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## Downstate law school to give free legal help to vets

DETROIT (AP) — The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law will offer free legal assistance to veterans across Michigan.

Lawyers and students plan to offer services from a recreational vehicle converted into a mobile law office. They plan to begin traveling throughout the state this summer.

"It's sort of an 'If we build it, they will come' approach," said David Koelsch, director of the law school's Immigration Law Clinic.

Law school dean Mark Gordon said the mobile clinic is needed to serve increasing numbers of veterans returning from Iraq.

"They served our country. They protected our freedoms," first-year student Anthony Mosko told the Detroit Free Press for a Saturday story.

"As law students and as an institution of legal study, it's the least we can do," added the 24-year-old Cincinnati resident, who plans to help with the veterans clinic.

The school is paying about \$100,000 in startup costs for the clinic, but Gordon hopes to get help from the state, private donors and other lawyers.

Thomas King, 60, is one of about 280,000 veterans reportedly living in Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties. The former Marine told the Free Press he suffers from post traumatic stress disorder and could use help in filing a Social Security disability claim.

"I want somebody who knows what they're doing to help me," said King, senior vice commander for American Legion Post 472 in Melvindale.

"Basically, I want to be considered disabled. I don't know if they could get me on the disability Social Security list or not."

Tyrone Chapman runs the Detroit Veterans Center, a 104-bed transitional housing facility for homeless veterans. He said he believed the law school's mobile clinic could help many men and women with alcohol or drug dependencies who are served by the center.

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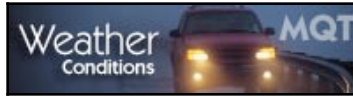
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Ishpeming Office:  
118 E. Division, Ishpeming, MI 49849  
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Marquette Office:  
249 W. Washington, Marquette, MI 49855  
906-228-2500  
News FAX: 906-228-2617  
Ads FAX: 906-228-3273

Munising Office:  
Room 109, 411 Elm Ave., Munising, MI 49862  
News: 906-387-3010 / Circulation: 906-387-5424  
FAX: 906-387-4944

Toll Free: 1-800-562-7811

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