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## Funding News

✎ **Victory in Texas IOLTA Case** – On January 28, 2000, United States District Court Judge James R. Nowlin dismissed with prejudice all claims against the Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation and its chairperson in the remanded case of *Washington Legal Foundation, et al. v Texas Equal Access to Justice Foundation, et al.* (The defendants Justices of the Supreme Court of Texas had been dismissed from the case on January 4, 2000, based upon a finding that they were entitled to complete immunity). In his 40-page opinion, Judge Nowlin held that there was neither a taking of property nor any just compensation due and therefore, no violation of the Fifth Amendment. Judge Nowlin also held that the Texas IOLTA program did not violate plaintiffs' First Amendment rights. A copy of the opinion is available at [www.txwd.uscourts.gov/Opinions/opinions.html](http://www.txwd.uscourts.gov/Opinions/opinions.html). For additional information, contact Bev Groudine, Counsel, ABA Commission on IOLTA, at 312/988-5771.

✎ **Oral Argument Scheduled by Ninth Circuit in Washington State IOLTA Litigation** - The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has scheduled oral argument for February 9, 2000, in the case of *Washington Legal Foundation, et al. v Legal Foundation of Washington, et al.* That suit challenges the application of the IOLTA concept to limited practice officers - individuals licensed by the Supreme Court of Washington to practice law for the limited purpose of real estate closings. The case has been fully briefed before the Ninth Circuit since October 1998. For more information, contact Bev Groudine, Counsel, ABA Commission on IOLTA, at 312/988-5771.

✎ **The Final Story of 1999 Legislative Funding** - Wisconsin added the final chapter to an already successful story nationally of advances in state funding for legal services during 1999. In October, the governor signed the 1999-2000 budget, which included \$100,000 annually for two years for Wisconsin legal services programs to serve needy women and children. The funds will come from surplus TANF funds. The legislation requires that the funds be matched through other fundraising efforts. For more information, contact Deedee Peterson, Executive Director, Equal Justice Coalition, at 414/272-9305.

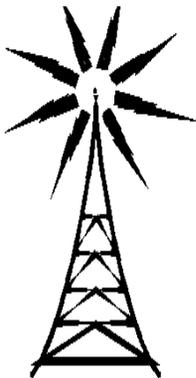
✎ **News of 2000 State Legislative Funding Campaigns** - Legal services advocates in a number of states are hard at work on state legislative funding campaigns for legal services in 2000. For example, advocates in California have been working for several months to secure a continuation of the \$10,000,000 state appropriation first received last year, and were pleased to learn recently that the governor included it in the budget he submitted to the legislature for consideration. In Arizona, domestic violence prevention advocates and legal services supporters are working on a bill that includes a \$1,000,000 state appropriation for legal advocacy for victims of domestic violence. The bill, which would fund legal advocates in shelters and attorneys in legal services programs, was passed unanimously by the House Human Services Committee, the first step in the legislative process. For further information or assistance on state legislative funding efforts, contact Meredith McBurney, Project Director, ABA Project to Expand Resources for Legal Services (PERLS), 303/329-8091.

## Upcoming Events of Interest

📌 **2000 Equal Justice Conference: Pro Bono, Innovations & New Partnerships - April 6-8, 2000** - The ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service, in conjunction with the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, is sponsoring this event in Houston, Texas. The conference will bring together pro bono managers, pro bono attorneys, staff of legal services programs, IOLTA directors, bar association leaders, members of the judiciary, corporate counsel, law school faculty, and staff and volunteers at other legal, public interest and human services organizations. It will provide important opportunities to examine innovations in the delivery of pro bono and staff-based legal services to the poor and strengthen the working relationships among the key players in the civil justice system. For registration information, contact Sonia Roby at the ABA, 312/988-5756.

## Hot Off the Press

📖 **1999-2000 Edition of *Law School Public Interest Law Support Programs: A Directory*** – Jointly produced by the ABA Division for Public Services, Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and The Center for Pro Bono, this publication is designed as a guide to the wide array of public interest programming available at ABA-accredited law schools throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The Directory provides detailed information about pro bono programs, internships, clinical programs, and public service and pro bono requirements in existence at law schools throughout the country. To purchase a copy of the Directory (\$22 - ABA Members; \$25 - Non-Members; \$18 - Students; plus shipping and handling), contact the ABA Service Center at 1-800-285-2221 and refer to product code # 2317001.



## WASHINGTON UPDATE

The second session of the 106th Congress convened on January 24, 2000. President Clinton is scheduled to submit his FY2001 budget proposal to Congress on February 7, and it is expected that he will propose funding for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) at \$340 million.

Bar leaders will have an excellent opportunity to lobby their members of Congress for increased funding for LSC at the fourth annual “ABA Day in Washington” scheduled for May 16-17. Co-sponsored by the ABA Section Officers’ Conference and the National Council of Bar Presidents, this event has annually drawn more than one hundred national, state and local bar officers. For further information, contact Julie Strandlie, Director, ABA Grassroots Operations/ Legislative Counsel, at 202/662-1764.

For more information about specific items, call the contact person listed for that item. To contribute items to future issues of *LEGAL SERVICES NOW*, or for general information about this bulletin, contact Bev Groudine at 312/988-5771, fax 312/988-5483 or e-mail [bgroudine@staff.abanet.org](mailto:bgroudine@staff.abanet.org).