

LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF MIDDLE TENNESSEE AND THE CUMBERLANDS

INFORMATION FOR RELEASE

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NASHVILLE PRO BONO CORPORATE PARTNERS ESTABLISH ELDER LAW CLINICS

CAT Financial and Baker Donelson volunteer time to legal check up clinics

NASHVILLE, Tenn. April 30, 2008 – A new legal partnership is providing legal help to some of Davidson County’s most vulnerable citizens and its fastest growing population – the elderly. Nashville Pro Bono Program, which is administered through the Legal Aid Society, has teamed with the in-house legal department at Caterpillar Financial Services (Cat Financial) and volunteer attorneys from Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz.

The group has begun holding legal advice clinics on the first Friday of every month at centers run by Senior Citizens, Inc. The next clinic is scheduled for 1-3 p.m. this Friday, May 2, at the Knowles Senior Center, 174 Rains Avenue, Nashville.

“The challenge with providing services to elderly clients is that many of them may not realize that lawyers can help with their problems,” said Lucinda Smith, director of the Nashville Pro Bono Program. “So while the clinics are set up to create wills, durable powers of attorney, and living wills. We also take the time to see if there are more pressing needs such as housing problems, denial of benefits, Social Security or debt. If we find that there is a need, we can refer the client to a volunteer attorney who can help.”

In addition to Cat Financial, Smith said that in-house legal counsel from LP Building Products and Corrections Corporation of America have committed to assist with these clinics in the future.

“Partnerships between pro bono programs and in-house legal departments are becoming more popular around the country,” said Smith. “It is an effective way to make a difference in the lives of the people in our community.

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