THE STATE’S pioneering Medical-Legal Partnership for Children in Hawai‘i (MLPC) has won national recognition for the free legal services it provides to vulnerable families in tandem with their community-based health care.

At the recent 2014 Medical-Legal Partnership Summit held in Seattle, WA, the MLPC Hawai‘i was one of two organizations recognized by the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership (NCMLP) and honored with a “2014 Outstanding Medical-Legal Partnership Award.”

The MLPC Hawai‘i works within the Kokua Kaliihi Valley Wellness Center, providing legal services to hundreds of families served by the grassroots community health center. In its five years of operation the legal team has served more than 500 clients.

Since its beginning in 2009, MLPC Hawai‘i has earned its reputation as “a model site” among the National Network of 231 healthcare sites in 34 states for providing exemplary integration of health and legal care as it addresses a broad spectrum of social determinants of health for families it serves.

The entire MLPC Hawai‘i team was in Seattle to receive the award, including: Dina Shek ’06, Legal Director and co-founder; Dr. Alicia Turlington, Medical Director; Randy Compton ’12, Staff Attorney; and U‘ilani Goods ’13, Law Fellow. Compton and Goods are both graduates of the WSRSL Ulu Lehua Scholars program.

MLPC is a project of the University of Hawai‘i’s Richardson School of Law and Kokua Kaliihi Valley Comprehensive Family Services (KKV), a federally qualified health center. MLPC lawyers and KKV doctors work together to deliver legal care to patient families on-site at the health center: “We do this,” said Shek, “because there are 50,000 children living in poverty in Hawai‘i who need legal care to be healthy.”

Shek continued, “if we didn’t believe that communities we serve are vibrant, full of promise and hope, talented, and often are their own best advocates and carry their own best solutions.”

The national award was presented by NCMLP Board Member Dr. Ed Paul, Director of Medical Education at Yuma Regional Medical Center and Professor of Family & Community Medicine at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

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Welcome to the fourth issue of the William S. Richardson School of Law e-news.

To support programs at the Law School, to expand student scholarships, and to give added life to innovative ideas, the Law School is dedicated to raising private funds in addition to the public funding it receives through the state.

Those interested in contributing to an array of programs may contact the University of Hawai‘i Foundation at (808) 956-8849 or through the foundation’s website at: http://www.uhfoundation.org/

TO REACH THE LAW SCHOOL FOR GENERAL INFORMATION:
2515 Dole St., Honolulu, HI. 96822-2350, (808) 956-7966

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Stories by William S. Richardson School of Law Media Consultant Beverly Creamer, unless otherwise noted.