

Save the Date!

LCBH's Annual Reception and Awards Ceremony is scheduled for Thursday, October 8, 2009, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at Wildman, Harrold, Allen & Dixon LLP, 225 W. Wacker Drive, Chicago. **Mark your calendars now for this great yearly event!**

Renters' Tip

Be alert for clues to foreclosure: landlord stops making repairs, notices come to the landlord from banks or utility companies, utilities are shut off, or realtors express interest in the property. If you suspect your landlord is in foreclosure, continue to pay your rent, as you have more protections if you pay and document all attempts to pay your rent.

Tenants must be notified within 7 days of a foreclosure action being filed. If you are named in a foreclosure action or summoned to eviction court because of foreclosure, seek legal assistance. You have certain rights, including sealing of the case to avoid credit problems. ■

More and more of us are reading on line.

To accommodate you and save paper and postage, we would like to switch all who are interested to electronic communications! Just send your email address to: Sarah Ryan at sryan@lcbh.org.



Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing

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Suite 1800
Chicago, IL 60603

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Spring/Summer 2009
housing
Publication of
Lawyers' Committee
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briefs

a week in the life of LCBH

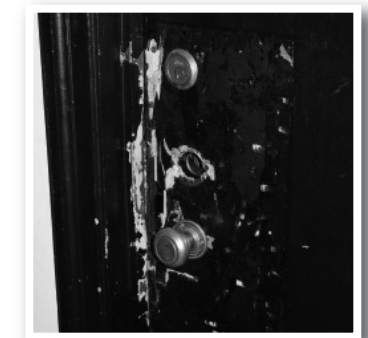
The pictures shown here, taken during the week of May 11, provide a snapshot of what goes on day to day in a busy, non-profit law firm. With the help of a dedicated staff as well as volunteers and interns, LCBH is able to work to achieve our mission of **safe, fair, affordable housing for all Chicagoans.**



▲ Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing (LCBH) was founded in 1980 by a group of lawyers concerned about deteriorating apartment buildings and housing abandonment in the Rogers Park neighborhood. LCBH provides advocacy, legal representation, and education as a means of empowering tenants, preserving decent affordable housing, and preventing homelessness in Chicago.



▲ Staff Attorney Aaron Rosenblatt conducts a Fair Housing seminar with Access Living teaching landlords how they can best accommodate disabled tenants under the Fair Housing Act. LCBH encourages landlords to make reasonable accommodations to their buildings to comply with the law as well as add value.



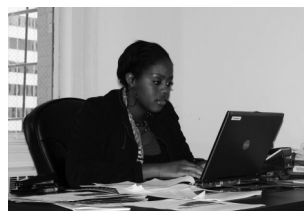
▲ This picture, showing a door with broken locks, illustrates the horrendous conditions some of our tenants are forced to live in. This particular building had bugs, mold and a lack of security. LCBH's Affordable Housing Preservation Project is presently working with tenants here.



▲ Tenant Laverne Johnson shows the multiple products she uses to combat bed bugs, cockroaches and mold. Ms. Johnson is serving as the main tenant organizer for her building and has faced reprimand from management for her involvement with LCBH.



▲ Tenant training at an independent living facility. This training was conducted in conjunction with Metropolitan Tenants Organization as well as Organization of the NorthEast.



▲ M.J. Argura, social service intern from the University of Chicago, searches for affordable housing for social services clients. Legal, paralegal, and social services interns assist LCBH staff.



▲ The legal team is shown during one of their twice weekly intake meetings where they decide which legal clients to take on. LCBH received 109 calls this week.



▲ Staff attorneys William Elmore and Aaron Rosenblatt with clients Wyconda Marshall and Demetrius McGhee outside the Daley Center. They collaborated on a foreclosure case and achieved a successful result for their clients.



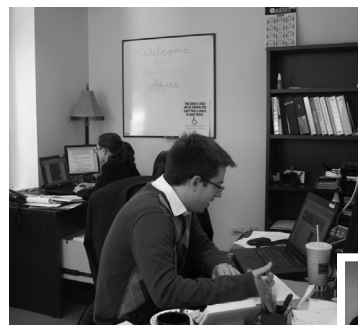
▲ Paralegal Cecilia Nemeth and volunteer Chris Lenhardt meet with clients on a foreclosure case. Clients reside in a building which is unlivable due to flooding from sewage. LCBH was later able to get the clients relocation assistance so they could move.



▲ The Board of Directors Finance Committee meets with LCBH's Executive Director and Finance Manager over lunch. Pictured are Board member Ed Malstrom and LCBH Finance Manager Dawn Beasley. The Finance Committee oversees LCBH's budget.



▶ Tenant Donnie Johnson meets with staff attorney Keri Lindsay in his apartment.



▶ Volunteer Chris Lenhardt researches foreclosure case law.



▼ Attorney Gerard O'Toole trades stories with Attorney Andy Dougherty from Cabrini Green Legal Clinic outside the eviction courtroom at the Daley Center.



▲ Paralegals Elizabeth Rangel and Rufus Barner review a client's file in preparation for the next day.



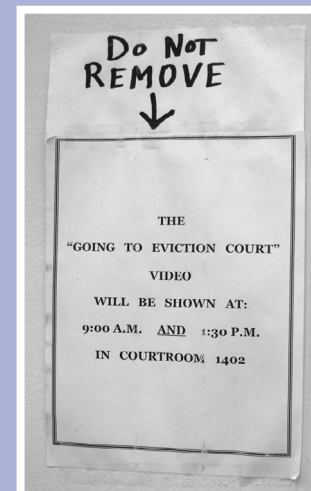
▲ Staff Attorney Mark Swartz conducts a training on foreclosure law as it relates to tenants for community organizers. The training was done in conjunction with Metropolitan Tenants Organization.



▲ Greg Furda and Sharon King, members of the LCBH Board Executive Committee, meet with Zana Pimentel from the Executive Service Corps, which is providing consulting on board responsibilities and committee structure.



▶ Attorney of the Day Eviction Defense Attorney Gerard O'Toole meets with clients Syllathea Alexander and Andre Carter outside the eviction court where he can be found five days a week. AOD is the only in-court volunteer project operating daily and exclusively in the Daley Center eviction court. This week LCBH represented 23 families in Eviction Court as well as two in Building Court and two in Chancery Court.



▲ LCBH's video is shown twice a day and is viewed an average of 90 times a day. This video is being updated for 2009 to reflect changes caused by the foreclosure crisis.



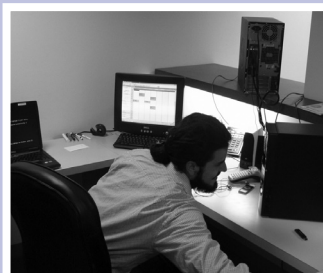
▲ Emily Miller, AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteer, puts the finishing touches on LCBH's website. The new website, complete with updated content can be viewed at lcbh.org.



▲ LCBH's Administrative team participates in their biweekly meeting to discuss agency operations. The Admin team is composed of Executive Director Kathleen Clark, Social Services Team Leader Paul Beals, Financial Manager Dawn Beasley, Legal Team Leader Keri Lindsay, and Development Director Sarah Ryan.



▲ Staff Attorney Aaron Rosenblatt meets with a legal client whose security deposit case he is handling. LCBH has recently begun taking on security deposit cases.



▲ Manny Camargo prepares computers for the incoming summer interns. LCBH has 13 interns this summer who work in our legal and social services programs. Manny handles intake as well as tech issues for LCBH.



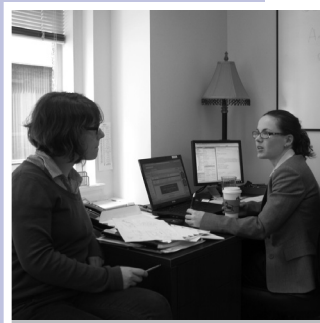
▲ Social Services Team Leader, Paul Beals meets with clients Espinosa Victoria and Cynthia Ceal. He was able to help them locate new housing.



▲ Tenants in Foreclosure Intervention Project attorney Mark Swartz and intern Heidi Jund place new buildings on a map of the foreclosed properties that he works with.



▲ The legal team holds their weekly meeting to discuss case law and receive training from Legal Director, Paul Bernstein.



▶ Pro Bono Coordinator Caitlin Ewing meets with Executive Assistant Lindsey Ravizza to discuss scheduling volunteers. Caitlin recruits volunteers for LCBH, networking with pro bono coordinators at law firms to promote LCBH in the legal community. LCBH utilizes volunteers in all of our programs and currently has 65 active volunteers.