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## Funding News

✎ **Final Report on State Appropriations for Legal Services in 2003** – Advocates in several states enjoyed success this legislative season in obtaining new state appropriations for legal services. Delaware, Louisiana and Maryland (in addition to Utah, which was reported on in the April 2003 edition of *Legal Services Now*) joined the list of states with funding from state general revenues. Advocates in Delaware obtained \$200,000, and in both Louisiana and Maryland appropriations of \$300,000 were approved. It should be noted that while Maryland had not previously received general revenue funds, it has obtained legal services funding for several years from a filing fee surcharge and the state abandoned property fund. For more information, contact Meredith McBurney, Director, Project to Expand Resources for Legal Services (PERLS), at mm8091@aol.com or 303/329-8091.

✎ **Update on Fees Approved by Legislatures to Fund Legal Services** – Legal services providers in Missouri, Oregon and West Virginia will reap the benefit of increases in various fees imposed by their legislatures in 2003. In Missouri, a filing fee surcharge was approved, which will replace a state appropriation as the legal aid funding source and provide an estimated net increase of \$1.7 million annually. In Oregon, an increase in court filing fees was passed, in part to generate additional funds for legal services. The amount for legal services will increase incrementally over the next three years, at which time it is expected to generate approximately \$1 million annually. And in West Virginia, the marriage license fee was increased to fund courthouse improvements and legal services for domestic violence victims. The total for legal services, \$300,000, replaces what had been a \$150,000 appropriation. For additional information, contact Meredith McBurney, PERLS Project Director, at mm8091@aol.com or 303/329-8091.

## Pro Bono Developments

✎ **Washington State Amends RPC 6.1** – The Supreme Court of Washington recently amended its Rule of Professional Conduct (RPC) 6.1 to include an annual aspirational goal of 30 hours of pro bono service. The amendments also provide a vehicle for voluntary reporting of pro bono activities on the Washington State Bar Association annual fee statement, and institute a recognition award program for lawyers who contribute at least 50 hours of pro bono each year. For more information, contact Joan Fairbanks, Access to Justice Manager, Washington State Bar Association, at joanf@wsba.org or 206/727-8282.

✎ **Wyoming Approves CLE Credit for Pro Bono Activity** – Rule 4 of the *Rules for Continuing Legal Education of Members of the Wyoming State Bar* was recently amended to include continuing legal education (CLE) credit for pro bono activity. A maximum of three hours of accredited CLE may be granted to lawyers who provide pro bono representation or mentoring activities that are approved by the Wyoming Pro Bono Organization. An attorney may receive one hour of CLE credit for every five hours of pro bono work, with the number of CLE credits not to exceed three per year. Other states that are offering CLE credit to encourage pro bono activity include New York, Tennessee and Washington. For more information, contact Leigh Anne Manlove, Executive Director, Wyoming State Bar Foundation, at lamanlove@wyomingbar.org or 307/632-9061, ext. 15.

## Hot On the Web

 **Lifting the Burden: Law Student Debt as a Barrier to Public Service** – This report, which concludes the work of the ABA Commission on Loan Repayment and Forgiveness, provides an analysis of the law school educational debt problem, discusses the impact of the problem and summarizes strategies that have been developed to help address it. The report includes ten conclusions about the debt burden issue and its impact on the profession. It also presents 19 detailed recommendations which, taken together, constitute a comprehensive package designed to provide relief for and incentives to lawyers who want to serve their communities through public service careers. To read the document, go to [www.abalegalservices.org/lrap](http://www.abalegalservices.org/lrap). For more information, contact Bev Groudine, Associate Counsel, ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants, at [bgroudine@staff.abanet.org](mailto:bgroudine@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5771.

 **Rural Pro Bono Delivery: A Guide to Pro Bono Legal Services in Rural Areas** – This publication is designed as a resource for bar leaders, legal services providers and volunteer lawyer programs looking for ways to serve clients in rural areas and strengthen the support system for the advocates who help rural clients. Released by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service and its project, the Center for Pro Bono, it contains much useful information, including an analysis of the barriers to rural legal services delivery, examples of successful strategies to enhance rural pro bono delivery, and links to other rural resources. To download a copy, go to [www.abaprobono.org](http://www.abaprobono.org). For more information, contact Dina R. Merrell, Director of the ABA Center for Pro Bono, at [merrelld@staff.abanet.org](mailto:merrelld@staff.abanet.org) or 312/988-5773.



### WASHINGTON UPDATE

On July 9, 2003, the House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee recommended funding LSC at \$338.8 million for FY 2004, the same amount as fully appropriated for FY 2003. The amount was ultimately included in the CJS appropriations bill passed by the House on July 23, 2003. The Senate Appropriations Committee on September 4, 2003, also approved \$338.8 million for LSC. The full Senate must now pass the CJS bill. Given several other non-related, controversial provisions, it is highly possible the CJS bill will be included with several other appropriations bills in an omnibus package likely to be considered by the Senate in October.

On June 27, 2003, the Senate confirmed the nomination of David Hall to serve on the LSC Board of Directors. On September 23, 2004, the White House nominated Bernice Phillips of New York, to be a member of the Board replacing Maria Louisa Mercado. The White House still must nominate one more member to complete the new 11-person board. The new LSC Board is now seeking nominations and applications for the position of LSC president. The application deadline is October 22, 2003. For more information regarding the application process, go to the LSC website at [www.lsc.gov](http://www.lsc.gov); for more information regarding the LSC appropriation and related matters, 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).