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Funding News

✦ **State Legislative Funding Passes \$100 Million Mark for 2000-01** - With new funding in Arizona and Illinois and increases in appropriations in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oklahoma and Washington, state legislative funding totaled \$102,257,000 nationwide this year. All but 11 states now receive some form of state funding, either through a direct appropriation or court fees or fines. State funding is the third largest source of funding nationally for legal services, after the Legal Services Corporation and IOLTA. For more information, contact Meredith McBurney, Project Director, ABA Project to Expand Resources for Legal Services (PERLS), at mm8091@aol.com or 303/329-8091.

✦ **Legal Services Advocates Prepare for Next Legislative Session** - Legal services supporters in many states are already hard at work on efforts to obtain new state funds or increase their current funding levels. Arkansas, Mississippi and New Mexico are planning to mount campaigns to obtain first-time funding, while Arizona, California, Massachusetts and Washington report efforts to increase their state funding. For more information on developing a legislative campaign, or to report activity in your state, contact Meredith McBurney, Project Director, ABA Project to Expand Resources for Legal Services (PERLS), at mm8091@aol.com or 303/329-8091.

✦ **IOLTA Litigation Update** - Since the last edition of Legal Services Now and as of press time, there have been no new developments in either the Texas or Washington State lawsuits challenging IOLTA. For a recap: in Texas, briefing was completed in September 2000 before the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals and the parties are awaiting the scheduling of oral arguments; in Washington State, oral arguments were held before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on February 9, 2000, and the parties are awaiting a decision. For a full description of each case, visit www.abanet.org/legalservices/iolta.html or contact Bev Groudine, Counsel, ABA Commission on IOLTA, at bgroudine@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5771.

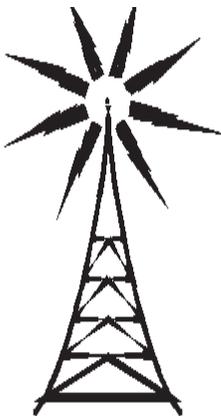
Pro Bono Developments

✦ **Pro Bono Initiative Launched by University of Utah College of Law** - The University of Utah College of Law recently launched its Pro Bono Initiative, a collaborative effort of the law school, the Utah State Bar Association and local legal services providers. The Pro Bono Initiative is a voluntary program, which encourages participating students to perform at least fifty hours of pro bono work prior to graduation. It is designed to promote an ethic of public service in law students and to increase the availability of legal services to Utah's low-income populations and non-profit organizations. As part of the Initiative, the College of Law has created a joint project with the Utah State Bar Association Pro Bono Project to place law students with bar members working on pro bono cases. For additional information, contact Jenny Gelman or Lucinda Gryzenia, Pro Bono Coordinators, at probono@law.utah.edu or 801/581-5418.

📌 **Texas Community Development Corporations to Receive Pro Bono Assistance** - A new statewide project, Texas Community Building with Attorney Resources ("Texas C-Bar"), has been established which will provide Texas Community Development Corporations ("CDCs") with access to free legal services from pro bono attorneys. Texas C-Bar will also administer a resource center for attorneys who provide legal services to CDCs. The project, which is an initiative of and housed at Legal Aid of Central Texas, is funded by the Texas Bar Foundation and supported by the nine other federally funded legal services programs in the state. For more information, contact Heather Way, Director, Texas C-Bar, at hway@lact.org or 512/447-7707, ext. 370.

Hot On the Web

📌 **ABA Standards for Programs Providing Civil Pro Bono Legal Services to Persons of Limited Means** - This important resource for pro bono programs, which was previously released in hard copy, is now available on the ABA Division for Legal Services Website. The Standards are intended to provide guidance to newly established programs and their governing bodies and to provide a basis for improving and evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of existing programs. To download a copy, visit www.abanet.org/legalservices/standards1.html



Congress approved \$330 million for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) on October 27, but the appropriations legislation has not yet been signed into law. The LSC appropriation was originally part of the conference report on H.R. 4942 (H. Rept. 106-1005), which includes fiscal year 2001 funding for the District of Columbia as well as the Departments of Commerce, Justice and State, the Judiciary and related agencies (CJS). The bill faced a veto threat from the White House over a package of immigration provisions sought by the President. Intending to wait out the results of the presidential election to resolve outstanding differences, the Republican leadership has not sent the bill to the White House for the president's signature or veto.

WASHINGTON UPDATE

If signed into law as passed by Congress on October 27, LSC's funding would provide \$310 million for basic field programs and independent audits, \$10.8 million for management and administration, \$2.2 million for the Office of the Inspector General, and \$7 million for client self-help and information technology. For the latest information on LSC funding, log on to www.abanet.org/poladv or contact Julie Strandlie at 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.