

## Memorandum

**To** : Mr. Ramon J. Hirsig  
Executive Director MIC: 73

**Date:** November 4, 2005

**From** : Todd Gilman, Chief  
Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office MIC: 70

**Subject** : *Executive Director's Report – November 15, 2005*  
**Pro bono Legal Assistance Clinic Pilot Program**

Below is an update on the Advocates Office and the Legal Appeals Division's efforts to develop a Pro bono Legal Assistance Clinic Pilot Program. This information is being provided to Board Proceedings in order to update the Board Members for the Executive Director's Report to the Board.

The Taxpayers' Rights Advocate Office in conjunction with the Legal Appeals Division is pleased to update you on our progress developing a pro bono legal assistance resource for low income and underrepresented taxpayers.

Initially, the Board will select cases from existing appeals files for referral to clinic interns. Referrals will also come from information on the document sent to Home Owners and Renter Assistance individuals, by clinic referral from senior citizen centers, non-profit tax clinics, local bar associations, information provided to appellants by the Franchise Tax Board, appropriate Board publications, and each clinic's own efforts.

To date, the following has been developed: Two students who served as interns this past semester will be returning to the Appeals Division January 1, 2006 and will be available to assist taxpayers requesting pro bono assistance. Their prior experience in the Appeals Division will make them a valuable resource to any taxpayers requesting their assistance.

McGeorge School of Law - The law school has accepted the Appeals Divisions proposal to develop a pro bono legal assistance program. Students are being interviewed now for eligibility with the anticipation of having trained students available come January 1, 2006.

Loyola Marymount Law School – The Advocates pro bono proposal has received a very positive response from the law school. The proposal currently is being reviewed by the school's dean; however law school faculty and staff has been working with the advocate on the location of the on campus clinic and equipment needs in order to make such a program a success. We are confident a pro bono legal assistance clinic with Loyola Law School by early next year.

LA County State Bar – The Advocates Office has successfully worked with the LA County State Bar to develop a pro se clinic for low income taxpayers. The logistics of this program are still being worked out however, we are confident we will have a program in place starting in early 2006.

Chapman University School of Law – The law school has been contacted and has shown an interest in developing a pro bono legal assistance clinic. A meeting is in the process of being scheduled to discuss the program.

UC Davis School of Law (King Hall) – The law school is interested in developing a pro bono legal assistance clinic with the Board, however, due to competing priorities, the school will not be able to develop a program with the Board until early fall of 2006.

cc:           Honorable John Chiang, Chairman  
              Honorable Claude Parrish, Vice Chairman  
              Ms. Betty T. Yee, Acting Board Member  
              Honorable Bill Leonard  
              Honorable Steve Westly  
              Ms. Kristine Cazadd  
              Mr. David Gau  
              Ms. Karen Johnson  
              Ms. Randie Henry  
              Ms. Anita Gore

APPROVED 11-4  
*Ramon Hirsig*