



Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing Fall/Winter Newsletter 2011

[About us](#) [Programs](#) [2010 Annual Report](#) [Ways to Give](#) [Volunteer](#) [Website](#)

Shanna's Story

How the lack of a stove or refrigerator led this tenant to the emergency room and then to eviction court

The truth is that the rental market for tenants right now is very harsh in Chicago. Rents are climbing and the availability of affordable housing is declining due to demand and foreclosure. At LCBH we know success comes in many forms. This story has some painful and extraordinary circumstances but the underlying story is quite typical today. Success or not... you decide...

Shanna is a 21 year old mom with a one year old son and a one month old daughter. In April of this year she moved into an apartment that didn't have a refrigerator or stove. As a result she had to use a hot plate. She was boiling water one day when her one year old pulled the pot off the hot plate and suffered 2nd degree burns. As any mom would do, she stayed by his bed 24/7 for the two months he was in the hospital for his burns. As a result, she lost her job.

[Read the rest of Shanna's story here.](#)

DID YOU KNOW...?

*During this past year, LCBH provided various levels of service to **4,730 client families**, and impacted many, many more. This was accomplished with the help of over 70 volunteers who donated over **\$1,500,000.00 in legal and supportive services.***

The LCBH Annual Reception & Awards Ceremony Recap

Kate Walz, Barbara Grau Tenant Advocate of the Year

Kate began her legal career with LCBH after graduation from DePaul College of Law. During her time, she spearheaded a project that led to the development of the Attorney of the Day Program, a core program today.

Kate has been with the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law since 2001, advocating on behalf of low-income individuals living in or in need of public, subsidized, or affordable housing and continues to collaborate with LCBH.



In this Newsletter

- Shanna's Story
- Brad Pinne, Navigant Awards Ceremony Recap
- Employee of the Quarter Americorps*VISTA
- LCBH Events Calendar
- Volunteer with LCBH

LCBH Welcomes New Board Member Brad Pinne



Brad Pinne, Navigant Consulting, Inc.

Brad was moved by the stories of numerous families that struggle daily with unsafe living conditions and the threat of eviction. Brad is excited about the opportunity to serve on the LCBH Board and is using his skills to help Supportive Services integrate their case information into LCBH's Legal Server, which will streamline the submission of weekly and quarterly activity reports to the City of Chicago. Brad Pinne is a Director in Navigant Consulting's Disputes & Investigations practice who specializes in complex data analysis to facilitate the resolution of disputes and other business challenges.

2011 LCBH Annual

(photo: Kate Walz with LCBH Board President Tony Hopp and Executive Director Kathleen Clark)

---"This honor is especially meaningful to me since I had the pleasure of working with Barb Grau. As I coordinated an eviction court reform project in Chicago for LCBH, Barb and I would speak on a weekly basis. She was the cheerleader for the project and for my efforts, always encouraging me to take a fresh perspective on the longstanding problems with Chicago's eviction court. I hope at some point I can say that I offer that same level of support and encouragement to new attorneys in legal aid."

-Kate Walz

LCBH thanks speakers:
Commissioner Andrew J. Mooney
 & the 2011 Tenant speaker,
Cassandra Walker
 for being a part of the LCBH Mission



Comm. Andrew J. Mooney
 Chicago Department of Housing
 & Economic Development



Watch Cassandra Walker [tell her story](#), pictured with Supportive Services director John-Paul Beals

RENTER'S TIP

Are you a tenant living in a foreclosed building? Has the landlord or bank filed an eviction action against you?
YOU HAVE RIGHTS DURING THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS.

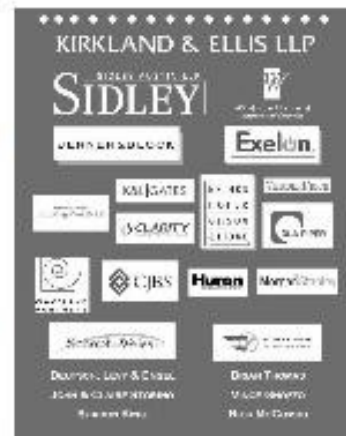


LCBH is now staffing an information desk on the 14th floor of the Daley Center, M-Th 8:45 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., to assist tenants facing eviction or other problems as a result of living in a building in foreclosure.



The Tenants in Foreclosure Information Desk provides services to increase awareness of tenants' rights during the foreclosure process under federal, state, and local laws, provide self-help alternatives, and provide legal representation when appropriate.

Reception & Awards Ceremony 2011 Sponsors



Sponsors & Funders

Employee of the
 Summer Quarter:
Patricia Fron, MSW



center, pictured with Board president, Tony Hopp and LCBH Legal Director, Mark Swartz

Patricia is the LCBH Building Programs Administrator and is responsible for the activities and client programming of the Tenants in Foreclosure Intervention Project. Trish works tirelessly to help tenants who are facing imminent danger of eviction and other problems associated with foreclosure. She collects and disseminates information weekly so that community groups know about new filed foreclosures in their neighborhood.

This last summer Trish also took on extra responsibilities in the pro bono program while Keri Lindsay was on maternity leave. She was

In the first month, LCBH provided 19 tenants with individualized foreclosure counseling services, passed out 169 tenants' rights information brochures, and referred 40 tenants to the 6th floor help desk for more general issues.

honored as employee of the summer quarter for her compassion and her dedication to the LCBH mission. Her interest in policy reform and social justice led her to seek experience in the legal field. Patricia earned her Master of Social Work degree from Loyola University Chicago in 2008 with a specialization in Leadership and Development in Social Services and has been with LCBH since January, 2010.



LCBH Special Events

Thursday, November, 17th 2011

In 2 Weeks!

A Night at the Opera with LCBH

Join the LCBH and its Young Professionals Board for a performance of select scenes from *The March* a new civil rights era opera project composed by Jonathan Stinson and featuring a libretto by Alan Marshall.
6 - 9 PM at Think Art Salon
[More Details and Tickets](#)



1963 March on Washington

What is your LCBH story?

Help us determine the true impact that LCBH has on the fabric of Chicago neighborhoods.

[Share your story here](#)

Welcome Americorps*VISTAS!

LCBH was selected as a recipient for two Americorps VISTA members from Housing Action Illinois. We would like to welcome Lauryn Burkhalter and Geneva Morris to its team for the next year.

LCBH 1st Annual Indoor Golf Invitational



Thanks to everyone who came out to support the LCBH First Annual Indoor Golf Invitational at Play18 Chicago. Special nods to our sponsors, the Young Professionals Board for planning a fun evening, and to John & Nikol Sotos for hosting the event.
[More photos](#)



Lauryn Burkhalter
Development VISTA

The LCBH 5th Annual Mini-Golf Staff Outing



What a great way to celebrate our staff and volunteers than with putt-putt on a sunny Friday in July!
Tournament Winners: The Pin Seekers!
[More photos](#)

Geneva Morris
Tenant Advocacy VISTA



AmeriCorps/VISTA is committed to ending poverty one individual, one family, one community at a time. VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), was authorized in 1964 as a federal anti-poverty program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service

Calling all volunteers and interns!

The Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing is seeking a law student to assist with its Affordable Housing Preservation Project (AHPP). AHPP works to preserve and improve affordable housing for tenants in Chicago.

Candidate should be able to appear in court, conduct legal research and writing, and handle client contact. The law student must be willing to do on-site visits at tenants' buildings. An ideal candidate will have a 711 license, strong research and writing skills, good academic record, and a commitment to public service.

If interested please send resume and cover letter to voqunsanya@lcbh.org
Transcript and writing sample are optional.

Interested in becoming an LCBH Volunteer?

- Attorneys may volunteer one morning each month in eviction court or take on a full case.
- We offer volunteer programs for law, social service, paralegal and communications students as well!
- Office support volunteers are welcome too!

For more information on volunteer opportunities, contact LCBH Pro Bono Coordinators: Patricia Fron (pfron@lcbh.org) or Charles Nicholls (cnicholls@lcbh.org).

A gracious donor has come forward
to match your donation!

Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing
<http://www.lcbh.org> | 100 W. Monroe, Suite 1800, Chicago, IL 60603 | (312) 347-7600



The Social Connection

Here are some easy ways to check in with the LCBH community online!



The Lawyers' Committee for Better Housing believes that every individual and family has a right to decent housing as a basic need and human right. LCBH promotes the rights of tenants to safe, accessible, and affordable housing on a non-discriminatory basis through education, outreach, supportive services, advocacy, and legal representation.

DONATE NOW
secure, simple, local