

UDM School of Law's Mobile Law Office rolls into Southwest Detroit

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Legal News

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law's Mobile Law Office rolled into Southwest Detroit to give legal advice on varying matters at the La Sed Senior Center on Monday, November 6.

According to UDM School of Law Professor David Koelsch, the Mobile Law Office makes two to three trips per week to schools, churches, libraries, etc., to offer help to those who are unable to travel, such as senior citizens, or those who are isolated by language and cultural barriers, including certain ethnic communities.

"It's nice to take it to people because they're comfortable in their neighborhood," he said.

The Mobile Law Office is a converted recreational vehicle which includes two private offices for client meetings, wireless Internet capability and laptop computers. People meet in the Mobile Law Office with volunteer attorneys, UDM faculty and law students.

"Essentially, (the Mobile Law Office) gives us an opportunity to get involved in an outreach program

within the community," noted Sathab Ousachi, a UDM law student assisting at La Sed. "It's a great resource for us as law students, too."

Lydia Deddeh, a law student volunteer, agreed, adding "I think that it benefits those who don't have access to an attorney who can help them understand legal issues and at least we can lead them in the right direction."

Ethar Alkarawi, another UDM law student, was assisting with the Mobile Law Office for the first time at La Sed.

"Just having the experience of interacting with clients and knowing that you're helping them – You're giving back to the community and it's just a great feeling," Alkarawi commented.

"I think it's a great asset," UDM law student Kay Makki said of the Mobile Law Office. "It's a way the university allows us to get out there and put the law into action and answer questions that people have."

The Mobile Law Office has helped more than 3,000 people with legal issues including mortgage fraud, predatory lending, immigration, social security, divorce, child custody, and criminal matters since its inception in 2003.