



2011 MIDYEAR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Recognized by the best

The Shriver Center is one of eleven organizations from around the world to receive the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's 2010 Creative and Effective Institutions Award. The award is given to organizations that "effectively address pressing national and international challenges and... have had an impact that is disproportionate to their small size." Robert Gallucci, MacArthur President.

Protecting renters in foreclosed properties

The Shriver Center spearheaded the successful effort to pass HB 1574. This bill amends Illinois's foreclosure law to help protect tenants in foreclosed properties from losing their security deposits. Under HB 1574, security deposits must be transferred to the new owner at the end of the foreclosure. After transfer, the new owner becomes liable for the deposits and must notify tenants of the transfer. The bill will reach Governor Quinn's desk shortly.

Appointed by the Governor

Shriver Center Director of Economic Justice Dan Lesser has been appointed by Governor Quinn to Illinois's Commission to End Hunger. The commission is charged with identifying barriers to accessing and developing sustainable policies, developing programs to overcome those barriers, exploring how Illinois facilities may better coordinate and gain access to federal funding, and working to identify funding sources.

Leadership abilities recognized

The Chicago Community Trust honored Shriver Center President John Bouman with one of its Experienced Leaders fellowships. Selected from nearly 100 applicants, John and nine other leaders of nonprofit organizations were recognized as either emerging leader fellows or experienced leader fellows. The fellowship provides significant financial support for professional development.

Referenced by the Department of Housing and Urban Development

The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently issued guidance on assessing claims by domestic violence victims of housing discrimination under the Fair Housing Act. The guidance memo specifically references a case brought by Shriver Center advocates, *Cleves-Milan v. AIMCO Elk Creek LP*, as an example of litigation brought in this area.

Defeat of harmful Illinois House bill

Shriver Center Economic Justice Director Dan Lesser led a successful fight against House Bill 161, which sought to require the Department of Human Services to seek a waiver from the federal government. The waiver would allow the state to add a photo of the head of household on the food stamp LINK (electronic benefits transfer) card and limit use of the card to the head of household, not allowing other members of the household to use it at stores.

Winning reversal of a Chicago Housing Authority decision

Marie Claire Tran-Leung, Shriver Center Community Justice Attorney, represented two women who had been rejected for public housing by the Chicago Housing Authority because of past criminal conviction records. Successfully arguing before the Authority that there was mitigating evidence that the women's criminal histories were no longer an issue, Marie Claire was able to get the decisions reversed for both women, one a single mother of four and the other a senior citizen.

Community Justice Attorney awarded Kimball R. Anderson and Karen Gatsis Public Law Fellowship

Shriver attorney Todd Belcore was awarded the Kimball R. Anderson and Karen Gatsis Anderson Public Interest Law Fellowship. The award is given to one public interest attorney working at a Chicago Bar Foundation-funded organization who demonstrates a commitment to public interest work, academic achievement in law school, and outstanding character and integrity.

Housing attorneys win Center Legal Eagle Award

Shriver Center housing attorneys, Kate Walz and Samantha Tuttle, have garnered recognition for their work and the Center. Because of their work the Center received the 2011 Legal Eagle Award for demanding enforcement of the Fair Housing Act. The award is given by the Independent Voters of Illinois-Independent Precinct Organization.

Webinar on smart grid draws national audience

Clearinghouse Review staff hosted a webinar on the smart grid and its impact on low-income, disabled, and elderly people. The smart grid is an electricity network that uses digital technology. The webinar featured AARP Foundation senior attorney, Julie Nepveu, who discussed smart grid basics and federal requirements, and Shriver director of Economic Security, Dan Lesser, who gave an update on climate change legislation. More than 170 people from 26 states registered to attend.

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The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law provides national leadership in efforts to increase justice and opportunity for low-income people and to ensure that their voices are heard in the making of public decisions that affect them. Using advocacy, law and communications, the Shriver Center advances justice and opportunity for low-income people.