

From: Lew Goldfarb, Director, Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic
To: Legal Community of Cincinnati and Surrounding Communities
Re: Opportunities for Pro Bono Work

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLINIC

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRO BONO WORK AS A CLINIC ADVISOR

The University of Cincinnati College of Law has announced the opening of its Entrepreneurship and Community Development Clinic (ECDC) in January 2011. At the ECDC, third-year law students will obtain “hands on” experience representing local business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs on transactional legal issues critical to their success, including assistance and counseling on entity selection and formation; regulatory compliance and licensing; trademark and copyright protection; lease review and negotiation; contract preparation, review, and negotiation; and other legal issues confronting small businesses. Students will perform all work at the ECDC under the supervision of its director. The ECDC will represent only clients of limited financial means who cannot afford the services of the private bar and will not represent clients in litigation.

Through its work, the ECDC hopes to contribute to the economic development/revitalization of Cincinnati and surrounding communities. The qualitative and quantitative impact of the ECDC on students, clients, and the local economy can be enhanced tremendously through collaborations with the local legal and business communities, local government and community leaders, and other colleges at the University of Cincinnati.

Local transactional/business lawyers have a unique opportunity to provide pro bono assistance to the clinic by volunteering to be “clinic advisors”, individuals who will be called upon from time to time to assist the ECDC and its clients on legal issues in their practice areas. By doing so, clinic advisors will help students develop as practicing lawyers; help local businesses optimize their chances for success; contribute to the economic development of Cincinnati and surrounding communities; begin to nurture relationships with potential future clients, employees, and colleagues; and, importantly, feel the intrinsic rewards and self-fulfillment that come with providing pro bono service.

A clinic advisor may serve the ECDC in many ways, including: (1) as a consultant to students and the clinic director as issues arise; (2) as the lead supervisor of students on selected projects; (3) as an instructor, providing classroom instruction to students on selected topics; and (4) as a referral source, on a pro bono or discounted fee basis, for businesses and entrepreneurs of limited financial means which the ECDC does not accept into its program.

If you are interested in becoming a clinic advisor, please review and complete the attached “Clinic Advisor Sign-Up Form.” By completing and submitting the form, you will be included on the ECDC’s roster of clinic advisors and contacted, on a case-by-case basis, as opportunities arise. When contacted, clinic advisors may determine whether, and to what extent, they desire to be involved with respect to the requested assistance.

By working together, we can do some wonderful things, for the betterment of ourselves, the future of our profession, and the communities in which we live and work. Thanks in advance for your consideration.