

The Cancer Legal Resource Center CHRONICLE

May 2011

National, Volume XIV

Stay Connected!

Follow us on:



Need Legal Help?

Click here to complete our
online intake form:

<http://bit.ly/g82CHb>

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! For more information, [click here](#).

Support the CLRC!

Make an online donation, by [clicking here](#).

Sign up to volunteer!

If you are interested in helping out in the CLRC office or in attending events as a representative of the CLRC, please call us at (866) 843-2572 or [click here](#) to complete a

Dear {FIRST_NAME|Friend},

In this month's issue of the Cancer Legal Resource Center Chronicle you will find:

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Best regards,

Joanna L. Morales, Esq.

Director, Cancer Legal Resource Center

What's New at the CLRC!



Registration is now open for all three 2011 Cancer Rights Conferences!

Join the CLRC for these **FREE** events that will provide patients, survivors, caregivers, advocates, navigators, and health care professionals with valuable information about cancer-related legal issues. **FREE continuing education credit for qualifying nurses, social workers, and**

attorneys! For more information and to register online, visit www.CancerRightsConference.org.



CLRC Legal Staff Contribute to Pink Fund Blog

The Pink Fund provides short-term financial assistance to men and women who are in active

volunteer application.

May 2011 Events

For information about these events, contact us at 866-THE-CLRC (866-843-2572) or CLRC@LLS.edu.

To see the entire 2011 Events Calendar, [click here](#).

Association of Oncology Social Work Annual Conference

Booth # 21

May 4 - May 6, 2011

Hyatt Regency St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

For more information, click here: <http://bit.ly/k6Lvof>

Association of Oncology Social Work Annual Conference

"Leading Clients through Cancer-Related Legal Issues: Part 1 - Health Insurance Options" Workshop

May 6, 2011

8:30 a.m. - 9:20 a.m. CDT

Hyatt Regency St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

For more information, [click here](#).

Association of Oncology Social Work Annual Conference

"Leading Clients through Cancer-Related Legal Issues: Part 2 - Working through Employment Issues" Workshop

Workshop

May 6, 2011

9:30 a.m. - 10:20 a.m. CDT

Hyatt Regency St. Louis
St. Louis, MO

For more information, [click here](#).

Association of Oncology Social Work Annual

PINK FUND assistance to men and women who are in active treatment for and recovery from breast cancer. The Pink Fund blog, found at <http://thepinkfund.wordpress.com/>, provides practical, helpful information for those coping with cancer. The CLRC's legal staff have become weekly contributors to The Pink Fund blog. Visit <http://thepinkfund.wordpress.com/> to read our latest article.



CLRC Joins CaringBridge Awareness Alliance

The CLRC recently joined the CaringBridge Awareness Alliance to further efforts to provide resources to those coping with cancer. CaringBridge websites offers those coping with significant health challenges an easy and free way to communicate with their support network. For more information, visit www.CaringBridge.org.



Tickets are now available for CLRC's *Casino Angeleno* on Saturday, July 23, 2011!

The CLRC's summer casino fundraising event is back by popular demand! Join us on the the roof top deck of the Petersen Automotive Museum for a fun-filled summer night of guilt-free gaming, food, cocktails, music, and fabulous prizes. To purchase tickets, visit www.cancerlegalresourcecenter.org/casinoangeleno.

Health Care Reform Update: What is a Health Insurance Exchange?

By Monica Bryant, CLRC Staff Attorney

Since the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed on March 23, 2010, there has been a lot of discussion about a new entity, coming in 2014, called a health insurance exchange. But many are still asking, what exactly is a health insurance exchange?



These health insurance exchanges will vary state by state and there are still a lot that still needs to be worked out by states. However, we do know that health insurance exchanges are supposed to make the process of purchasing an individual health insurance plan more streamlined and transparent. Additionally, these exchanges are supposed to help make health insurance more affordable because of increased market competition.

Under the ACA, exchanges must be established by January 1, 2014, and will be accessible to individuals and small businesses to purchase insurance. States have the option of setting up their own exchanges, working with other states to form coalitions and set up regional exchanges, or opting out completely. If a state chooses to opt out, like Oklahoma and Louisiana have, then the federal government will run those exchanges.

Regardless of the government entity running the exchange, some elements will be the same in each exchange. For example, people who are looking for

Conference

"Leading Clients through Cancer Related Legal Issues: Part 3 – Insurance Navigation and Financial Issues"

Workshop

May 6, 2011

10:30 a.m. - 11:20 a.m. CDT

Hyatt Regency St. Louis

St. Louis, MO

For more information, [click here](#).

"Cancer and the Law - National"

Webinar/Teleconference

May 10, 2011

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. PDT/

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. EDT

Presented by the CLRC and

MassMutual Financial Group

To register, [click here](#):

<http://bit.ly/h9w26B>

Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Work 35th Annual Conference "Employment and Health Insurance Issues for Children, Young Adults, and Caregivers" Seminar

May 11 - May 14, 2011

Omni Hotel

Atlanta, GA

For more information,

[click here: http://bit.ly/jgiYWd](http://bit.ly/jgiYWd)

Chicago Access Network Television (Channel 21)

"Dealing with Cancer and Employment Issues"

May 11, 2011

4:00 p.m. - 4:20 p.m. CDT

For more information, [click here](#):

<http://www.cantv.org/>

Good Shepherd Hospital 10th Annual Day of Sharing for Breast Cancer Awareness Event

"Overview of the CLRC"

Seminar

individual health insurance will be able to compare policies sold by the various insurance companies in the state. Information on the plan benefits will be standardized to make it easier to compare plan details, such as costs and benefits. Generally, plans will be divided into four different categories based on the level of cost-sharing: bronze, silver, gold and platinum. A catastrophic plan will also be available for individuals under the age of 30. Furthermore, premiums can only be based on four factors: insuring an individual or a family, the rating area (geographical location), age, and tobacco use. This is significant because after January 1, 2014, gender can no longer be taken into consideration when establishing premium rates.

There is still quite a bit that needs to be determined about health insurance exchanges, so stay tuned for updates in your state!

Meeting the CLRC's Professional Panel:

Amy Fisch Soloman

By Laura Riley, CLRC Staff Attorney



Amy Fisch Solomon is currently a partner at Girardi Keese.

Ms. Fisch Solomon started at the firm during her second year at Loyola Law School and has not looked back. Twenty-five years later, she is still at Girardi Keese and continues to be involved with Loyola Law School in her capacity as a volunteer attorney on the Cancer Legal Resource Center Professional Panel.

Ms. Fisch Solomon's passion for the areas of professional liability, toxic torts, products liability and insurance bad faith was ignited by a great torts professor. Since then, she has tried and settled multi-million dollar cases and settlements, all while making time for taking consultation calls from the CLRC. She is also dedicated to serving the community in other ways. When she was President of the Consumer Attorneys Association of Los Angeles in 2008, she focused on pro bono work, creating a clinic with Disability Rights Legal Center by melding together two needs—work to be done in disability rights law and young lawyers who wanted advocacy experience.

Over the years, Ms. Fisch Solomon has talked with many people who called the CLRC for assistance. She explains that "they have always been interesting because they run the gamut of issues and many of them have to do with whether or not their condition was due to some medical negligence—particularly failure to diagnose or negligence in treatment." Many of the clients that Amy hears from are young women, in whom the rate of cancer is rarer, who complain of a lump in their breast and the clinician does not investigate it.

She explains the reason she enjoys speaking with the callers and being involved in these issues: "Companies don't always treat their insureds fairly, so people who are devastated by their disease become further devastated by people and institutions that should be helping them and not letting them down. If I can help people and their families understand what their rights are



May 15, 2011

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CDT

Rolling Meadows, IL

CLRC

"Cáncer y la ley"

May 18 , 2011

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. PST

Teleconferencia gratis
patrocinado por el CLRC

Para registrarse, haga click aqui:
<http://bit.ly/hcyoix>

Lymphoma Research

Foundation Regional

Workshop

for Patients & Families

May 21 , 2011

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CDT

The Westin Chicago River North
Chicago, IL

For more information, click here:
<http://bit.ly/hsfNTT>

"Cancer and the Law" Seminar

May 23, 2011

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. CDT

Cancer Support Center

down. If I can help people and their families understand what their rights are, if I can put their minds at ease and focus on healing and obtaining benefits, that makes it all worth it."

For her dedication and work, we commend Amy Fisch Solomon and thank her for her participation on the CLRC's Professional Panel. If you are interested in applying or learning more about the CLRC's Professional Panel, please click here: <http://bit.ly/j55VWN>.

Updates For Health Care Professionals

The CLRC is committed to providing health care professionals with useful information about cancer-related legal issues that many of their patients face as a result of a cancer diagnosis. While we recognize that it should not take legal resources to access health care, understand insurance options, or preserve one's job, it frequently does. **When**

information is easily accessible, we believe the quality of outcomes for patient survivorship improves.

HCP Survey:

In an attempt to strengthen our educational resources for the cancer community, we have composed an online survey to learn more about the frequently asked questions and concerns raised by patients, and thoughts on the role health care professionals play in providing information to their patients. It only takes about ten minutes, so if you are a physician, nurse,

NCCO
NCCO
Oncology Nurse Navigators

To register, click here:

<http://bit.ly/hitlk3>

CLRC

"Employment and Taking Time Off Work"

May 25, 2011

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. PDT

Free teleconference/webinar

To register, click here:

<http://bit.ly/eCRdsu>

"Surviving Survivorship: Navigating Health Insurance Options" Seminar

May 25, 2011

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. CDT

Living Well Cancer Resource Center

Geneva, IL

For more information, visit:

<http://www.livingwellcrc.org/>

"Wellness Workshop: Cancer and the Law"

Tower Hematology Oncology Medical Group

May 26, 2011

6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. PDT

For more information, call (310)205-5737

Join Cancer and Careers and the CLRC for an inspiring evening featuring beauty, career & wellness seminars at:

The Beauty of Caring Event

June 1, 2011

6:30 p.m. CDT

The Elysian Hotel

Chicago, IL

RSVP required. To view the event invitation, [click here](#)

Resources" at the **National Coalition of Oncology Nurse Navigators 3rd Annual Conference** on **September 9-11, 2011**.

For more information, visit: <http://www.nconn.org/>

Cancer and Careers 2011

EDUCATIONAL SERIES for HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

Join Cancer and Careers on **November 17, 2011**, from 3-4pm EST for their **Fall Educational Series for Healthcare Professionals "Session 3: Legal and Insurance Issues to Consider."** Learn how to advise your patients at Cancer and Careers' free series of teleconferences/webinars designed just for healthcare professionals. CEUs available. Registration information is coming soon and will be posted at <http://bit.ly/cancerandcareers>.

Earn FREE CEUs at the 2011 Cancer Rights Conferences!

The CLRC will host three Cancer Rights Conferences on **June 24** in Chicago, IL, **September 23** in Washington, D.C., and **October 21** in Ann Arbor, MI. **Space is limited. Register for FREE today at www.CancerRightsConference.org!**

CLRC
2011
CANCER RIGHTS
CONFERENCES

Updates For Attorneys



Join the CLRC Professional Panel!

295 attorneys nationwide have made the commitment to help people navigate their cancer-related legal concerns. A volunteer attorney can make the difference! To learn more about the CLRC's Professional Panel and to sign-up today,

click here: <http://bit.ly/j55VWN>

Earn Free CLE at the CLRC's 2011 Cancer Rights Conferences!

The American Bar Association Health Law Section is the official CLE Sponsor for the 2011 Cancer Rights Conferences. The CLRC has secured the following continuing legal education credit for the Conferences:



California attorneys will receive 7 hours of CLE general credit. This conference has also been approved by the **Arkansas** Continuing Legal Education Board for 6.75 hours of CLE credit, the **Illinois** Minimum Continuing Legal Education Board for 7 hours of CLE credit, the **Indiana** Commission for Continuing Legal Education for 7 hours of CLE credit, the

**BREAST CANCER
LEGAL ADVOCACY
TASKFORCE**

The internships offered through the undergraduate and post graduate internship program are unpaid. Students will receive a certificate of completion. For more information on the CLRC's internship program, click here: <http://bit.ly/hDYyJm>

CLRC Thanks 2011 Cancer Rights Conference Session Sponsor: Cancer and Careers!



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.

Since its founding in 1997, the CLRC remains unique, providing invaluable

Disability Rights Legal Center

CLRC

Cancer Legal Resource Center

