

Volunteers needed for Bronx CLARO Project
New Civil Court *pro bono* project for *pro se* debtor defendants

Bronx CLARO (Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office). Volunteers are needed for an innovative, advice-only, volunteer lawyer program for *pro se* defendants with Civil Court cases in Bronx County. The project involves a partnership with the Bronx County Bar Association, the New York City Bar, Fordham Law School's Feerick Center for Social Justice, and area law students. CLARO projects also operate in Kings, Queens, and New York County Civil Courts.

CLARO'S MISSION. The Civil Court of New York needs volunteer lawyers to assist the ever-growing numbers of *pro se* litigants who have a pressing need for legal assistance on a host of consumer law issues, particularly consumer debt. The exploding increase in consumer debt cases have inundated the Civil Court. These cases can be overwhelming for *pro se* litigants; for example, many litigants learn of the suit after their wages have already been garnished or their bank accounts frozen. CLARO provides advice-only *pro bono* assistance to *pro se* litigants with consumer debt matters in Civil Court.

HOURS OF OPERATION. The program is scheduled to launch in July 2009 and will operate on Thursday afternoon from 4pm to 6pm in Bronx Supreme Court.

TRAINING. A three-hour training session for Bronx CLARO will be held on **Wednesday, June 24, 2009, from 6pm-9pm at the Bronx County Bar Association's Library, located at the Bronx Supreme Court, 851 Grand Concourse in Room 124.** Volunteer lawyers are required to attend this June 24th session. Three NY CLE (non-transitional, professional practice) credits will be awarded for attending the training contingent on volunteers completing six hours of service (i.e., three two-hour CLARO sessions). Volunteers may also attend a three-hour training session offered by the New York City Civil Court Volunteer Lawyer Program, which will be held on Saturday, May 30, 2009. Register for the June 24th training, at <http://law.fordham.edu/bxclarotraining.htm>. For more information, please contact Wilma Lopez at the Feerick Center for Social Justice, 212-636-7176 or wlopez@law.fordham.edu. To register for the New York City Civil Court's May 30th program, contact Robert West at 646-386-4016 or visit <http://www.courts.state.ny.us/attorneys/volunteer.shtml>.