



For Immediate Release

June 1, 2007

For more information contact:

Esther Lardent, Pro Bono Institute and Corporate Pro Bono
(202) 662-9231
elardent@probonoinst.org

Jill Wojtyna, The Legal Aid Society of Columbus
(614-224-8374) ext.135
probono@columbuslegalaid.org

Efforts Are Underway To Provide Free Legal Advice To Community Based Non-Profit Organizations In Central Ohio.

Corporate Pro Bono (CPBO), a joint project of the Association of Corporate Counsel and the Pro Bono Institute, along with the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation, and the Legal Aid Society of Columbus, will partner with the law firm of Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP and volunteer attorneys from Nationwide Insurance to conduct "Clinic in a BoxSM". The Clinic, the first such program conducted in the State of Ohio, is scheduled for June 21st, at the Franklin County Courthouse.

Clinic in a Box provides the framework for legal departments of corporations to conduct their own pro bono clinics. Through the clinic model, corporate in-house volunteer lawyers, aided by legal staff, conduct a 'legal health checkup' for local non-profit groups who cannot afford the legal assistance they need. The checkup includes an assessment of legal issues that confront nonprofits such as tax, governance, employment, and intellectual property.

Clinic in a Box was developed by CPBO. Headquartered in Washington, DC, CPBO is the premier resource for in-house corporate counsel seeking to provide legal assistance on a pro bono basis. Susan Hackett, Vice-President and General Counsel of the Association of Corporate Counsel, noted "[T]hese clinics are ideal for in-house attorneys who want to apply their business skills to doing pro bono work, but do not know where to start and do not have much time to do it. In return, in-house attorneys learn valuable skills that they can apply to helping other nonprofit groups for future pro bono work." The expert training and materials will be provided to Nationwide volunteers by a highly knowledgeable legal team from Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease, LLP, while the Legal Aid Society of Columbus has identified potential non-profit clinic clients.

Lisa Eschleman of the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation observed that "[M]aintaining and keeping our non-profit organizations healthy is crucial for the growth of Central Ohio's communities. The Clinic in a BoxSM is a win-win for everyone."

For additional information contact The Legal Aid Society of Columbus, (614) 224-8374 or toll free 1-877-224-8374, E-Mail: info@columbuslegalaid.org and the Ohio Legal Assistance Foundation, (614) 752-8919, mail@olaf.org.