
BARTALK

of the county trial lawyers group, because many people with cases before county court cannot afford lawyers.

The lawyers meet with clients at the Caleb Center courthouse the first Thursday of every month, said **Jonathan Friedland**, the project's chairman. Oftentimes, clients are en route to the courthouse when they see the lawyer.

"We go to them, instead of them coming to us," Friedland said. "People come in with cases you can't believe."

The services may become especially important with threatened cutbacks in federal funding for the Legal Services Corp., Friedland said. Congress passed a bill that would cut federal spending from \$415 million to \$285 million; President Clinton vetoed it, but the bill is expected to resurface when the current budget deadlock ends. It would cut Miami's legal services funding from \$3.4 million to \$2.4 million.

"Because legal services are being cut back, there's less services in their own communities," Friedland said.

Lawyers who need further information can call Friedland, an associate in the Miami firm **Merl & Davis**, at (305) 372-8535.

— *Paula Park*

Trial lawyers looking for volunteers

The **Dade County Association of Trial Lawyers** is looking for volunteers to help Liberty City residents in traffic and landlord-tenant disputes and family law matters.

Volunteers walk their clients through the paperwork and tell them how to argue their own cases.

Dade County Judge **Beth Bloom** helped launch the project last summer when she asked for help from Miami attorney **Deryl Merl**, then vice chairman
