fair organized by the Legal Aid Society of Orange County.



### Annual AIDS Walk

Join PLC in the 20th Annual AIDS Walk Orange County at UC Irvine on Sunday, June 4th. AIDS Walk is a 7.5-kilometer fundraiser that improves the lives of those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS in Orange County. PLC is one of the nine recipient agencies that benefits from the Walk. You can join PLC's walk team, start your own team, or make a contribution at [www.aidswalk.org/oc](http://www.aidswalk.org/oc).

## Thank you to the following supporters of the Public Law Center\*

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## PLC's Donors Make a Difference in 2005-06 Annual Fund Drive

This year's Annual Fund Drive is proving to be PLC's most successful ever. As of April 30th, PLC had received over \$76,000 from 244 donors, reflecting a significant increase (21%) in the amount given over the prior year. PLC is fortunate to have longstanding supporters renew, and many upgrade, their Annual Fund gift. We are pleased to have new friends join our donor base as well.

This support makes an important difference in PLC's ability to respond to the increasing and changing needs of our community. In the year 2005 alone, PLC staff and volunteers provided 36,000 hours of free legal services in handling more than 2,700 cases, serving a total of 12,150 low income children, adults and seniors in Orange County.

Our Annual Fund Drive is a critical part of PLC's budget. It provides a dependable source of

unrestricted revenues that PLC uses to address priority needs. A good portion of PLC's budget is funded by contracts and grants that are restricted for specific programs or services. PLC depends upon the generosity of our annual fund supporters to help the growing number of families, adults and seniors who need legal assistance in matters affecting their basic living needs.

Forgot to send in your Annual Fund gift? It's not too late, and it's easy. You can send a check to PLC's office, or go to our website at [www.publiclawcenter.org](http://www.publiclawcenter.org) and use your credit card. To discuss giving opportunities contact Fran Marshall, Director of Fund Development at (714) 541-1010 ext. 277 or [fmarshall@publiclawcenter.org](mailto:fmarshall@publiclawcenter.org). Your gift to PLC yields more than \$8 worth of services for every \$1 invested. ↙

## 2005/2006 Foundation, Corporate and Other Major Funders:

AIDS Services Foundation Orange County  
Buchalter Nemer  
California Consumer Protection Foundation  
Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law  
Communities Health Charities of California (Macy's)  
County of Orange Health Care Agency  
Equal Justice America  
Equal Justice Works  
FaCT Orange County  
Institute for Healthcare Advancement

Legal Aid Society of Orange County  
Orange County Bar Association  
Orange County Bar Association Charitable Fund  
Saint Anselm Cross Cultural Community Center  
Sidney Stern Memorial Trust  
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Council of Orange County  
St. Joseph Health System  
The State Bar of California  
UVSA Tet Festival

## New Faces at PLC (Continued from Page 2)

thousands of complex commercial and serious injury disputes. He is a Fellow with the International Academy of Mediators and an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Southern California School of Law and at the Straus Institute for Dispute Resolution at Pepperdine University School of Law.

Over the past year the following individuals joined the PLC staff team:

- **Shannon Anderson** is an Ameri-Corps member/Equal Justice Work Attorney, responsible for the Buchalter Nemer Community Organizations Legal Assistance Project at PLC. COLAP provides assistance to community-based nonprofit organizations and conducts training to organizations on a variety of legal subjects.

- **Suzanne Blau** joined PLC as a staff attorney working exclusively on immigration matters. She has since expanded her representation to victims of human trafficking and other victims of serious crimes who are eligible to petition for legal status in the United States. Prior to PLC, she worked at Public Counsel in Los Angeles for five years.

- **Kirsten Kreymann** is an Ameri-Corps member/Equal Justice Work Attorney. Kirsten concentrates on immigration law, coordinates our Family Advocates clinics and recruits law school student

volunteers to assist in PLC activities.

- **Alexis Penn** joined PLC as a staff attorney after volunteering for several months. A recent graduate of Chapman University School of Law, Alexis focuses her efforts on homelessness and housing issues. Before coming to PLC, she worked as a math and science high school teacher at Coast High School in Huntington Beach.

- **Ngoc D.M. Nguyen** is a legal assistant at PLC, working in the Southeast Asian Legal Assistance Program (SEALOP) where she mainly assists Vietnamese-speaking clients. She works in areas of Family Law, Immigration, Landlord/Tenant and Consumer Law cases and conducts client intakes at the SEALOP legal clinic. Ngoc earned her J.D. at Whittier Law School.

- **Christine Murphy** is PLC's Development Associate and works closely with the Director of Fund Development in developing and implementing fundraising strategies to increase philanthropic support for PLC.

- **Tracy Hermans** is a Senior Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director and also coordinates volunteer programs and planning with the Pro Bono Managing Attorney. Prior to joining PLC, she worked at the Volunteer Center Orange County.

## Major Gift News

The law firm of **Buchalter Nemer** recently made an extraordinary commitment of support to the Public Law Center – a grant of \$50,000. This brings the firm’s support of PLC to over \$100,000 in just three years!

Debra Healy Deem, Managing Partner of the firm’s Orange County office, explained that the firm chose to make this special gift because it puts high value on pro bono service and it appreciates the leadership and coordination role that PLC’s plays in matching economically disadvantaged clients with volunteer lawyers in Orange County. “PLC gives the legal community a systematic, organized way to do this important work, which enables us to have a far greater impact, collectively,” said Ms. Deem. She added, “we wanted our leadership gift to signal to others that PLC deserves higher levels of support, given its mission and the growing need for pro bono services. We’re hoping that other firms will follow our lead by increasing their support of PLC.”

As part of its contribution, Buchalter Nemer recognized the importance of continuing its sponsorship of the growing Community Organizations Legal Assistance Program (COLAP) at PLC. Buchalter Nemer’s previous grants of \$25,000 in 2004 and again in 2005 enabled PLC to launch and then institutionalize this new program and develop its wide ranging services. This unique program provides free legal services to local nonprofit organizations with business-law related legal needs, from assistance with incorporation to ensuring ongoing compliance with laws and regulations. The nonprofits assisted serve low income residents of Orange County, thus strengthening the base of services available to economically disadvantaged and underserved clients.

The Public Law Center is deeply grateful to Buchalter Nemer for the firm’s pacesetting grant.

...

Our thanks to the **Orange County Bar Association** for its continued strong support of PLC. The **OCBA Lawyer Referral & Information Service** has provided a donation of \$50,000 to assist us in our efforts to provide justice for low income Orange County residents. And the **OCBA Charitable Fund** recently provided PLC with a \$43,000 grant to fur-

ther our efforts to recruit, train and mentor volunteer attorneys who provide pro bono legal services to PLC’s low income clients. We are especially grateful for the efforts of the LRIS Committee Chair Claudette Kunzman, Charitable Fund Chair Dean Zipser, Executive Director Donna Foust and the rest of the OCBA staff.

...

In October 2005, the Public Law Center learned that it was one of a handful of legal services organizations in the state that had been designated to receive a portion of a \$1,000,000 cy pres distribution of residual class action settlement proceeds in the **Transsouth Cases**, a Judicial Council Coordinated Proceeding relating to automobile repossessions. Thanks to the generous recommendation to the court of plaintiffs’ counsel Mark Chavez of Chavez & Gertler in Mill Valley and William Krieg of Krieg & Associates in Fresno, PLC received approximately \$104,000 of the \$1,000,000 distributed to legal services programs.

...

On October 10, 2005, the **Southern California Chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel - America (ACCA-SoCal)** held its 7th annual Corporate Counsel Charity Golf Classic at the new Trump National Golf Club in Palos Verdes. The sold out tournament resulted in a \$10,000 donation to PLC. Our thanks to tournament chair, Harry Field of Boeing and the rest of the tournament committee for all their hard work in making this event such a tremendous success. We look forward to the 2006 tournament – which will be on October 9, again at the Trump National Golf Club in Palos Verdes.

...

On February 10, 2006, **ACCA-SoCal held its 11th Annual Gala Dinner**, with Distinguished Speaker General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret.). At the dinner, ACCA-SoCal held its annual Pro Bono Silent Auction with the proceeds to benefit Public Counsel in Los Angeles and PLC. The auction resulted in a donation of \$8,550 to PLC. PLC is extremely grateful for ACCA-SoCal’s continued support. ↙



PLC volunteers with Gen. Colin L. Powell at the ACCA-SoCal Gala Dinner.

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# CALENDAR

**Monday, May 22nd, 2006**

**OCBA Charitable Fund's 22nd Annual Judge Kenneth Lae Charity Golf Tournament**

The OCBA Charitable Fund's 22nd Annual Judge Kenneth Lae Charity Golf Tournament will take place on Monday, May 22, 2006 at Dove Canyon Country Club. For registration and sponsorship information, call OCBA Charitable Fund at (949) 440-6700, ext. 119 or email carole@ocba.net or visit www.ocbar.org.

**Tuesday, May 23, 2006**

**Domestic Violence Legal Clinic Training  
Co-sponsored with the OCBA**

Registration at 5:30 p.m. and Program 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Washington Mutual Conference Center. 2 CLE credits. Understand the cycle of violence along with many of the other issues associated with domestic violence in this informative specialty seminar. Speakers from Human Options, PLC and CSP Domestic Violence Assistance Program instruct you on how to interview traumatized clients, while educating you on the frequently asked questions at the domestic violence legal clinic. OCBA members can attend for free in exchange for 3 visits to a clinic. For more information, contact Peri Doshi-O'Neill (714) 541-1010 ext. 263 or visit www.ocbar.org.

**Sunday, June 4, 2006**

**20th Annual AIDS Walk Orange County**

An event of the AIDS Services Foundation to benefit PLC and several other agencies. U.C. Irvine, Administration Loop and the Chancellor's Rose Garden. Registration at 7:30 a.m. Walk begins at 9:00 a.m. For more information, please contact Liz Pejeau at (714) 541-1010 ext. 273 or lpejeau@publiclawcenter.org or log onto www.aidswalk.org/oc

**Wednesday, June 7, 2006**

**Association of Business Trial Lawyers (ABTL) Annual Wine Tasting & Dinner**

Speaker: Michael Josephson of the Josephson Institute of Ethics. 1 CLE Ethics Credit will be offered. Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa. Wine Tasting begins at 6 p.m. Dinner and program begins at 7 p.m. For more information, please contact Becky Cien, ABTL, at (323) 939-1999 or abtl@abtl.org.

**Thursday, June 8, 2006**

**Starting a New Nonprofit? The Reality Checklist**

**Co-sponsored with the Volunteer Center Orange County**

6:00-9:00 p.m. Free to the public. This workshop will address these issues and show you the essential information you need to apply for nonprofit incorporation and tax exempt status. Forming a nonprofit (501(c)(3) in California is not as easy as you may think – attend this class and come away with an understanding of what it all means and where the resources are to help you make informed decisions. To register call (714) 953-5757 x130.

**Thursday, June 29, 2006**

**Basic Immigration Law  
Co-sponsored with the OCBA**

Registration is at 5:30 pm and Program 6:00 pm - 9:15 pm at the Washington Mutual Conference Center. 3.0 CLE credits. An overview of current Immigration Law, including information regarding employment-based petitions, family-based petitions and deportation. Immigration relief for victims of violence will be emphasized, with specific information about human trafficking, asylum, U visas and relief under VAWA. Speakers are Monica E. Lukoschek, Esq., Former Chair of OCBA Immigration Section, John C. Nelson, Esq., Certified Specialist in Immigration & Nationality Law, Lisa D. Ramirez, Esq., President of Hispanic Bar Association, and Louis M. Piscopo, Esq., Chairman of the OCBA Immigration Section. OCBA members can attend free in exchange for taking 2 pro bono cases. For more information, contact Peri Doshi-O'Neill at (714) 541-1010 ext. 263 or visit www.ocbar.org.

**Thursday, July 20, 2006**

**PLC's Volunteers for Justice Annual Dinner**

Celebrating 25 years of service to Orange County! Hyatt Regency, Irvine. Registration and Silent Auction begins at 5:30 p.m. Dinner Program begins at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Christine Murphy at (714) 541-1010 ext. 276 or cmurphy@publiclawcenter.org.



**Address Service Requested**

