

For Immediate Release

Mary Loos
Legal Aid of Arkansas, Inc
479-442-0600 ext. 6302
479-442-0603
mloos@arlegalaid.org
www.laalitc.org

Legal Aid of Arkansas to help Low-Income and ESL Taxpayers

Fayetteville, Arkansas – January 16, 2008 – Legal Aid of Arkansas (LAA) announced today that it will be educating taxpayers in Northwest Arkansas about their federal taxpayer rights and responsibilities through its new Low Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC). The clinic is specifically targeted to English as Second Language (ESL) taxpayers. Legal Aid of Arkansas representatives will provide one-on-one counseling and present workshops on tax topics at locations in Washington, Benton, Sebastian, Carroll and Crawford counties.

Workshops will be conducted in English, Spanish, and Marshallese. These workshops are free and open to the public. Topics will include filing requirements and deadlines, Earned Income Tax Credit Eligibility, Child Tax Credit, Injured or Innocent Spouse Relief, Cancellation of Debt, Individual Taxpayer Identification Number, and other tax topics. Educational pamphlets and materials are also available for distribution and through the clinic website located at www.laalitc.org.

Lee Richardson, executive director of LAA, said, “We are very pleased that we received a grant to facilitate ESL Low Income Taxpayer Clinics. These clinics are crucial to ensure that all taxpayers, regardless of their resources, can understand their tax obligations. We are happy to have our professional, multi-lingual staff available to make presentations and answer questions.”

“We will not be providing income tax preparation services as part of the clinic,” Richardson added. “We will provide referrals to free tax preparation services where available. Many taxpayers will be able to file their taxes for free through the interactive I-CAN! E-file service located on our website.”

To present these workshops, LAA applied for a matching LITC grant from the Internal Revenue Service’s Taxpayer Advocate Services division. Legal Aid of Arkansas is one of 18 new clinics.

Legal Aid of Arkansas is a non-profit corporation with a vision to improve the lives of low-income Arkansans by championing equal access to justice regardless of economic or social circumstances. LAA has seven offices and serves 31 counties in Northern Arkansas, providing free legal help with civil legal matters to those who qualify for services based on income and other guidelines. To access services prospective clients should contact an LAA LITC representative at 1-800-234-3544, or 442-0600, ext. 4315.