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Lakeshore Legal Aid and Cooley Law School Join Forces Again: This time offering Estate Planning Assistance to Senior Oakland County Residents

The first cooperative effort by Lakeshore Legal Aid and Cooley Law School's partnership produced the Family Law Assistance Project (FLAP) in Oakland County to provide free legal services to low-income people with family law and domestic violence matters. Now, the Auburn Hills campus of Thomas M. Cooley Law School in conjunction with Lakeshore Legal Aid is accepting applicants for the Estate Planning Clinic at Auburn Hills.

"The relationship between Cooley and Lakeshore could not be a better fit for the seniors of Oakland County. Lakeshore Legal Aid already serves the legal needs of Oakland County seniors and now with Cooley's support, we can expand those services," stated Lindsay Citrin, staff attorney for the Estate Planning Clinic at Auburn Hills.

To participate in the clinic, you must be a resident of Oakland County, over the age of 60 with an estate (not including your primary residence) valued at a maximum of \$150,000 if you are single or \$250,000 in combined assets if you are married.

The Estate Planning Clinic is a teaching clinic staffed by Cooley Law students and attorneys work directly with clients to help resolve their estate planning concerns. Law students, under the close supervision of faculty and licensed attorneys, interview and counsel clients, then draft estate planning documents such as wills, durable powers of attorney and powers of attorney for health care at no charge to the client.

Assistant Professor and Director of Clinical Programs at Cooley's Auburn Hills campus, Ashley Lowe remarked the Estate Planning Clinic "*provides a significant resource in terms of legal services...to persons who might not be able to afford an attorney and an opportunity for students to participate in the legal system.*"

The clinic has already assisted in the production of over 60 estate planning documents for Oakland County seniors. "I was more satisfied than when I went to a lawyer before to have the same papers made out. They [the legal interns] treated my very well," Waterford resident.

Anyone interested should contact, staff attorney, Lindsay E. Citrin at 248-351-0125 or epc@cooley.edu.

Celebrating its 35th anniversary this year, Cooley Law School is the largest law school in the country and includes the largest African-American and second-largest minority student enrollment. Founded in 1972, it operates J.D. programs in Michigan's capital city in Lansing, in suburban Oakland County, and in downtown Grand Rapids. Today, Cooley Law School has over 12,000 graduates across the nation and worldwide and also offers joint degree and Master of Laws programs. Additional information about Cooley can be found at www.cooley.edu.

