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## Funding News

### 📌 2003 Legislative Funding Efforts for Legal Services Move Forward in Several States –

Because of the dismal economy and the resulting budgetary constraints faced by state legislatures this year, legal services advocates in most states are working hard to maintain their current funding levels. However, advocates in several states are mounting strong campaigns to obtain or increase their state funding. In Kentucky, Oregon and Washington efforts are underway to seek increases in filing fee surcharges, and in Delaware, Florida and Maryland advocates are working to obtain or increase state appropriations. For more complete information on this year's legislative efforts, contact Meredith McBurney, Director, Project to Expand Resources for Legal Services, mm8091@aol.com, 303/329-8091.

### 📌 Large and Small Bars Successfully Implement Dues Check-offs for Legal Aid –

More bar associations have been considering using check-off line items on their dues statements to help increase revenue for legal aid providers. In the past year, legal aid funding in Texas and Wyoming has been increased through this mechanism. Texas, a state with approximately 75,000 attorneys, converted from an add-on to an opt-out system, and legal aid funding increased from \$45,000 to slightly more than \$1,000,000. Wyoming instituted its first add-on to fund legal aid and generated \$14,000 from its 1,900 attorneys. For more information about the Texas check-off, contact Cynthia Riley, Program Director, Texas Lawyers Care, criley@texasbar.com or 512/463-1463, ext. 2155; for Wyoming, contact Leigh Ann Manlove, Director, Wyoming State Bar Foundation, lamanlove@wyomingbar.org or 307/632-9061, ext. 15.

### 📌 Washington State IOLTA Program Awaits Decision from U.S. Supreme Court –

To date, the U.S. Supreme Court has not rendered its decision in *Washington Legal Foundation v. Legal Foundation of Washington*, No. 01-1325. The case involves a challenge to the application of the IOLTA program to Limited Practice Officers – individuals licensed by the Supreme Court of Washington to practice law for the limited purpose of real estate closings. The petitioners sought review of an *en banc* decision issued by the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on November 14, 2001, finding in favor of the Legal Foundation of Washington (Washington IOLTA program) and rejecting claims that it violates the Fifth Amendment. The case was argued on December 9, 2002, and a decision is expected by no later than the end of June. The ABA Commission on IOLTA and the National Association of IOLTA Programs plan to provide bar leaders with an analysis of the decision and its impact shortly after the Court issues its ruling. For more information, contact Bev Groudine, Counsel, ABA Commission on IOLTA, at bgroudine@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5771.

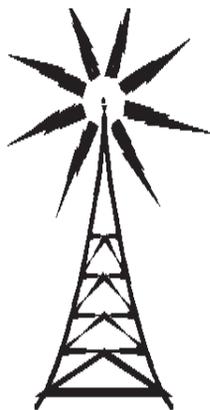
## Pro Bono Developments

### 📌 Missouri Bar Study Finds that State's Lawyers Are Providing Significant Pro Bono Representation to the Poor –

According to a study commissioned by the Missouri Bar Association, it is estimated that practicing lawyers in that state provide an average of 42 hours of pro bono legal service per year. Assuming a conservative average billing rate of \$100 per hour, the study concluded that the state's lawyers contribute \$50 million each year in free legal services to the poor.

The University of Missouri conducted the study by interviewing a representative sample of 100 attorneys who are licensed and actively practicing law in the state. The report found that an important factor in attorneys' pro bono involvement was the size of the law firm in which they practiced. The smaller the law firm, the more hours of pro bono service a lawyer was likely to provide. Lawyers describing themselves as generalists reported more pro bono activity than lawyers who defined their practice as focused on a specific area. Also, senior attorneys reported more activity in pro bono and public service efforts than younger attorneys. For more information, contact Jack Wax, Media Relations Director, The Missouri Bar, [jack.wax@mobar.org](mailto:jack.wax@mobar.org) or 573/638-2251. To read the entire study, see <http://www.mobar.net/research>

➤ **Philadelphia LawWorks Launched** – The Business Law Section of the Philadelphia Bar Association (PBA), in collaboration with Philadelphia Volunteers for the Indigent Program (Philadelphia VIP), Community Legal Services and several other local legal services providers, recently launched Philadelphia LawWorks. This program will link pro bono lawyers with non-profit groups and small businesses that cannot afford to hire a lawyer and are in need of legal assistance to handle transactional matters impacting their business operations. Various legal services providers throughout the region will screen prospective clients. Philadelphia VIP will then match clients with pro bono lawyers and coordinate support services for these volunteers. The creation of Philadelphia LawWorks follows a national effort by the ABA to encourage state and local bar associations to create business law pro bono programs, which use transactional lawyers to represent non-profit community-based organizations. Currently there are about 40 such pro bono programs across the country. For more information about LawWorks, contact William J. Woodward, Jr., Co-Chair of the Pro Bono Committee of the PBA's Business Law Section, at [William.Woodward@temple.edu](mailto:William.Woodward@temple.edu) or 215/204-8984. For information about business law pro bono programs, visit <http://www.abaprobono.org/business-ced.html>



## WASHINGTON UPDATE

On February 20, 2003, the President signed into law H.J. Res. 2, known as the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003. This massive \$397.4 billion bill, which includes 11 of the 13 annual appropriations bills, provides a total of \$338.8 million for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC), a \$9.5 million increase over last year's funding. This increase will prevent some of the drastic funding cuts in the states and service areas negatively affected by the reallocation of funding following the 2000 Census. LSC management is reviewing the appropriations bill and considering whether to allocate the \$9.5 million on a pro rata basis among those specific states and service areas that were slated to lose funding, or to take a different approach. This increase, while not the \$19 million we had hoped for, nevertheless represents a significant victory and a step in the right direction for continued increased funding for LSC. For more information, contact Julie Strandlie, Director, ABA Grassroots Operations/Legislative Counsel at [jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org](mailto:jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org) or 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).