

Law School opens new volunteer clinic

South side office gives free legal advice to public

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Marquette Law School expanded its volunteer legal clinic with a second site

The clinic offers Marquette Law School students the opportunity to gain practical legal experience with Milwaukee lawyers

More geared toward Milwaukee's Spanish-speaking population

New clinic located at the Spanish Center, 614 W. National Ave.

Marquette Law School expanded its volunteer legal clinic last Wednesday with the opening of a second site on the south side of Milwaukee.

The new site, at the Spanish Center, 614 W. National Ave., will be more designed to accommodate the Latino community, according to Daniel Idzikowski, assistant dean for public service at the Law School.

Idzikowski said in addition to providing free legal advice, information and referral services, the clinic will also employ Spanish-speaking interpreters to make their services available to a broader population.

"The Latino community tends to be under-served with regard to legal services," Idzikowski said. "We wanted to ensure that there was some outreach and a direct access point for them to receive legal information and referrals."

Idzikowski said the new clinic and the existing one located at the House of Peace Community Center on 17th and Walnut Streets, are a partnership between the Marquette Law School and lawyers throughout Milwaukee.

He said the new clinic will be partnered exclusively by attorneys from the law firm Quarles & Brady.

The clinic's services provide an important asset to the people of the Milwaukee community, said Michael Gonring, the pro-bono coordinator for Quarles & Brady and a Marquette Law School alum.

"Anything you can do to help people be prepared when they go to court is good for the community because it gives them a better chance at securing their rights," Gonring said. "When I was in law

school at Marquette we didn't provide these types of opportunities and I think it's wonderful that they do now."

Ann Jaspers, a third-year student in the Law School and one of the clinic's student coordinators, said she believes the new clinic is a positive addition to the Milwaukee community and is a welcome extension of the original clinic.

"It was definitely needed," Jaspers said. "You tend to not see a lot of people from farther south in Milwaukee come in to the House of Peace location. They're probably much more likely to go to the Spanish Center. The new site is also much more geared toward Spanish-speaking people."

According to Idzikowski, each Marquette student is matched with a volunteer attorney to participate in the intake, interview and follow-up processes with the clients. He said the mentoring experience that students gain in the clinic provides them with a valuable supplement to their legal education.

"This is beneficial to students on two fronts" Idzikowski said. "It gives them pro-bono service experience in the community with real world issues and it complements their classroom education by allowing them to put it to use in a hands-on manner with practicing attorneys."

Idzikowski said the volunteer legal clinic also benefits the community and continues Marquette's commitment to service.

"This is our opportunity to give back to the community by serving those who have barriers to accessing the justice system," Idzikowski said. "At the law school we view the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic as an extension of the university's mission and as a way of helping the community and getting students to participate."

Idzikowski said the Spanish Center clinic will provide free walk-in legal services on Wednesdays from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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