



AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

**Coalition on Racial
and Ethnic Justice**

Presents

UNITED FOR HAITI

A graphic for the Community Legal Service Forum. It features a central image of several hands of different skin tones stacked on top of each other, symbolizing unity and support. The text is overlaid on this image.

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE FORUM

May 21, 2011

12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**ARCHBISHOP CURLEY NOTRE DAME
4949 NE 2ND AVENUE
MIAMI, FL 33137**

*Promoting Access to Justice:
Free Legal and Public Service Information*



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American Bar Association
Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice

Presents

UNITED FOR HAITI
COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE FORUM

Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School
Saturday, May 21, 2011
12:30 — 3:30 p.m.
Miami, Florida

Table of Contents

	Page
Welcome	4
United for Haiti Forum Project Proposal	5
Acknowledgements	8
Roster of Participating Organizations	10
Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice: <i>Who We Are</i>	15
About the American Bar Association	16
Program Photographs	17
Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice Member Roster	22
Message to Participating Organizations	24

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2010-2011

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May 21, 2011

Dear Program Participant:

On behalf of the ABA Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice, our generous co-sponsors, and all of our participating organizations, we wish to extend you our heartfelt thanks for joining us today for the United for Haiti Community Legal Forum. We are extremely excited by the rich variety of organizations present that are ready and willing to share advice and offer solutions to the ongoing legal and social justice issues that the Haitian community experiences.

We sincerely hope that you will leave here today armed with the knowledge and resources necessary to overcome any practical obstacles and navigate through the systemic barriers you might encounter. Thank you for your participation, interest, and concern for these critical issues. Only with your support and assistance can we continue to both address and raise awareness of the South-Florida Haitian community's legal needs.

Sincerely,

David A. Perkins

David A. Perkins
Chairperson
ABA Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice

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To: ABA Board of Governors
From: David Perkins,
Chairperson,
Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice (COREJ)
Date: May 10, 2011
Re: Approval to Co-Sponsor with Outside Entities "United for
Haiti Forum"

The Coalition on Racial & Ethnic Justice (COREJ) requests permission to co-sponsor with outside entities the "United for Haiti Forum (Forum)". The Forum is part of the United for Haiti Initiative which is an on-going project designed to benefit the South Florida Haitian community, involving state and local bar associations of color, community-based organizations, local businesses, corporations, local law schools, and ABA entities. The primary target city is Miami, Florida. COREJ intends to bring a programmatic approval for co-sponsorship and fundraising of the "United for Haiti Initiative" at the ABA June 2011 Board of Governors Meeting.

The Community Forum will be held on May 21, 2011 in the heart of the "Little Haiti" Community. A second community forum also will be co-sponsored by COREJ during the month of October 2011. COREJ would serve as one of the co-sponsors of the two events along with organizations that have been historically involved in service to the Haitian community (See Attachment A for List of Co-sponsors).

There are two components of the Community Forum. First, the legal Forum is designed to increase access to legal and public services available to Haitian families in the greater Miami area by providing an open environment for representatives and members of both the Haitian community and the legal community to engage in dialogue and provide recommendations and resolutions to address the practical and institutional obstacles facing those affected by the earthquake.

This Forum will provide much-needed information on Miami-Dade County legal services and public programs, including but not limited to,

public entitlement programs, Section 8 housing programs, McKay scholarship requirements, and sealing and expunging criminal records programs. The community legal service Forum will take place on Saturday, May 21, 2011, at Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. This Forum will feature a community family fair environment with food and entertainment.

Second, the Forum will also include a focus on adolescents and implement a "teen talk-back" mini-forum designed to address awareness of teen violence and sensitivity solutions, diversity and service to communities of color.

The collaboration with these groups and participation in the Forum are consistent with COREJ'S mandate of focusing on racial and ethnic issues of promoting social justice, addressing diversity in the legal profession, and advancing students into the profession in a manner that celebrates diversity and provides service to communities of color.

The goals of the Community Forum are to: (1) organize outreach efforts within the legal community to encompass diverse organizations and individuals; (2) provide an opportunity for students, both those heading towards the legal profession and those in need of positive role models, to explore and experience first-hand a demonstrated commitment to diversity; and (3) mobilize and combine efforts to handle and increase legal service assistance for Haitians affected by the January 2010 earthquake in Little Haiti.

In addition, by collaborating with the bar associations of color, the Forum will provide the Coalition with a vehicle to recruit lawyers of color to the Association as members and demonstrate the role that diversity plays in the ABA.

The Forum significantly advances the purposes of the ABA and Goal III and provides identifiable benefits to the ABA, its members and/or the public in furtherance of ABA purposes and goals. Specifically, by including participation by a wide array of bar associations of color and their membership, this Forum will enhance membership, increase diversity awareness within the ABA and make inroads into an area where the ABA has not been involved.

COREJ and the other organizations will have significant and meaningful participation in and responsibility for the planning and implementation of the program and any resultant publication or printed work product. COREJ has two of its members in leadership roles on the Forum's joint planning committee; COREJ has participated in conference calls, meetings, drafting of proposals, selection of speakers, designing the format and substance of the Forum; and COREJ has assisted in the development of strategies for conducting outreach and marketing to state, local, national and bar associations of color.

The Forum will not result in policy statements which could be attributable to the ABA without prior approval of the ABA House of Delegates or the Board of Governors. This program will not undermine or negatively impact any stated ABA policy or foundational goals.

The Forum's budget is fiscally sound and is not likely to expose the ABA to liability or unanticipated expenses and/or net losses, and the Coalition will not request funding from the ABA Board of Governors.

The Forum's target audiences will be approximately 150- 200 attendees representing a broad array of diverse national, local and international legal and community representatives. The Forum will also benefit members of the South Florida Haitian community, which is similarly comprised of a socioeconomic and ethnically diverse constituency.

A final report of co-sponsors, funders and participants will be submitted to the Board of Governors in November, 2011.

Attachment

cc: Michelle Behnke
Marina Jacks
Janet Jackson
Cie Armstead
Rachel Patrick

***The Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice
gratefully acknowledges the following:***

Host

Archbishop Curley-Notre Dame High School

Co- Sponsors

Rivero Mestre LLP

Boies, Schiller & Flexner, LLP

Kozyak Tropin & Throckmorton, PA

Heron Jacob & Ortiz

Participating Organizations

Haggard Law Firm

The Florida Justice Institute

The Children's Trust

Church World Service

United Way Miami

Miami-Dade County State Attorney's Office

Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office

Legal Services of Greater Miami

University of Miami School of Law, Immigration Clinic

Haitian Lawyers Association

Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center

St. John Bosco Clinic

***The Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice
gratefully acknowledges the following:***

Participating Organizations

Miami-Dade County Government Information Center
Miami-Dade County Department of Human Services
Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency
Miami-Dade County Public Housing Agency
Miami-Dade County Department of Housing and Community Development
Little Haiti Optimist Club
Voices for Immigrant Defense and Advocacy

Media Partners

Univision Network
Miami Times
Tropik TV
Piman Bouk, 1320 AM
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Frantz Laurent, 1320 AM
Nèè Jeudy, 1320 AM
Ye Ye Boul, 1320 AM
Guylene Berry, 1320 AM

Catering

Chef George, Paellas for You

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

The Florida Justice Institute, Inc. is a private, not-for-profit, statewide public interest law firm which was founded in 1978. FJI provides direct representation to institutionalized persons, challenging conditions of confinement in prison's and jails. Where appropriate, the institute handles these cases as class actions. It also handles other civil rights cases for poor persons, and housing discrimination cases as well as operating the Volunteer Lawyer's Project for the Southern District of Florida.

The Children's Trust emphasizes collaboration and partnership in order to provide the programs and services needed by children and families and to effect community-wide change. The Children's Trust encourages creative approaches to coordinating, integrating and funding services across and within the areas of health, safety, development and to promote increased parental and community involvement on behalf of all our children, while stressing accountability and results.

United Way Miami focuses on improving education, income and health—the building blocks of a good life. It advances the common good by helping children reach their potential and achieve in school, by empowering families and individuals to become financially stable and economically independent, and by improving people's health. It works toward its goal by supporting quality programs, engaging people in the community, advocating better policies, and generating resources.

Haggard Law Firm represents the rights of people seriously injured through the fault of others. It is passionately committed to its clients and stresses the highest level of personal service, professionalism and case preparation. Its top priority is to develop and maintain a sound attorney/client relationship founded on mutual honesty, trust and teamwork providing the best results for clients.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Miami-Dade County's State Attorney's Office is the largest prosecutor's office in Florida and the fourth largest in the nation. The office is integral to the Miami-Dade community as it strives towards creating a safer place to live, work and raise families. Its services include domestic violence assistance, child support enforcement, and children's advocacy.

Miami-Dade County Public Defender's Office strives to effectively and zealously represent court-appointed clients who are at risk of losing their life or liberty. The office recruits locally and nationally with just one goal in mind: putting together a diverse team of outstanding men and women from all racial and ethnic backgrounds who can do the best job possible on behalf of their clients and the residents and taxpayers of Miami-Dade County.

Legal Services of Greater Miami is the largest provider of broad-based civil legal services for the poor in Miami-Dade and Monroe Counties, and is recognized in the state as a model legal services program. It provides innovative, effective legal services which help thousands of individual members of our community annually, creating a positive impact on the community as a whole.

University of Miami School of Law, Immigration Clinic provides an opportunity for law students to advocate on behalf of immigrants in a wide variety of complex immigration proceedings. In addition to helping individual clients, students collaborate with other immigrant rights groups on projects that reform the law and advance the cause of social justice for immigrants. The clinic is dedicated to being an integral part of the wider immigrant and human rights advocacy community in South Florida and the nation.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

The Haitian Lawyers Association is a voluntary bar association established in Miami in 1997. Its mission has been to promote the general welfare of the community, to promote diversity in the legal profession, and to promote a greater awareness of the legal and political rights of the Haitian-American Community.

Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center's mission is to empower, strengthen and stabilize South Florida's Haitian community and to ensure its success and stability. Its vision is a self-sufficient and fully-integrated Haitian community.

St. John Bosco Clinic has proved to be a haven for refugees in need of attention since 1992. Last year alone more than 10,500 adults and children from East Little Havana visited St. John Bosco Clinic. Volunteer health providers and support staff, Mercy Hospital, and many foundations, individuals, and corporations in the community make this service possible. Their continued commitment and dedication showcases the clinic's unique and compassionate care.

Miami-Dade County Government Information Center's goal is to simplify service while gathering and analyzing data on service requests so that government policymakers can make informed decisions about where and how to use County resources. The Government Information Center will serve as the backbone of "borderless government" in Miami-Dade County, in which people can interact with all levels of government – city, county, state and federal. Its 3-1-1 Answer Center is a fast, simple, and convenient way for residents to get information on local government services.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Miami-Dade County Department of Human Services, Miami-Dade County's largest department, provides comprehensive countywide social and human services. It has a long tradition of caring for the needs of its citizens, and is accredited by both the American Psychological Association and the Council of Accreditation for best practices. Its mission is to provide comprehensive social services to assist children, juveniles, adults, elderly, and families to attain self-sufficiency, to function independently, and to lead productive lives.

Voices for Immigrant Defense and Advocacy is a non-profit organization established to provide legal and social assistance to immigrants in Miami-Dade County. VIDA also seeks to promote awareness of the legal and social issues affecting immigrants.

Church World Service works with partners to eradicate hunger and poverty and to promote peace and justice around the world. Around the world, Church World Service supports sustainable grassroots development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance, and educates and advocates on hunger-related issues. In the U.S., it helps communities respond to disasters, resettle refugees, promote fair national and international policies, and provide educational resources.

Little Haiti Optimist Club is a non-profit organization established in 2010 by a group of business, community, and civic leaders to provide assistance, guidance and programs to the youth of Little Haiti. Its goal is to be the premier organization providing programs to prepare the youth of Little Haiti for academic and life excellence.

PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency provides self-sufficiency initiatives, advocacy and leadership training initiatives, employment training and educational/vocational services for young adults enrolled in the Greater Miami Service Corps, and a variety of programs that address the needs of the elderly. Other program areas include immigration assistance, transportation assistance, community outreach, and citizen participation programs.

Miami-Dade County Public Housing Agency's mission is to provide decent, affordable housing to Miami-Dade County's qualified low- and moderate-income residents. It administers federal subsidies that support almost 10,000 units of public and other assisted housing and work with builders, developers, lenders and private housing providers to expand affordable housing opportunities in Miami-Dade County. It supports self-sufficiency and offers resources for current and aspiring homeowners.

The Department of Housing and Community Development administers Federal and State funding that supports the development of viable urban neighborhoods in Miami-Dade County characterized by decent housing, expansion of economic opportunities and the preservation of historic properties. Its programs include the Homebuyer Opportunity Program, the First-Time Homebuyer Program, and the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.



In 1992 a Presidential Task Force on Minorities in the Justice system was created in the aftermath of the Rodney King disturbances. Shortly thereafter, a report was issued with recommendations by the Task Force. The Task Force became the Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice in 1994. It was designed to implement the recommendations and develop partnerships among community groups, civil rights organizations, businesses, religious organizations, and bar associations for the purpose of eliminating racial and ethnic bias in the justice system. Its primary goal is to serve as a catalyst for eliminating racial and ethnic bias in the justice system with a focus on systemic change.

The Coalition services include:

- Assistance with the development of educational programs;
- Hosting public forums for dialogue between legal and non legal institutions; and
- Providing technical assistance and advice on how to implement specific programs, strategies, and partnerships

Since its inception, the Coalition has been on the cutting edge of social justice issues. Over the past 12 years, the Coalition has focused on a number of substantive and diverse issues such as racial profiling, access to the justice system, overrepresentation of juveniles of color, indigent defense, racial profiling and the war on terrorism, voting disenfranchisement and the impact of technology, election protection, injustices and discrimination in Tulia, Texas and the impact of Katrina on the impoverished. It serves as a means to develop partnerships and eliminate bias in the justice system. Its focus is on social justice issues, based on the concepts of human rights and equality.

The Coalition on Racial and Ethnic Justice is comprised of eleven members appointed by the ABA President and is committed to: eliminate racial/ethnic bias in the justice system by educating and involving lawyers and their bar associations engage lawyers and their bar associations in programs designed to eliminate racial/ethnic bias in their communities.

THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

The ABA was founded on August 21, 1878, in Saratoga Springs, New York, by 100 lawyers from 21 states. The legal profession as we know it today barely existed at that time. Lawyers were generally sole

practitioners who trained under a system of apprenticeship. There was no national code of ethics; there was no national organization to serve as a forum for discussion of the increasingly intricate issues involved in legal practice.

The first ABA constitution, which is still substantially the charter of the association, defined the purpose of the ABA as being for "*the advancement of the science of jurisprudence, the promotion of the administration of justice and a uniformity of legislation throughout the country....*" Today, the stated mission of the American Bar Association is "*To serve equally our members, our profession and the public by defending liberty and delivering justice as the national representative of the legal profession.*"

The American Bar Association is the largest voluntary professional association in the world. With nearly 400,000 members, the ABA provides law school accreditation, continuing legal education, information about the law, programs to assist lawyers and judges in their work, and initiatives to improve the legal system for the public.

PROGRAM PHOTOGRAPHS



Photographs courtesy of David A. Perkins

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2010-2011 COALITION ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC JUSTICE

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June 8, 2011

Re: United for Haiti Community Legal and Public Service Forum

Dear program participant:

We would like to thank each participating organization for its important contribution of time and energy to the United for Haiti Community Legal Service Forum at Archbishop Curley Notre Dame on May 21, 2011.

Each organization set a wonderful example and demonstrated the power of individuals to effect remarkable change. We greatly appreciate the generosity, leadership, and dedication to community service displayed by each organization.

We were able to provide much-needed information to the Haitian community. Positive activities such as this really make a difference in the lives of those in attendance.

Once again, we thank each organization for its time, service, and commitment.

Sincerely,



Jorge A. Mestre

UNITED FOR HAITI

FREE COMMUNITY
LEGAL SERVICE
FAMILY FAIR



INI POU AYITI

YON KONBIT SÈVIS
LEGAL GRATIS
POU FANMI NAN
KOMINOTE A.

Thank You • Mèsi



United Way of Miami-Dade



Church World Service
Legal Services of Greater Miami
UM Immigration Clinic
Haitian Lawyers Association
St. John Bosco Medical Clinic
Center for Haitian Studies
Voices for Immigrant Defense and Advocacy



CARLOS J. MARTINEZ
Miami Dade Public Defender



RIVERO
MESTRE



Ini Pou Ayiti: L'union Fait la Force