

# Inaugural Leadership CLP Class Seeking Participants

by V. James Dickson, Esq.  
President of CLP Board of Trustees



Community Law Program seeks attorneys to participate in its inaugural Leadership CLP program. Similar in concept to Leadership St. Pete and other leadership training programs with a twist, Leadership CLP will help develop skills and network relationships of attorneys in areas of greatest need for pro bono voluntary attorney service in our community. An initial class will focus on family law issues which is the area of greatest need for CLP attorneys. The program will involve four separate activities. The first activity will include an all-day seminar on basic divorce and paternity issues. This seminar will be held on February 19, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at St. Petersburg College Downtown Campus. The seminar will be taught by Senior Judge John C. Lenderman and Attorney Will Slicker. This seminar and subsequent seminars in this program will be free of charge to class participants. Others are welcome to attend as well for a charge.

Subsequent programs are in planning stages. Concepts in development for other class programs include a behind the scenes look at the Clerk's Office with discussion on special policies of

the Clerk's Office concerning family law matters and indigent pleadings; presentations by local officials on domestic violence issues and available family resources; and observation of a final hearing on a contested family law proceeding with subsequent discussion with the presiding judge.

In addition to free CLE credit, all class participants will be matched with an experienced family law attorney who has agreed to be a mentor while the participant attorney handles his or her first case. The mentors for this CLE are: Bill Bostick, Jr., Russell Cheatham, Kelli Crabb, Kevin Fantauzzo, Susan Helms, Regina Kardiash, Liz Richards, Will Slicker, Marc Tenney, and Joan Walker. All participants will be expected to accept a pro bono referral of at least one family law case at any time up to one year following completion of the Feb. 19th CLE.

Future Leadership CLP programs in subsequent years will focus on other needs for pro bono representation including debtor rights, foreclosure options, landlord and eviction process, and bankruptcy protections.

The goal of the Leadership CLP programs will be to provide background training for seasoned attorneys who are willing to provide pro bono assistance to clients in areas outside of their normal practices. The program will also provide guidance to young attorneys with limited experience in any area of practice. For both seasoned and young attorneys, the program will offer networking opportunities with the judiciary, clerks and other members of the bar. Most importantly, it serves a critical need for our community.

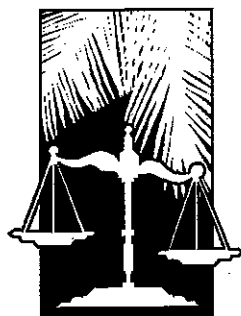
to Justice by all members of our community without regard to income. Access to Justice is the foundation of our society. Without Access to Justice by all members of a community, there can be no civilized society. Access to Justice is premised on simple fairness and due process.

- Can you imagine facing a potentially devastating situation requiring legal assistance without any means to obtain assistance?
- Do you know anyone who has ever experienced the struggles of divorce, child custody or support?
- Do you know anyone who has needed help with a landlord, writing a simple will, or filing for bankruptcy?
- How does a teenage in foster care transition to adulthood without assistance?

These are issues where – without legal help – people are powerless to stand up for themselves.

CLP Leadership will provide all willing attorneys with the information needed to be comfortable in providing service to clients in need of Access to Justice outside of their areas of normal practice. CLP looks forward to many future graduates of its CLP Leadership Programs. For information contact Kimberly Rodgers, CLP Executive Director at [krodgers@lawprogram.org](mailto:krodgers@lawprogram.org) or 727-582-7295.

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