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Disability Rights Legal Center

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**CLRC**

Cancer Legal Resource Center

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## **CANCER LEGAL RESOURCE CENTER AND AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY ADDRESS HEALTH INSURANCE NEEDS OF CANCER PATIENTS**

**LOS ANGELES, August 16, 2007** – The Cancer Legal Resource Center (CLRC) and the National Home Office of the American Cancer Society (ACS) will partner on a health insurance pilot project focusing on four states: California, Hawaii, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

According to the American Cancer Society's Facts and Figures, 1.4 million people will be diagnosed with cancer in 2007. For many of them, health insurance will be their greatest need as they fight the disease. This project will focus on determining the health insurance rights and options available to residents of California, Hawaii, West Virginia, and Kentucky, and helping people in those states access health insurance and other benefits. The CLRC will work with the American Cancer Society's National Cancer Information Center and with each state's local American Cancer Society offices to educate the public about their health insurance rights and options.

The CLRC is a joint project of the Disability Rights Legal Center and Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. The CLRC helps people with cancer resolve the legal issues that arise as a result of a cancer diagnosis. The CLRC's toll-free Telephone Assistance Line (866-THE-CLRC) provides free services to callers from all 50 states with cancer-related legal issues, such as health insurance, employment, government benefits, estate planning, family law, and consumer assistance.

Legal issues cause people with cancer unnecessary worry, confusion, and stress, and can be overwhelming. When these legal issues are not addressed, people may find themselves surviving the disease, only to find that they have lost their homes, jobs, insurance, or families. With the help of the CLRC and ACS, people can resolve the legal problems and focus their energy on fighting the disease.

"We are so pleased by this partnership with the American Cancer Society," said Joanna L. Morales, Director of the Cancer Legal Resource Center, "Being able to provide valuable information and assistance during such a stressful time in people's lives, means improving their access to life-saving treatment, continued employment, and health insurance coverage."

The CLRC is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007 and has reached over 75,000 people through its Telephone Assistance Line, Cancer Rights educational seminars, community outreach events, and pro bono attorney panel. The CLRC is also supported by the California Division of the American Cancer Society, numerous California Affiliates of Susan G. Komen for the Cure, the Lance Armstrong Foundation, the California Office of the Patient Advocate, grants, and donations. For more information about the CLRC, visit [www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org](http://www.disabilityrightslegalcenter.org).