FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 21, 2017

Contacts Roger Putnam Grant Sovern 608.577.7175 608.354.3223

IMMIGRATION LAW UNCERTAINTY, FEAR DRIVING UNPRECEDENTED NEED FOR LOW-COST MADISON IMMIGRATION LAW CLINIC

'Community Immigration Law Center' Struggling To Meet Demand

(MADISON, Wis.) – The <u>Community Immigration Law Center</u> of Madison has never been busier as and is increasingly playing a vital role for concerned immigrants who are trying to understand the everchanging immigration legal landscape.

"Fear is at an all-time high as everyone from legal scholars to working families try to decipher announced or implied changes in immigration law," said Grant Sovern an immigration attorney who volunteers at CILC's immigration clinic and also chairs the group's board. "People are scared and lives hang in the balance."

Sovern said the Clinic's resources are being stretched to their limits as it attempts to meet an increasing need for consultations and future representation of immigrants particularly in light of recent <u>news</u> reports that outline presidential orders expanding deportation powers of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Key facts about the non-profit CILC:

- Services are free donations are welcome and encouraged
- Walk-in clinic, no appointments necessary
- Second and Fourth Friday every month, from 2:00 to 5:00
- Location: Christ Presbyterian Church, 944 East Gorham, Madison
- Has helped over 2000 people from 130 countries

"Increased ICE actions have made our services more important than ever," said Sovern.

Clinic services currently include:

- Training and education on immigration law and immigrants' rights
- Guidance on steps to resolve immigration issues
- Referrals to immigration experts and other community resources
- Training for volunteer lawyers, interpreters and intake workers

The CILC will be engaged in an aggressive fundraising campaign to help meet the demand for legal services as the need for professional advice soars.

###

The Community Immigration Legal Clinic is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization committed to helping noncitizens navigate complicated immigration laws.