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**SOUTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION
LAWYERS' LOCK-UP**

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I. Project Description

The South Carolina Young Lawyers' Lock-Up is a community service project designed to raise funds for the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. In addition to raising funds, the committee also raised public awareness of domestic violence through media attention. All monies raised are used to assist women and their children in transition from abusive homes. The funds are used for deposits for rent, electricity, day care, etc. The Lock-Up was a one day program during Law Week. Lawyers were asked several weeks in advance to participate in the Lock-Up. Each lawyer was served with a phony arrest warrant two weeks before the event and was directed to raise \$500 dollars bond in order to be released on the day of the lock-up. Lawyers were not released until they paid their bond.

II. Project Planning/Development

A. Identification of Need

During Christmas each year, the South Carolina Young Lawyers Division(SCYLD)affiliate holds a necessities drive for battered women shelters across the state. During the drive, the committee learned that most women are only allowed to stay in domestic violence shelters for a short period of time. In combating domestic violence, it is a known fact that one of the reasons women return to their batterers is financial dependence. The South Carolina Coalition against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault asked that the SCYLD assist them with raising money for their transitional housing fund. The money is distributed among all South Carolina Shelters to help women and children in need of establishing households upon leaving shelters.

An affiliate should contact their local Domestic Violence Coalition or other domestic violence organization or local shelter to assess the need for transitional funding. Most shelters across the country are overcrowded therefore having a time restrictions on a woman's stay in the shelter. A number for all shelters can be found in the phone book and every state has a Domestic Violence Coalition.

B. Determination of Project Goals and Design

1. Decisions to be made

a. Options - Project Goals

The SCYLD's goal was to raise \$10,000. As mentioned, this money was for use for transitional housing for those leaving shelters without a permanent residence to go to. This meant asking twenty lawyers from different sectors to raise \$500

each. Obviously, the amount of money raised could be changed by altering either the number of participants or the amount each participant is asked to raise.

b. Options - Project Design

This is a low budget project that requires very little time from participants and committee members. The SCYLD committee who sponsored this program identified twenty lawyers(not just young lawyers) from all areas of practice. The committee tried to get at least one lawyer from each local large law firm, the Attorney General's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Criminal Defense Bar and the County Prosecutor's office. The committee also recruited the SCYLD-President and SCYLD President-elect to participate. Two weeks before the lock-up, the committee sent the participants a warrant for their arrest and notified them that their bond was set at \$500. Participants are allowed to begin collecting money once they received the warrant. On the day of the Lock-Up, all participants were to report to the South Carolina Bar Building where they were detained until getting \$500 dollars in cash, checks, and/or pledges. Attorneys, family members, friends and the general public were allowed to come to the Bar building to drop off donations. Participants were allowed to make phone calls using the phones in the building, although most participants just used their cell phones. Press releases were sent to all local TV stations and radio stations. The committee also had a local police officer who volunteered to act as the court officer for the Lock-Up.

2. Decision making process

The SCYLD committee consisted of seven young lawyers whose primary responsibilities were to find volunteers to participate and send out press releases. The main decision was to decide where to hold the event. Possibilities discussed included the Bar building, the local jail, the local courthouse or a park. The committee was unable to secure the courthouse and there was concern about the weather for the park. Because it was the first year for this project the committee decided to use the bar building, it was a central location that had phones, fax machines, etc. The committee wasn't too comfortable about the local jail idea being that it was the project's first year. The other decisions made involved the amount each participant would be asked to raise. The committee decided on \$500 based on our \$10,000 goal. The chair of the committee coordinated with the South Carolina domestic violence coalition.

3. Considerations in Project Planning

a. Community Resources

The committee basically worked on the project alone. It solicited volunteers from other bar organizations such as the Criminal Defense Bar. The committee also asked for a local volunteer from the local police department.

An affiliate may choose to partner with a local criminal justice organization or another Bar organization in sponsoring this project. The committee only solicited lawyers but it was also suggested that the committee use local law enforcement officers, judges, etc. An affiliate may also choose to partner with local businesses or local political offices, such as the mayor's office.

b. Personnel

This project requires very little work on the part of committee members. The committee is primarily responsible for getting the volunteers and collecting money. The committee chair then mails out the arrest warrants two weeks before the event and coordinates with the participants in collecting donations after the event.

In South Carolina, a lot of the detail work was performed by the SCYLD staff liaison at the South Carolina Bar Association. The staff member mailed letters out to all members of the bar informing them of the Lock-Up. The staff member also made the arrangements to reserve the location of the event. The public relations coordinator at the South Carolina Bar Association was responsible for sending out press releases to all television stations, radio stations and newspapers.

If an affiliate does not have access to staff assistance, this work could be performed by a committee member.

c. Revenue Availability/Fund raising

This project required very little funding. The only cost we incurred was for copying, mailing, and breakfast the day of the event. The committee spent about \$150 dollars on the project. Smaller affiliates may want to get these items donated.

d. Equipment

The only thing needed for this project is a location with a lot of available phone lines. The SCYLD used the Bar building for this reason. The phones are used by the participants to raise funds for their bonds. Any affiliate who puts on this project can also ask participants to bring their cell phones.

III. Implementation...How to replicate your project

A. Timetable

This project is held once a year during Community Law Week. The Affiliate should start

planning for the event three (3) months in advance.

Three Months Prior to Event

1. Meet with committee and select a date for the project
2. Begin identifying potential locations for the event.
3. Have committee to start identifying of potential volunteers.
4. Coordinate dates with state domestic violence coalition.

Two Months Prior to Event

1. Decide and confirm location for the event.
2. Generate list of potential volunteers.
3. Contact potential participants and invite them to participate.
4. Contact local law enforcement agency about making an appearance at the event.

One Month Prior to Event

1. Have phony arrest warrants printed.
2. Draft letter to be mailed to all members of the bar.

Two Weeks Prior to Event

1. Mail participants phony arrest warrant along with a letter containing instructions.
2. Send out press releases.
3. Mail letter to all members of the bar informing them of project.

Day of Event

1. Pick up breakfast supplies.
2. Secure phones.
3. Have committee members present to greet and assist the participants upon arrival.
The number of committee members will depend on the number of participants.

After the Event

1. Send thank you notes to all participants.
2. Notify participants that they have two weeks to turn in all donations.
3. Coordinate transfer of funds to state domestic violence coalition.

B. Recruitment and Training of Volunteers/Personnel

The volunteers were recruited by individual committee members.

C. Publicity

All publicity was handled by the public relations coordinator of the South Carolina Bar. It consisted primarily of issuing press releases to local media. The committee also mailed letters to all members of the bar informing them of the project.

IV. Evaluation and Impact

The Lawyers' Lock-Up project raised \$10,000 that was donated to the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault's Transitional Housing Fund. The funds impacted the lives of women and children in South Carolina. Through media attention and participation of lawyers statewide, the SCYLD raised public awareness of the need for financial assistance for victims of domestic violence.

V. Bibliography/Other Resources

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- Affiliate: South Carolina Bar Association
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Post Office Box 608
Columbia, SC 29202-0608
(803)799-6653,
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www.sctbar.org
- Other resources: South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and
Sexual Assault
P.O. Box 7776
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