

The Cancer Legal Resource Center CHRONICLE

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Dear Friend,

Welcome to the new *Cancer Legal Resource Center Chronicle!*

The Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC), a national, joint program of the Disability Rights Legal Center and Loyola Law School Los Angeles, provides free information and resources on cancer-related legal issues to patients, survivors, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and others coping with cancer. This monthly newsletter will provide you with information on cancer-related legal issues, events in the cancer community, and CLRC services.

Best Regards,

Joanna L. Fawzy Morales, Esq.
Director, Cancer Legal Resource Center

Get Involved!

Join the CLRC Professional Panel!

The CLRC is seeking attorneys to join its Professional Panel and help people navigate their cancer-related legal concerns. A volunteer attorney can make the difference! [Click here](#) for more info.

Support the CLRC Today!

[Click here](#) to make an online donation.

Volunteer!

The CLRC also needs volunteers! If you are interested in helping out in the CLRC office or in attending community events as a representative of the

What's New at the CLRC!

2010 is off to a great start thanks to the help of our new energetic law students and volunteers. CLRC staff, students, and volunteers provide free services to people nationally through our Telephone Assistance Line, educational seminars, and cancer community outreach.



(L-R) Joanna Morales, Esq. Director; Jennifer Fenton, JD, Outreach and Education Coordinator; Tiffany Sirikulvadhana, Esq., Staff Attorney; Sarah Semrow, Advocacy and Outreach Coordinator; Dianne Prado, Esq., Staff Attorney; Angelica Corral, Administrative Assistant; Maria Badillo, Intake Coordinator

In 2009, the CLRC assisted over 4,000 people through its national Telephone Assistance Line (866-THE-CLRC). To learn more about where our callers are from and what types of legal issues they are facing, [click here](#).

Planning for our 2010 Cancer Rights Conferences is under way! The conferences will be held in Chicago on Friday, June 18, 2010, at Loyola University Chicago School of Law and in Los Angeles on Friday, October 8, 2010, at Ronald Reagan

CLRC, please call us at (866) 843-2572 or [click here](#) to complete a volunteer application.

Stay Connected!

Find us on:



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[Click here](#) to join our LinkedIn group!

UCLA Medical Center. For more information, visit the conference website by [clicking here](#).

CLRC Director, Joanna Morales was recently named one of the *Daily Journal's* Top 20 Lawyers in California under Age 40 in 2010. To read the entire article, [click here](#).

The HCP Manual: A Legal Resource Guide for Oncology Health Care Professionals will be available online March 15, 2010! This manual is a resource for health care professionals (e.g. doctors, nurses, social workers, psychosocial care providers, and patient navigators) on the various questions and issues often relayed by patients coping with cancer, and provides valuable information about cancer-related legal issues, from diagnosis through survivorship. This manual is part of a project funded by the Lance Armstrong Foundation to educate health care professionals about cancer-related legal issues. To download a copy of the manual, [click here](#).

2010 Cancer Rights Conferences



Registration is Now Open!

Cancer Rights Conferences 2010

Chicago: June 18, 2010
Loyola University Chicago School of Law

Los Angeles: October 8, 2010
Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center

[Click here to register or for more information.](#)

March 2010 Events

Here's where the CLRC will be this month. If you're in the area, please stop by and say hello! For more information about these events, contact us at 866-843-2572 or CLRC@LLS.edu. To see the entire 2010 Events Calendar, [click here](#).

The Wellness House

Chicago, IL
March 4, 2010
7pm-8pm
Seminar: Medicare



Lymphoma Research Foundation

Regional Workshop
Scottsdale, AZ
March 6, 2010
7:30am-3:30pm
Seminar: Cancer and

CLRC Honors Pancreatic Cancer Action Network



On November 19, 2009, the Disability Rights Legal Center held its Annual Gala and Silent Auction. At the gala, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network was

the Law

Cancer Care Associates

Cancer Keys to Survivorship Program
Fresno, CA
March 13, 2010
10:30-11:45am
Seminar: Cancer and the Law



Los Angeles County Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure®

Dodger Stadium
Los Angeles, CA
March 14, 2010
7am-1pm
CLRC Information Booth and CLRC Race Team



UCLA Brain Tumor Conference

Los Angeles, CA
March 20, 2010
9am-9:45am
Seminar:
Employment and Benefits

UCLA Brain Tumor Conference

Los Angeles, CA
March 20, 2010
11am-11:45am
Seminar: Navigating Health Insurance



Celebrating a Second Chance at Life Symposium



awarded the 2009 Cancer Legal Resource Center's Cancer Vanguard Award.

Pamela Acosta Marquardt accepted the award on behalf of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. The Cancer Vanguard Award honors individuals and organizations for their valuable contribution to the cancer community, through increasing awareness, advocating for change, providing support, and giving hope. After losing her mother to pancreatic cancer in 1996, Ms. Marquardt discovered there was no organization that focused on assisting those with pancreatic cancer. In response, Ms. Marquardt had the idea to stage a black-tie celebrity fundraiser. This was no easy task, but with Ms. Marquardt's tireless and hopeful efforts, the event was an incredible success. This event initially led to the funding of a research lab for early detection of pancreatic cancer and then in the following months, Pamela Acosta Marquardt joined with Paula Kim and Terry Lierman and founded the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

Since founding the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, Ms. Marquardt has continued her unwavering commitment to creating a meaningful resource for people coping with pancreatic cancer. According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 42,470 people were diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in 2009 and 35,240 lost their battle. Thanks to the tremendous efforts of the organization's staff and their passionately committed volunteers around the country, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network has become the only national organization creating hope in a comprehensive way through research, patient support, community outreach and advocacy for a cure.

The Pancreatic Cancer Action Network fosters the mission of the Cancer Legal Resource Center by empowering patients and their families to make informed decisions regarding treatment, survivorship, and legislative advocacy. Previous Cancer Vanguard Award winners have included: Ambassador Nancy Brinker for founding Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, and Fran Drescher for founding Cancer Schmancer.

For more information about the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, visit <http://www.pancan.org>.

Student Spotlight!

Eric Mercaldo is a student at Loyola Law School. As a student extern at the CLRC, we have come to rely on Eric's accurate and thorough work. His interaction with CLRC callers is warm, sympathetic, and always honest. Here



are Eric's answers to some questions we had for him:

Blood & Marrow
Transplant
Information Network
Boston, MA
March 20-21,
2010
9am-4pm
Seminars

Bethel Reformed
Church Health
Fair
Bellflower, CA
March 21, 2010
11am-3pm
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Hope Wellness
Center
Costa Mesa, CA
March 25, 2010
12pm-2pm
Seminar: Cancer and
the Law

Hope Wellness
Center
Costa Mesa, CA
March 25, 2010
6pm-8pm
Seminar: Cancer and
the Law - Spanish

Tell us a bit about yourself.

I was born in Pennsylvania but grew up in New Jersey, near the ocean. A few years after graduating from high school, I moved to Los Angeles to pursue an acting career. Although I did a lot of live theater, I didn't get much in the way of television or film work (apart from an appearance on "Jeopardy!"), so I decided in my mid-20's to get a bachelor's degree. I graduated from UC Irvine with honors with a degree in drama. By that time, I had a growing family of a wife and four sons. I knew I would need to find a career that I would find both personally fulfilling and financially sufficient to take care of my household. The decision to attend law school has been a major life change, and getting accepted to Loyola was a proud moment for this later-in-life law student.

Why did you join the CLRC and stay 2 semesters?

Like most people, my life has been touched by the effects of cancer. When I was just eight years old, I vividly remember my grandfather's declining health and passing away as a result of bone cancer. I am interested in the legal rights of and resources for cancer patients, and also disability rights in general. As a father of children with disabilities, I was drawn to the DRLC, and when I learned about the model of the CLRC, specifically the opportunity for individual personal interaction, I decided to work here. Returning for a second semester was an easy decision once I found that I had space in my schedule. I enjoy the working environment, the friendly atmosphere created by the staff, and the opportunity to assist callers who are going through devastating personal crises.

Once you leave the CLRC, what will you take away from the experience?

When I began at the CLRC, I expected to be challenged by how depressing the work might be, given the subject of cancer. I was pleasantly surprised to find, at least with most of the callers I've spoken with, a genuine sense of hope and a deep appreciation for the services we provide. So, sure, I will leave the CLRC with useful experience and skills, but so much more importantly, a raised estimation of the human spirit and its ability to meet and often overcome adversity.

For more information about volunteering with the CLRC, please call us at (866) 843-2572, visit the [Externships and Volunteers page](#) of our website, or [click here to complete a volunteer application](#).

Join Our Race Team!



On Sunday, March 14th at Dodger Stadium, the CLRC will be participating in the [2010 Susan G. Komen Los Angeles County Race for the Cure](#). Please help us in our efforts to end breast cancer forever by joining our race team!

As a grantee of the Los Angeles County Affiliate of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the CLRC has received invaluable support and funding that has helped provide thousands of people affected by cancer with needed legal information and resources. The ability to find a cure for cancer and address the challenges that accompany a diagnosis is only as strong as the strength of our partnerships.

To sign up for the Race as a CLRC Team Member, or to make a donation to our Race Team, [click here](#).

About the CLRC

The Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC) is a national, joint program of the Disability Rights Legal Center and Loyola Law School Los Angeles. The CLRC provides free and confidential information and resources on cancer-related legal issues to cancer survivors, caregivers, healthcare professionals, employers, and others coping with cancer.



A cancer diagnosis can carry with it a variety of legal issues, including insurance coverage, employment discrimination, access to health care, and estate planning. These legal issues can cause people unnecessary worry, confusion, and stress, and can be overwhelming. When these legal issues are not addressed, people may find that although they have gotten through treatment, they have lost their homes, jobs or insurance.

The CLRC has a national, toll-free Telephone Assistance Line (866-THE-CLRC) where callers can receive free and confidential information about relevant laws and resources for their particular situation. Members of the CLRC's Professional Panel of volunteer attorneys, insurance agents, and accountants can provide more in-depth information and counsel to CLRC callers.

In July of 2009, the CLRC received its 30,000th call to its Telephone Assistance Line (866-THE-CLRC). Since its founding in 1997, the CLRC remains unique, providing invaluable cancer-related legal information and resources to people nationwide. The success of the Center's work is reflected in the enormous need for the information we provide. Throughout its 13-year history, the CLRC has served over 155,000 people through the Telephone Assistance Line, conferences, seminars, workshops, outreach programs, and other

community activities.

CLRC staff members also speak at seminars and conferences throughout the national cancer community, including trainings for healthcare professionals. If you would like CLRC staff to attend your next event, please [click here](#), or contact us at (213) 736-1331 or (866) 843-2572.

Visit www.CancerLegalResourceCenter.org for more information about cancer-related legal issues and services provided by the Cancer Legal Resource Center.

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