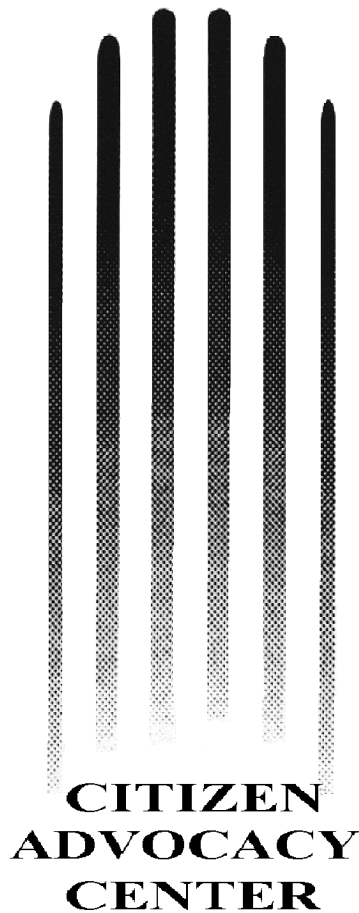


CITIZEN ADVOCACY CENTER

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



**THE CITIZEN ADVOCACY CENTER
IS DEDICATED
TO BUILDING DEMOCRACY
FOR THE 21ST CENTURY
BY STRENGTHENING
THE CITIZENRY'S CAPACITIES,
RESOURCES, AND INSTITUTIONS FOR
SELF-GOVERNANCE.**

Citizen Advocacy Center 2008 Annual Report

The Citizen Advocacy Center (Center) is an award-winning, non-profit, non-partisan, free community legal organization. Founded in 1994, the Center's mission is to build democracy for the 21st Century by strengthening the public's capacities, resources, and institutions for self-governance. Center community lawyers simultaneously engage in community organizing, coalition building, advocacy, civic education, and litigation to create systemic reform. The Center functions as an antidote to civic disengagement and community powerlessness by empowering the public to make government more accountable through increasing democratic protocols at every level of government and developing the voice of the public.

Throughout 2008, individuals, community groups, the press, and public officials called or visited the Center to obtain free civic materials, ask community lawyers questions, engage in civic discussions, access public information, learn about local public policy issues, attend training workshops and develop civic skills.

The Citizen Advocacy Center's four major initiatives in 2008 were:

- Public Education and Capacity Building
- Building Institutions and Community Resources
- Government Accountability and the Development of Systemic Democratic Protocols
- Litigation and Issue Advocacy

Public Education and Capacity Building

The Center is first and foremost a resource for civic information. In 2008, our community lawyers and volunteers helped concerned citizens create active and vibrant democratic communities by using essential civic tools and the law to organize effective community campaigns. Regardless of the subject matter or the point of view of those making the inquiry, Center community lawyers answered inquiries and built the capacity of citizens to participate in local affairs.

Center community lawyers, volunteers, and interns worked with individuals and community groups in more than 50 communities in 2008 and answered more than 250 questions from concerned citizens on public interest topics such as:

- Do public bodies have to provide individual cell phone records used by a public official for public business in response to a Freedom of Information Act request?
- Can tourist taxes be used for non-tourist expenditures in a non-home rule community?
- Can a public body preempt citizen referenda by placing their own referenda on the ballot?
- Can a circulator of a petition sign the petition sheet that they are circulating?
- Who is covered by the Illinois Whistleblower Protection Act?

The Center hosted, planned, spoke at, or participated in presentations to civic groups and schools across Chicagoland. The following list of activities does not include the Center's regular attendance or participation in public body meetings:

January

- WLWU 88.7 "Outside the LOOP" Radio Interview (Chicago)(January 15)
- DuPage County Regional Office of Education Civic Summit Meeting (Wheaton)(January 17)
- Media Justice Organizing Meeting (Chicago)(January 17)

February

- Midwest Public Interest Fair (Chicago)(February 2)
- DePaul Law School TIF Presentation (Chicago)(February 4)
- Downers Grove Watch Meeting (Downers Grove)(February 4)
- Community TV Network - Youth Journalism Presentation (Chicago)(February 11)
- Route 120 Corridor Planning Meeting (Libertyville)(February 12)
- Roselle Fire Protection District Meeting (Roselle)(February 21)
- Wheaton Teacher Institute Day (Wheaton)(February 29)

March

- Lake County State's Attorney Meeting (Waukegan)(March 4)
- DuPage County Regional Office of Education Civic Summit Meeting (Wheaton)(March 6)
- Prairie View 120 Corridor Planning Meeting (Round Lake Park)(March 12)
- Medinah Homeowners Association Presentation (Medinah)(March 13)
- Wheaton North High School Journalism Class (Wheaton)(March 14)
- McHenry County State's Attorney Meeting (Woodstock)(March 14)
- Elmhurst Citizen Meeting (Elmhurst)(March 17)

April

- Deer Park Citizen Meeting (Deer Park)(April 3)
- College of DuPage Visit (Glen Ellyn)(April 8)
- Benedictine University Youth Government Presentation (Lisle)(April 9)
- DuPage County Regional Office of Education Civic Summit Meeting (Wheaton)(April 10)
- Harwood Heights Citizen Meeting (Elmhurst)(April 16)
- Concerned Citizens of Addison Meeting (Addison)(April 17)
- DuPage County Bar Association Open Government CLE (Wheaton)(April 23)
- University of Chicago Public Service Career Fair (Chicago)(April 24)

May

- Collaboratory Symposium (Evanston)(May 2)
- Crossroad Fund Meeting(Chicago)(May 8)
- DuPage County Regional Office of Education Civic Summit Meeting (Wheaton)(May 8)
- Grayslake Citizen Action Project Meeting (Grayslake)(May 9)
- Second District Appellate Court, Oral Arguments, Stern vs. District 200 (Elgin)(May 13)
- Elmhurst Middle Schools Presentation for Election Project (Elmhurst)(May 14)
- DuPage County Regional Office of Education Social Studies Meeting (Lombard)(May 16)
- WYCC Television Interview on Tollway (Chicago)(May 22)
- Grayslake Citizen Action Project Meeting (Grayslake)(May 27)
- Journalist Open Government Training (Chicago)(May 29)

June

- York Township Democrat Presentation (Lombard)(June 4)
- Citizen Advocacy Center Open House (Elmhurst)(June 5)
- Markham Community Organizing Meeting (Markham)(June 9)
- Land Use/Zoning Continuing Legal Education Seminar (Oak Brook)(June 9)
- Township Property Assessment Evening Program (Round Lake Park)(June 10)
- Journalist Open Government Training (Chicago)(June 13)
- Villa Park Library Board Open Government Training Session (Villa Park)(June 16)
- Addison Citizen Group Meeting (June 17)
- DuPage County Regional Office of Education Civic Summit Meeting (Wheaton)(June 19)
- McCormick Foundation Ethnic Media Conference (Chicago)(June 20-21)
- Markham Community Organizing Meeting (Markham)(June 23)
- Citizen Advocacy Center Brown Bag Lunch: Federal Election Commission (Elmhurst)(June 23)
- Harwood Heights Public Official Capacity-Building Meeting (Harwood Heights)(June 24)
- Joyce Foundation Midwest Democracy Network Summit (Chicago)(June 25-26)
- Grayslake Community Organizing Meeting (Grayslake)(June 30)

July

- Citizen Advocacy Center Voter Identification Evening Program (Elmhurst)(July 8)
- College of DuPage Organizing Meeting (Glen Ellyn)(July 11)
- Citizen Advocacy Center Brown Bag Lunch: Guantanamo Bay Detainees (Elmhurst) (July 15)
- Intern Night (Elmhurst)(July 17)

August

- School District 181 Community Organizing Meeting (Burr Ridge)(August 14)

September

- DePaul Law Public Interest Presentation (Chicago)(September 3)
- McCormick Foundation Social Studies Teachers' Fair (Wheaton)(September 13)
- Addison Community Organizing Meeting (Addison)(September 15)
- Colin Powell Middle School Active Citizen Lesson (Matteson)(September 15-18)
- DuPage County Regional Office of Education Civic Summit Meeting (Wheaton)(September 17)
- Journalism Training Seminar (Elmhurst)(September 23)
- Lorman Open Government CLE Seminar (Chicago)(September 24)
- Journalism Training Seminar (Chicago)(September 25)

October

- Advisory Council Meeting (Elmhurst)(October 8)
- DePaul Law School Public Interest Meeting (Chicago)(October 14)
- DuPage County Regional Office of Education Civic Summit Meeting (Wheaton)(October 16)
- Community Organizing Meeting (Campton Hills)(October 16)
- Downers Grove South High School Constitution Day (Downers Grove)(October 27)

November

- John Marshall Law School First Amendment Presentation (Chicago)(November 5)
- DuPage County Civic Summit (Wheaton)(November 7)
- Loyola Law School Public Interest Reception (Chicago)(November 10)

December

- CAC Holiday Party (Elmhurst)(December 10)
- Citizen Initiative Awards (Elmhurst)(December 10)

Citizen Advocacy Center Youth Programs

The Civic Empowerment Zone is the Center's hands-on civic education program that helps educators and youth transform their communities into "civic labs" and teach what it practically means to be a "good citizen." With generous funding from the McCormick Foundation, the Center's Civic Empowerment Zone continued to work in coalition with like-minded organizations and educators to integrate hands-on civic activities into curriculum. In 2008, the Center engaged in the following:

Convening the Second DuPage County Regional Summit on Civic Education

The Center was a lead organizer in convening DuPage County's Regional Office of Education's Second Youth Civic Summit. The theme was "The First Amendment, Let's Talk About It!" Ten DuPage County high schools participated in the Civic Summit to learn about current First Amendment issues and how to use the First Amendment to address issues they care about. Specific aspects of the Civic Summit include:

- Student use of an "Advocacy Chart" to evaluate policy issues of concern, potential resources to address the problem, decision-makers who can be responsive to the concern, and possible actions that students can take to advocate for reform.

- “Speak Out” opportunities at the Civic Summit wherein students gave their points of through multiple avenues of media on the following issues:
 - Anonymously posting an opinion about school regulation of student newspapers;
 - Identifying the top three issues to address if they were President of the United States;
 - Telling a “roving reporter” about their civic engagement endeavors; and
 - Creating a video diary where they voiced opinions about what degree schools should regulate off campus student use of the internet.
- Two interactive panel discussions discussing the use of the First Amendment in advocacy.
- Keynote address by Mary Beth Tinker, the plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court decision Tinker vs. Des Moines School District, which stated that students “do not shed their First Amendment rights at the schoolhouse steps.”

DuPage County Civic Coalition and Resolution

The Center worked in coalition with several organizations in DuPage County to highlight the need for hands-on civic education in our schools. The culmination of our coalition work was the DuPage County Board passing a resolution calling July 2008-2009 the “Year of Civic Engagement.” The Center authored the resolution passed by the DuPage County Board, which called on citizens to become actively involved in community affairs through monitoring governmental agencies and organizing around issues of public concern. The resolution can be viewed on the Center’s website or at <http://www.dupageco.org/emplibrary/CBM090908.pdf>.

Educational Forums and Schools Visited by Center Community Lawyers::

- Benedictine University Annual Conference and Youth Government Day
- Colin Powell Middle School
- Community TV Network Presentation
- DuPage County Civic Summit
- DuPage County Social Study Department Chairs Meeting
- DePaul University School of Law School
- District 205 Institute Day
- Downers Grove South High School
- McCormick Tribune Teacher Resource Fair
- Northwestern University’s Collaboratory Symposium
- Sandburg Middle School – Presidential Debate
- We the People: Citizens and the Constitution
- Westwood Community College
- Wheaton North Teacher Institute Day
- Wheaton North High School

Hands-on Civic Education Lesson Plans

The Center augmented its impressive library of hands-on lesson plans to build the capacity of teachers to impart civic knowledge. New lessons developed in 2008 are:

Early and Absentee Voting; Elections in Illinois; and The Federal Election Commission.

Listed below are more than forty lesson plans developed by the Center to help students use the communities in which they live as a civics lab. The topics of all lesson plans are available on the Center's website and can be adapted for middle school students.

- Legislative Simulation Lesson
- Redistricting: What is Fair?
- Accessing the Ballot: How Hard Should It Be To Become a Candidate?
- Municipal Government: Where Citizens Can Have the Biggest Impact
- Ballot Initiatives at the Local Level
- How to Draft a Bill
- Home Rule
- Reform by Popular Movement
- Judicial Independence
- Third Party Barriers to the Ballot
- Active Use of the 1st Amendment
- Balancing the Budget: The Budget Game
- Basic Legal Research
- Bill of Rights
- Campaign Finance
- Civil Rights in the Post 9/11 USA: Military Tribunals
- Federal Election Commission
- Fifth Amendment: Protection Through Procedure
- First Amendment Unit (4 lesson plans)
- Fitness Plan for Democracy
- Fourth Amendment: Search and Seizure
- Freedom of Information Act
- How a Bill Becomes a Law
- Introduction to Active Citizenship
- Jury Duty
- Making a Difference: What is a Citizen and What Can Citizens Do?
- Open Meetings Act
- Personal Financial Information: Protecting Privacy
- Politics and the Media
- Post 9/11 Due Process: The USA PATRIOT Act
- The Preamble to the Constitution
- Voting Systems: What is Fair?
- Who Represents You?
- Young Citizens and Media Access
- Young Citizens and Television Broadcasters
- Young Voters

Student Internship Program

The Center has a highly developed and hands-on internship program where students learn how to address issues of public concern, evaluate policy considerations, and engage in community organizing. In 2008, the Center hosted more than fifteen interns and volunteers from the following schools:

York High School
Beloit College
Brown University
DePaul Law School

Northwestern University Law School
John Marshall Law School
Chicago-Kent Law School

The Center has more than 20 educational brochures created by community lawyers and student volunteers that demystify public access laws and civic tools. All brochures are available on our website, www.citizenadvocacycenter.org. New guides created by our interns in 2008 include:

- A guide to Robert's Rule of Order (NEW!)
- A guide to Planned Unit Development (NEW!)

Community Programs and the Open Forum

The Center helped community groups organize, educated the public about civic and legal rights, provided forums for the public to debate current issues of public concern, and stimulated community discussion. The Center hosted, moderated, or helped to facilitate the following programs:

- Evening Program: Township Property Assessment
- Journalist Open Government Training
- Villa Park Library Board Open Government Training Session
- Brown Bag Lunch: Federal Election
- Evening Program: Voter Identification
- Center Brown Bag Lunch: Guantanamo Bay Detainees Discussion
- Intern Night
- Journalism Open Government Training
- Citizen Initiative Awards and Holiday Cheer Party

Everyday Democracy

The Center published three issues of our newsletter, *Everyday Democracy*. Center community lawyers and student interns contributed to the editorial content. Newsletters published since 1999 are posted on the Center's website.

Winter 2008 Articles:

- Should Illinois Convene a Constitutional Convention?
- Are More Tollroads the Answer to Traffic Congestion?
- 2008 Legislative Initiatives
- Term Limits and Ballot Access
- Democracy Watch: Must a Municipality Make Available for Public Inspection Minutes from Board Finance Committee Meetings?

Summer 2008 Student Intern Articles:

- A Summer of Public Debate & Public Officials
- Legal Internship Fairy Grants a Wish
- Government Watchdog Makes a Difference
- Engaging, Intensive, and Rewarding Legal Work
- What Volunteering Really Means
- An Inspirational Experience Working in Nonprofit Law
- "Democracy" Takes Form
- Building Communities, Not Adversaries

Fall 2008 Articles:

- Public Comment Policies Mandating "Niceness" Infringe on the First Amendment
- Winning Civic Education Essay From Elmhurst School Dist. 205
 - Lara Zich, 6th Grade
 - Anna Marie Talamo, 7th Grade
 - Ushashi Naha, 8th Grade
- How Public Bodies Use the "Rule of Three" to Block Citizen Referendum

*Government and Corporate Accountability
and the Development of Systemic Democratic Protocols*

The Center responds to citizen inquiries and monitors local governments for undemocratic practices and policies that systemically bar citizen participation in the democratic process. While the Center worked on dozens of issues, the following are examples of concerns addressed in 2008:

Midwest Open Government Project & the Midwest Democracy Network

The Center is member of the Midwest Democracy Network, a coalition of non-profit reform organizations committed to improving democratic institutions in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The coalition seeks to reduce the influence of money in politics, keep our courts fair and impartial, promote open and transparent government, create fair processes for drawing congressional and legislative districts, guarantee the integrity of our election systems, promote ethical government and lobbying practices, and democratize the media.

The Center is a research partner of the Midwest Democracy Network. In 2008 the Center continued to work on our Open Government Project, a project that focused on analyzing Freedom of Information and Open Meetings statutes in Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. Center community lawyers worked with more than a dozen law student volunteers to conduct a comparative analysis of more than 1,000 legal cases, law review articles, and attorney general opinions. In 2009, the Center will release our comprehensive study that includes a comparative analysis of each state's statutes, their respective strengths and weaknesses, model state statute drafts with specific recommendations for reform, and citizen guides with recommendations for reform.

Campaign Finance Reform

The Center continued to address limiting the influence of money in Illinois politics by working in coalition with non-profit organizations throughout Chicagoland. The Center participated in press conference, community organizing efforts, and education of public officials regarding the need for campaign contribution limits. The Center's work focused on educating the public and public officials that a healthy democracy mandates a balance between government accessibility, accountability, and transparency and effective, informed, and sustained citizen participation.

Citizen Action Project: The Board of Review

The Citizen Action Project (CAP) is a community-based group in Grayslake, Illinois concerned with fair taxation of property. CAP organized in response to inequities identified in the property tax assessment process. The Center provided substantial assistance to CAP regarding a two-part comprehensive study on tax assessment. The first part analyzed the property tax assessment process at the township level of government. The second part analyzed the Board of Review appeal process. Center community lawyers and interns assisted CAP in researching and compiling the laws and processes related to the Board of Review and outlined systemic barriers. The end product was a white paper on the inequities of the Board of Review's processes and recommendations for reform. The Center attended the unveiling of CAP's white paper, as well as invited the group to facilitate a forum at the Center on the tax assessment process.

Center community lawyers emphasize non-litigious approaches to using the law to strengthen the democratic process. Only as a last resort, and on behalf of select citizen causes, does the Center litigate to challenge abuses of power and to remove systemic barriers that impair citizen access to local government.

Rule of Three

The Illinois Election Code permits citizens and government bodies to place questions of public concern on the ballot in the form of referenda. The Election Code provides that no more than three public questions may be submitted to the electors of a political body at any given election. When more than three public questions are proposed, only the first three timely and validly initiated questions may be included on the ballot at one time. This provision is commonly referred to as the “Rule of Three,” and was enacted to avoid overcrowded ballots and potential confusion. In practice, however, the Center has witnessed government bodies use the “Rule of Three” to preempt citizen-initiated proposals by adopting three questions, regardless of the actual relevance of the referenda, before citizens can legally submit their questions for the ballot. For example, in the Village of Addison, the municipal government short circuited a citizen group’s effort to place a repeal of home rule power and term limit referenda on the ballot. Both initiatives would have been binding. In October 2008, six weeks after the citizen group’s first attempt to place the initiatives on the ballot failed and five months before the next election cycle, the Addison Village Board voted to put three advisory referenda on the ballot. In response to the Center’s identification of this anti-democratic practice, a bill was introduced in the Spring 2009 Illinois General Assembly to nullify public bodies pre-empting citizen initiative by intentionally clogging the ballot.

Niceness policies

Through assisting community groups organize, the Center has identified a new trend stifling political speech: the creation of public comment policies that attempt to regulate the decorum of individual speakers during public comment portions of government meetings – or “niceness” policies. Governmental bodies are implementing public comment policies that prohibit: “...Disrespectful, insulting, satirical, or offensive comments directed at individual public officials are not permitted” (Village of Deer Park); comments that are “... personally disrespectful to members of the Village Board. Foul, abusive, or inappropriate language, displays or other materials are prohibited” (Village of Hinsdale); and “...Comments that are personally condescending will not be permitted. Therefore, speakers shall be courteous and should not make statements that are personally disrespectful to members of the City Council.” (City of Wheaton). In response, the Center spoke out against these content-based policies, educated the press about the First Amendment issues involved, and conducted a comprehensive survey to identify public bodies with such policies.

Cost of Information

How much should the public have to pay to access public records? The Illinois Freedom of Information Act states that public bodies may only charge “the actual cost of reproduction” for public records. Additionally, the statute specifically states that public bodies may not charge staff time for compiling records. Despite the explicit wording in the statute, public bodies routinely deny access via excessive fees. Through a survey of more than 100 public bodies in DuPage and Cook County, the Center documented what public bodies are charging for one 8 ½ by 11 sheet of paper. We found that public bodies charged anywhere from \$.05 to \$1 for one sheet of paper, with a majority of public bodies clustering around the \$.25 range. Considering that copy stores charge less and \$.10 per page for copies, it is ironic and anti-democratic that public bodies are using copy fees to deny access to information. The Center’s report identified recommendations for reform, which included capping fees to \$.10 per copy or mandating disclosure by a public body which justified actual costs.

Building Institutions and Community Resources

International Coalitions

The Center continued to host representatives from international nongovernmental organizations, public officials, and students from developing democracies. The purpose of the visits were to help individuals learn how to build democracy at the grassroots level and build the capacity of individuals, community groups, and public officials to plant the seeds of democracy and help it flourish. The Center hosted local government officials from Indonesia. The government officials visited the Center to learn about how nongovernmental organizations impact the government decision-making process and the role of active citizens in the community affairs.

Democracy Day

Annually, Center summer interns facilitate a program wherein they showcase the issues and projects they worked on while at the Center. All high school, college, and law student interns are required as part of their internship to work on public policy projects, assists community lawyers in answering intake calls from the public, monitor government meetings, engage in public speaking, and write letters to the editor.

Leadership and Staff

2008 Board of Directors:

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Vice-President: Barbara Greenberg
Secretary: Gordon Goodman
Treasurer: Brian Conlon

Directors:

James Ekblad	Milt Honel	Josh Silverstein
Steve De La Rosa	Claire Nader	
Patricia Hicks	Andrew Prinz	

2008 Advisory Council Members:

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Matthew DuPree	Kate Millett	Jeremy Taylor
Myrrha Guzman	Scott Mitzner	Marcia De La Rosa
Corinne Johnson	Ellen Raymond	

2008 Staff:

Mrs. Eddi Feret, Office Manager (April 2008)
Mr. Ryne Bex, Office Assistant/Manager (October 2008)
Ms. Natalie Brouwer, Esq., Community Lawyer
Ms. Terry Pastika, Esq., Executive Director/Community Lawyer

Support, Contributions and Donations

The Center is financially supported by individual donations and foundation grants. The Center does not accept government or corporate money. Generous foundation support was provided by:

- The Alphawood Foundation
- Crossroads Fund
- The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- The McCormick Foundation
- The Shafeek Nader Trust for the Community Interest

Additional revenues were received from:

- Individual donations
- The Public Interest Law Initiative for a summer intern scholarship

Tax compliance services are donated by:

- Ms. Linda Yates and the firm of Andrich, Argo & Associates, Ltd., CPA's

Banking services are donated by:

- Cole Taylor Bank

While the Center has hundreds of volunteers, we would like to specifically recognize the following individuals for their outstanding dedication and substantial assistance to the Center:

- Mark Daniel, Esq., Rathje & Woodward
- Jill Dressner, Esq.
- Ms. Sarah Klaper, Esq.
- Corrine Johnson

Thank you to the 2008 Interns:

- Hanna Chung
- Joseph Tansino
- Peter Williams
- Nadia Aslam
- Justin Petty
- Aya Barnea
- Jennifer Fitzgerald
- Jonathon Rhodes
- Jenna Silver
- Craig Stern
- Ronald Wright
- Kayla Svoboda
- Mallory King

The Center complies with all record-keeping and filing requirements mandated by state and federal law. Our corporate records are available for inspection at our office and are on file with the appropriate State agencies. The Center does not release the names of all of our individual donors nor do we sell our mailing list to other groups. The individuals listed in our Annual Report have agreed to be recognized.

The Center welcomes donations of time, equipment or money. Donations to the Center are tax-deductible as provided by law.

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Russell Johnson	Michael Zink

Citizen Advocacy Center 2008 Newspaper Publicity

<u>DATE</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>
1/6/08	"Taking a Heavy Toll"	Daily Herald	Toll Fines
1/7/08	"Toll Collection Problems"	Daily Herald	Toll Fines
1/8/08	"Tollway Unsure How Many Drivers Skip Tolls"	Daily Herald	Toll Fines
2/20/08	"Residents Seek Third-Party Aid About Public Comment Rules"	The Doings-Hinsdale	Niceness Policies
2/21/08	"Speaking Rules Change, Village Tightens Security at Meetings"	The Hinsdalean	Niceness Policies
2/28/08	"Rules Regarding Public Comment Treat Residents Like They're Little Kids"	The Doings-Hinsdale	Niceness Policies
3/17/08	"Freedom of Information Filings Denied in Southland for Varied and Unusual Reasons"	Southtown Star	FOIA
5/22/08	"A Recall System Could Lead to Good Government Reform"	The Doings-Elmhurst	Recall System
5/27/08	"Briefs: Library Awards Announced"	Daily Herald	Change of Location
5/27/08	"Rt. 53 Plan is Dead...or is it?"	Daily Herald	Green Lanes
5/29/08	"Residents, Park District Spar Over Trail Route"	The Doings-Elmhurst	Prairie Path
5/30/08	"Tollway Violation Program Scrutinized"	Rockford Register Star	Toll Fines
6/2/08	"Vietnam Vet Faces Jail Over T-Shirt, Gesture"	Daily Herald	Island Lake
6/3/08	"Island Lake Man Pleads Not Guilty in Threatening T-Shirt Case"	Chicago Tribune	Island Lake
6/23/08	"Don't Put Restraints on Young Journalists"	Daily Herald	Student Journalism
7/17/08	"Fuller Protests When Board Appoints Bus Coordinator"	Southtown Star	Harwood Heights
7/24/08	"CAC Director: For the Good of Illinois Shows Promise"	The Doings-Elmhurst	Good Govt. Org's
7/28/08	"Disorderly Conduct Case Dropped Against Island Lake Man"	Chicago Tribune	Island Lake
8/01/08	"Backyard 'Democracy'"	TribLocal-Elmhurst	CAC
8/28/08	"Local Student Learns About Democracy"	TribLocal-Elmhurst	CAC
8/28/08	"District 205 Hires Private Firm to Check Residency"	The Doings-Elmhurst	Dist. 205
10/2/08	"Debate Night Draws Strong Response From Students"	The Doings-Elmhurst	Civic Engagement
10/15/08	"Village Officials Claim Referendums are About Issues, Not Politics"	Addison Press	Rule of Three
10/16/08	"Carpooling on the Horizon"	Daily Herald	Green Lanes
10/23/08	"City Council Violates Open Meetings Act, Attorney Says"	Berwyn Life	OMA
10/24/08	"No such Thing as a Sure Thing for Tollway Chief's Ethics Waiver"	Daily Herald	Ethics Reform
10/29/08	"Home Rule Forum Set in Prospect Heights"	Daily Herald	Home Rule
10/30/08	"Order of Questions Called into Question"	Mount Prospect Times	Ballot Questions
10/30/08	"Crux of Home Rule is Trust in Pols to Use Power Wisely"	Mount Prospect Times	Home Rule
12/1/08	"A Look Behind the State's Revolving-Door Policy"	Daily Herald	Ethics Reform
12/5/08	"Former DuPage Board Member Lobbies for New Job"	Daily Herald	Ethics Reform
12/9/08	"How Feds Say Governor Worked the Tollway"	Daily Herald	Tollway/Ethics
12/10/08	"Key Southland Project Noted in Gov's Corruption Bust"	Southland Star	Ethics Reform

CITIZEN ADVOCACY CENTER GOALS

- **To make government more accountable to the people by increasing democratic protocols and by developing and empowering the voice of citizens;**
- **To further the public understanding of civic tools and the skill of the citizenry in using these tools for societal problem solving;**
- **To promote individual and community efforts to resolve contemporary societal problems involving the rights of citizens, workers, shareholders, taxpayers, and consumers and the health, safety, and welfare of the communities we serve;**
- **To stimulate citizen awareness of, and action on, issues of public significance;**
- **To improve access to government-held information, access to the airwaves, access to the ballot, and access to the courts;**
- **To advance justice by: 1) increasing the awareness of, and commitment to, community lawyering/advocacy; 2) encouraging lawyers, professionals, and volunteers to build democracy at the local level; and 3) replicating the work of the Center.**