The HIV Legal Project and
The Disability Law Club of the University of Denver Law School
invite you to attend

HIV AND THE LAW
A Community Conversation
Friday, December 10, 2004
8:30 A.M.— 4:30 P.M.
Mile High United Way
2505 18th Street
Denver, CO. 80211
WELCOME TO THE FOURTH NEWSLETTER FROM THE HIV LEGAL PROJECT A PROGRAM OF THE LEGAL CENTER FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE

THE LEGAL CENTER PROTECTS AND PROMOTES THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE IN COLORADO THROUGH DIRECT LEGAL REPRESENTATION, ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS.

THE LEGAL CENTER EMBRACES:

• EMPOWERMENT
• SELF-DETERMINATION
• INDEPENDENCE
• INCLUSION

THE HIV LEGAL PROJECT

A COMMUNITY RESOURCE FOR PEOPLE AFFECTED BY HIV/AIDS AND THOSE WHO PROVIDE THEM WITH CARE AND SUPPORT.

WE PROVIDE REPRESENTATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND INFORMATION AND REFERRAL TO PERSONS EXPERIENCING HIV/AIDS DISCRIMINATION OF ANY KIND.

SUCH AREAS OF DISCRIMINATION INCLUDE:

• HOUSING.
• EMPLOYMENT.
• ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT SERVICES.
• ACCESS TO PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS.
• EDUCATION.
• BREACH OF CONFIDENTIALITY.

WE OFFER HIV/AIDS-RELATED EDUCATION AND OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS, PROVIDERS, AND ADVOCATES.

STAFF

ERIC MAXFIELD, ATTORNEY
BARRY GLASS, SOCIAL WORKER
CHRIS MÉNDEZ, ATTORNEY

THANKS TO OUR BENEFactors:

Bright Mountain Family Foundation
Mile High United Way
Xcel Energy Foundation

The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People

455 Sherman Street #130
Denver, Colorado 80203
(303) 722-0300 (800) 288-1376
322 North 8th Street
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501
(970) 241-6371 (800) 531-2105
TLCMAIL@THELEGALCENTER.ORG
HIV CONFIDENTIAL

DISCRIMINATION CHARGE FILED AGAINST LASIK VISION INSTITUTE

The Legal Center for People with Disabilities has filed a charge of disability discrimination against Dr. Paul Cutarelli and Lasik Vision Institute. In its complaint to the Colorado Civil Rights Division, The Legal Center alleges that Lasik Vision Institute and Dr. Cutarelli refused service to an HIV-positive individual solely on the basis of his disability, and did so without performing an individualized health assessment as required by the law.

Since its filing, The Legal Center identified yet another HIV-positive person who faced discrimination from Lasik Vision Institute. She was denied the Lasik procedure without a detailed examination to determine if her HIV-positive status would affect her qualifications as a good candidate for surgery.

Eric Maxfield, an attorney at The Legal Center, stated, “Lasik Vision Institute and Dr. Cutarelli did not follow established medical guidelines for properly screening candidates for Lasik Surgery. I am gravely concerned that a national company with many thousands of customers, as well as a licensed MD, would be so far behind established medical practice and established law.”

IF YOU HAVE EXPERIENCED SIMILAR DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AT LASIK VISION INSTITUTE, PLEASE CONTACT ERIC AT THE LEGAL CENTER (303) 722-0300.

PROPERTY TAX / RENT / HEAT REBATE

IF YOU HAVE BEEN A FULL-YEAR COLORADO RESIDENT AND ARE CONSIDERED DISABLED, YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A REBATE OF UP TO $600 FOR PAYMENT OF YOUR PROPERTY TAXES / RENT AS WELL AS $192 OF YOUR HEATING EXPENSES.

AS A SINGLE PERSON, YOUR ANNUAL INCOME MUST BE LESS THAN $11,000. IF MARRIED, YOUR JOINT ANNUAL INCOME MUST BE LESS THAN $14,700.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TAX FORM LINE AT (303) 238-3278 OR OBTAIN TAX FORM 104 PTC ONLINE AT WWW.TAXCOLORADO.COM
ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

The Denver HIV Resources Planning Council (DHRPC) has a community-based committee called the PLWH (People Living with HIV) Service Committee available to all persons affected or infected with HIV. This committee’s most recent project has been the design of a Client Satisfaction Survey of HIV/AIDS Case Management Services. It is easily completed and is composed of ten questions, with additional space for further comments. All surveys are both confidential and anonymous. Results will be received by the DHRPC offices and collectively calculated and reported to the Mayor's Office for further review. The information collected will be used by the Mayor's Office during their on-site visits as a point of reference and discussion.

These surveys will be distributed in a variety of ways by Ryan White Title I funded agencies during December. Any HIV/AIDS individual who receives Case Management intervention but has not received a survey either by newsletter or mail by December 15, 2004 may request a survey be forwarded to them directly from the DHRPC offices. The contact person, Lisa Lawrence, Project Director, can be reached at (720) 855-8641

It's time to be heard ...

COLA LITE

The 2005 Social Security Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) have recently been announced.  
*The good news*: SSDI payments will increase 2.7%

*The bad news*: The Medicare Part B premium deducted from your SSDI check will rise from the 2004 level of $66.60 per month to $78.20, an increase of $11.60.

Medicare Part B pays for outpatient physician and hospital services, as well as some home health care and durable medical equipment. If you are currently on Medicaid, the state should be paying your premium. Otherwise, you may be eligible for supplemental programs (QMB, SLMB) to cover this cost. If you have questions, consult your case manager or call The Legal Center.

In other news, the 2005 S.S.I. Standard payment for an eligible individual will rise from $564 per month in 2004 to $579 in 2005.
IT’S THAT TIME AGAIN TO ... LEAP INTO SAVINGS!!

The LOW-INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM may help you pay your winter utility bills. Applications will be taken by your local County Department of Human Services through April 30, 2005.

You may qualify if:

- You meet the income guidelines below.
- You pay your heating bill to an energy provider OR your heat is included in the rent.
- You are a U.S. citizen or a legal alien, and a resident of Colorado.

YOU DO NOT QUALIFY if you live in subsidized housing and your heat is included in your rent.

To request an application, or for more information, call **1-866-432-8435** or The Legal Center

(303) 722-0300 or 1 (800) 288-1376

**LEAP INCOME GUIDELINES**

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<tr>
<td>EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON:</td>
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**SPOTLIGHT ON...**

EL FUTURO / THE FUTURE

*El Futuro* is a safe place created by and for Latino gay and bisexual men to support and provide culturally / linguistically appropriate interventions that promote health, diversity, strength and pride in self and community.

Three years ago, the Latin American Research and Services Agency, (*LARASA*), received a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (*CDPHE*), to conduct a Latino Community Identification Project focused on HIV prevention for Latinos living in Colorado. More than forty in-depth interviews were conducted in the Denver Metropolitan area. These interchanges focused on the prevention needs of Latino men who have sex with other men (MSM). Based on the information gathered from the interviews, a recurring theme began to emerge—the need for the creation of a safe space that Latino gay and bisexual men could call their own.

Additional investigative research of effective HIV prevention models that targeted Latino MSM were conducted in San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The information gathered from these California site visits was presented to a focus group of Latino gay and bisexual men living in the Denver metro area; their input and recommendations were included in the final report to CDPHE.

In the fall of 2003, and for the first time in Colorado, a community center developed to meet the needs of Latino gay and bisexual men officially opened its doors. Currently, *El Futuro* offers the following services to more than 150 members: free confidential individual and partner counseling; support groups; HIV TESTING; Hep C screening; internet and computer access; skill building workshops, career development assistance, an HIV resource center, and admission to monthly cultural events. Members of the target population comprise the Advisory Council, which represents the voice of the community, and provides guidance to the staff of *El Futuro*.

For more information in English or in Spanish, contact Chris Medina, Program Coordinator, or Alfonso Maldonado, Program Specialist. The phone number for *El Futuro* is (720) 904-7125.

- *Lorenzo Ramirez, Advisory Council Chair*
  
  *El Futuro*
HIV AND THE LAW

HIV AND THE LAW is a day-long conference for service providers and clients. We will address a number of legal issues of importance to the HIV/AIDS community.

Topics to be discussed include:

- Employment Discrimination
- Discrimination in Housing
- Issues of Confidentiality
- Access to Public Benefits
  - Unmet Legal Needs
  - Service Animals
  - Ethical Issues

REGISTRATION FORM AND DIRECTIONS TO MILE HIGH UNITED WAY CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 8.

For more information, call Barry Glass at (303) 722-0300.

"If truth is beauty, how come no one gets their hair done at the library?"

LILY TOMLIN
**REGISTRATION FORM FOR HIV AND THE LAW**

We are requesting a $10.00 registration fee for HIV AND THE LAW. This fee includes light refreshments and printed materials. We will waive the fee for anyone who is unable to pay.

We encourage those of you who can afford the fee to send us a check that will defray the costs of the conference and subsidize those who cannot afford to pay.

1. I have enclosed $10.00.
2. I am unable to pay, but would like to attend. (Return this form only)

Please make check payable to:
THE LEGAL CENTER and send it with this form to the address below.

**SPACE IS LIMITED — REGISTER EARLY!**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>City, State and Zip</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</table>

Please send this form along with your registration fee to:

Barry Glass  
HIV and the Law  
The Legal Center  
455 Sherman Street Suite #130  
Denver, Colorado 80203

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**Directions to Mile High United Way**

**2505 18th Street**

**FROM DOWNTOWN:** Take 15th West to Central. Turn Right on Central. Turn Left on 18th. OR Take 20th West to Central. (20th turns into Central). Circle left on Central. Turn Right on 18th.

**FROM I-25 SOUTHBOUND:** Take Exit 212 C (20th Street). Turn Right on 20th to Central (20th turns into Central). Circle left on Central. Turn Right on 18th.

**FROM I-25 NORTHBOUND:** Take Exit 212 C (20th Street). Turn Left, cross over bridge to Central Street (20th turns into Central). Turn right on 18th.