

**Eminent-domain case goes to the U.S. Supreme Court**

In October, Shriver Center attorneys petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to stop the demolition of Evergreen Terrace, a federally subsidized, low-income housing development in Joliet, Illinois. In April, a court decision allowed Joliet to take Evergreen by eminent domain despite opposition from the property owners, the tenants (represented by the Shriver Center), and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In November HUD argued that Joliet's actions are motivated by race discrimination in violation of the Fair Housing Act, the Illinois Human Rights Act, and the Equal Protection Clause.

Key support achieved for families in need

Shriver Center attorneys led the advocacy effort of a bill that significantly increases the number of poor families who qualify for cash welfare. The bill, which passed the Illinois House and Senate this fall, improves access to Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) by making all families living in "deep poverty" (below 50% of the Federal Poverty Level) financially eligible for TANF, increasing work incentives, providing applicants with the timely assistance necessary to stabilize their lives, and expanding protections for victims of domestic and sexual violence.

Financial Literacy Program Honored by the FDIC

John Bouman and the Shriver Center's Community Investment Unit were selected as recipients of the FDIC Chairman's Award for Innovation in Financial Education for the Chicago Region. This is the highest award given by the FDIC to non-employees for contributions to personal finance education.

Rallying statewide support for overdue budget and tax reform and protecting key human services

At the conclusion of the spring legislative session, the Shriver Center helped to convene the Responsible Budget Coalition, which consists of more than 100 organizations that represent thousands of Illinois residents. This coalition is committed to building support to solve the state's budget crisis, prevent harmful cuts to essential public services, save jobs, eliminate the state's long-term structural deficit, and make taxes fairer.

Webinar Series Launched

The Shriver Center launched its webinar series by hosting five webinars in 2009, including:

- *Asset Building and the Disability Community*
- *Integrating Asset Building Opportunities into Domestic Violence Advocacy*
- *Using Social Media to Network with Other Advocates and Promote Your Work*
- *Helping Low-Income Tenants Avoid Post-Foreclosure Eviction*
- *Fighting Foreclosure Through Legal Aid-Community Organization Partnerships*

Debt Accumulation in the Illinois Criminal Justice System Assessed

The Shriver Center conducted an assessment of the numerous financial obligations (restitution, fines and fees) that defendants incur, the first of its kind in Illinois. Along with a survey of how the state can collect this debt, the report lays the groundwork for showing how these different financial obligations can converge to create a significant reentry barrier for low-income people.

National Effort for Transitional Jobs Advances

The federal budget blueprint passed by Congress in May included the first-ever dedicated federal funding for transitional jobs: \$50 million in the Department of Labor's budget. Shriver Center President John Bouman, who advised members of the White House Domestic Policy Council and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) about the shape of the program and the extent of investment in the Obama Administration's first budget, is a founder and leader of the National Transitional Jobs Network.

Management Company Sued For Evicting Victim of Domestic Violence

In October, the Shriver Center and attorneys from ReedSmith filed a federal lawsuit against AIMCO, which owns and manages rental properties, alleging that it violated the Fair Housing Act when it evicted a tenant as a result of domestic violence against her. Because victims of domestic violence are predominately women, a growing body of law supports the proposition that discrimination against victims of domestic violence constitutes sex discrimination in violation of the Fair Housing Act.

The Chicago Bar Foundation Honors Margaret Stapleton

Margaret Stapleton, a Shriver Center senior attorney, received the Chicago Bar Foundation's Thomas H. Morsch Public Service Award in honor of four decades of exemplary advocacy on behalf of the disadvantaged and the disenfranchised.

WLPP Expands Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act

The Illinois General Assembly passed legislation advocated by the Shriver Center's Women's Law and Policy Project Director Wendy Pollack that promotes employment stability, economic security, and safety for survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. The Victims' Economic Security and Safety Act (VESSA), as amended, will allow more individuals to be protected by significantly expanding the number of employees in the private sector who are covered by VESSA. The amendment also updates current law to incorporate recent legislation and provide greater clarity of some provisions.

First Online Poverty Scorecard Posted

In February, we posted our online and interactive *Poverty Scorecard 2008: Ranking Members of Congress* (www.povertyscorecard.org), which grades members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives based on their voting records on a wide range of bills aimed to alleviate poverty.

National Asset Building Website Launched

In June, the Shriver Center's Community Investment Unit launched the Asset Coalition Toolkit for States (ACTS) website (www.assetcoalitiontoolkit.org). A free national resource, the ACTS website provides tools for existing and emerging asset coalitions that are dedicated to developing asset opportunities and protections for all people.

Protection for Renters Who Live in Properties Facing Foreclosure

Shriver Center Attorney Sam Tuttle and Housing Action Illinois successfully advocated legislation that provides protections for tenants of foreclosed rental properties. The bill provides tenants with a 30-days window in which to move after an eviction hearing that results from foreclosure. In addition, the bill requires that tenants receive notice of where to pay rent and who to contact about repairs after a building has entered foreclosure.

Moratorium on All Public Housing Demolition Advances

As a result of a request by the Shriver Center and the National Housing Law Project, the U.S. House Financial Services Committee asked HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan to impose a one-year moratorium on all public housing demolitions while new legislation is being drafted. On August 7, 2009, the HUD Secretary agreed to review more closely all decisions to demolish, particularly in regard to the number, location and affordability of units.

Legislation for Children's Saving Accounts Introduced

As co-chair of the Illinois Asset Building Group, the Shriver Center's Community Investment Unit (CIU) introduced legislation to establish a task force for a statewide Children's Savings Account Program, which would open an account for every Illinois child at birth with progressive matching for low-income families and could be used to pay for postsecondary education, homeownership, or business development.