Year in Review
2013

Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services
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Message From The Chair

The mission of the ABA Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services is to expand access to legal services to those of moderate incomes – those who have too many assets to qualify for legal aid or pro bono services, yet lack the resources to pay for full traditional legal services.

The Committee provides resources to the organized bar, non-profit organizations, the judiciary, practitioners and law schools to advance this mission. This Year in Review is among those resources. It is designed to help stakeholders broaden their understandings of the issues, identify others who are working in parallel paths and facilitate the conversations about increased avenues of access to legal services for those just beyond the poor.

The Report annotates articles from the legal press, bar publications and reports. It provides information about court rules, orders, guidelines and ethics opinions that were adopted in 2013. The Report also details information about policies supported by the Standing Committee, models promoted through the ABA Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access and research into these issues. While the work of the Committee is presented, the Report highlights the work of many entities at all levels that share a dedication to improving access to justice through a wider conversation, policy decisions and programmatic advances. For further reference, the resources provided by the Committee are at www.americanbar.org/delivery.

The Committee anticipates and hopes the material in this Report will encourage and better enable those from every corner of the justice system to further justice for all.

Dwight L. Smith

Chair
OUTREACH

Through the Delivery Committee website, which is routinely updated with articles, reports, ethics opinions, events and more, the Delivery Committee encourages the ABA, other bar associations and legal groups to actively respond to the unmet legal needs for those of moderate income.

ARTICLES

January 2013

- **Help for the Solo Practitioner: Solo incubator programs are sprouting up across the U.S., with two in San Diego (The National Jurist)**
  California Western School of Law’s Incubator, the Access to Law Initiative, (ALI) becomes the first incubator in the country with two locations. This article discusses the growth of ALI as well as the number of incubators in general.

February 2013

- **Walk-In Retail Law Center to Open in Palo Alto (Palo Alto Weekly)**
  In an effort to make legal assistance more accessible, LegalForce opens a store in Palo Alto. See LegalForce's video for more information.

- **Attorneys Allowed to Have Virtual Offices (NorthJersey.com)**
  An amendment adopted by the New Jersey Supreme Court on February 1st provides that New Jersey lawyers no longer need a traditional brick-and-mortar office to practice.

  The new Washington State Limited Legal Technician Rule is discussed at length in this law review article.

March 2013

- **N.S. to Allow Unbundling of Legal Services (Canadian Lawyer Magazine)**
  Updates to Nova Scotia Barristers’ Society's Code of Professional Conduct expand access to legal services for those who cannot afford a lawyer for an entire case and who are not eligible for legal aid.

- **Unbundling May Be the Key to Legal Aid Survival, President Says (The Law Society Gazette)**
  President of The Law Society of England and Wales suggests that offering unbundled services may be the key to legal aid survival.
To Place Graduates, Law Schools Are Opening Firms (New York Times)
Law school firms address two problems: heavily indebted law graduates with no clients and the vast number of Americans unable to afford a lawyer.

Law Incubators Help New Attorneys (The San Diego Union-Tribune)
The article discusses the increasing number of legal incubators launching throughout the country, focusing on two recent launches in California; the Thomas Jefferson School of Law Center for Solo Practitioners and California Western School of Law’s Incubator, the Access to Law Initiative, (ALI)

April 2013

Legal Walk-In Self-Help Center Has Soft Opening (Journal Star)
Recently, Legal Aid of Nebraska opened a store-front Access to Justice (A2J) office in Lincoln for people who need help with civil matters. The idea came in response to the fact that at least one party in more than half of civil cases in court does not have an attorney.

New Lawyer Inc(ubator) Program (Dialogue Magazine)
The Columbus Bar Association added to its incubator, Columbus Bar inc., inc Limited – a new program to assist attorneys with 0–5 years practice experience who are launching or have already opened a new firm, as well as well as those who are interested in making a career transition.

May 2013

‘Low Bono’ Endeavor Aims to Address Unmet Legal Needs (The Connecticut Law Tribune)
Recognizing that pro bono work can only address some of the significant legal needs of low and middle income communities, 'low bono' work is increasingly bridging the gap.

Expanding the Empirical Study of Access to Justice (Wisconsin Law Review)
Researchers Catherine Albiston and Rebecca Sandefur identify concerns with the current state of the research on access to justice and suggest ways to improve the way such research is conducted.

June 2013

Superior Court Judges Approve Limited Scope Representation Pilot (The Connecticut Law Tribune)
Under a pilot program, Connecticut will for the first time begin allowing unbundling. If the program is found to be successful, unbundling may be expanded to additional types of legal matters in the state.
• **Legal Aid Program in Tenn. Uses Faith-Based Approach to Find People Who Need Lawyers’ Help (Fox News)**
  Besides reaching people who need help through their pastors, rabbis and imams, a Tennessee faith-based initiative also works through houses of worship to recruit the attorneys who donate their services.

• **Illinois Supreme Court Amends Rules Allowing Limited Scope Representation (Illinois State Bar Association)**
  Illinois amends court rules to clarify and encourage limited scope representation, thus lessening the legal costs in civil cases for clients of limited means.

• **Technology ‘Brings Lawyer and Client Closer’ (USA Today)**
  Technology facilitates more efficient and cost effective communication, helping lawyers provide better legal services to more clients.

• **Consider Law Schools With In-House Firms, Incubators (U.S. News & World Report)**
  The many benefits legal incubators offer are attractive to prospective law students.

• **Touro Law Announces International Center for Post-Graduate Development & Justice (Touro Law Press Release)**
  Touro Law Center announces the creation of the International Center for Post-Graduate Development & Justice, to be headed by renowned access to justice leader Fred Rooney.

The 2013 Chicago-Kent College of Law’s Law Review Symposium, Justice, Lawyering and Legal Education in the Digital Age, included a Law Review issue dedicated to the event with the following articles:

- **Introduction** by Ronald W. Staudt and Marc Lauritsen
- **Access to Justice and Technology Clinics: A 4% Solution** by Ronald W. Staudt and Andrew P. Medeiros
- **If Only We Knew What We Know** by Conrad Johnson and Brian Donnelly
- **Thinking Like a Lawyer, Designing Like an Architect: Preparing Students for the 21st Century Practice** by Tanina Rostain, Roger Skalbeck, and Kevin G. Mulcahy
- **The Teaching of Law Practice Management and Technology in Law Schools: A New Paradigm** by Richard S. Granat and Stephanie Kimbro
- **Teaching Law and Digital Age Legal Practice with an AI and Law Seminar** by Kevin D. Ashley
- **Developing an E-Curriculum: Reflections on the Future of Legal Education and on the Importance of Digital Expertise** by Oliver R. Goodenough
- **Law Schools as Knowledge Centers in the Digital Age** by Vern R. Walker, A.J. Durwin, Philip H. Hwang, Keith Langlais, and Mycroft Boyd
- **Gaming The System: Approaching 100% Access To Legal Services Through Online Games** by William E. Hornsby, Jr
• **Liberty, Justice, and Legal Automata** by Marc Lauritsen

**July 2013**

• **Improving Access to Justice for Self-Represented Litigants (Center on Court Access to Justice For All)**
  The National Center for State Court’s Center on Court Access to Justice for All provides a series of Access Briefs to help courts ensure that self-represented litigants have access to the information and services they need.

**August 2013**

  The Illinois Supreme Court amends its rules to help clarify the procedures for providing limited scope representation to encourage attorneys to provide such services.

**September 2013**

• **Law School, Legal Community Launch Incubator for Newly Minted Lawyers (Memphis Business Journal)**
  University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and the Memphis Bar Association launch an incubator, Esq. Build.

**October 2013**

• **Legal Incubators — Helping to Hatch Solo Practices (Lawyerist)**
  With low hiring rates and more new lawyers going solo, legal incubators assist entrepreneurs.

• **Justice Bridge Legal Center: Empowering New Lawyers to Deliver Quality, Affordable Legal Services to Clients of Modest Means (The Northeastern University School of Law)**
  The Northeastern University School of Law launches the Practice Incubator and Legal Access Center.

• **ABA president to tackle ‘broken US legal system’ (The Guardian)**
  ABA President Silkenat discusses his ideas for a Legal Access Job Corps to respond to enormous unmet legal need coupled with a large number of unemployed or underemployed lawyers.
November 2013

- **UND Law Pilot Program to Offer Internships in Rural North Dakota** *(University of North Dakota School of Law News)*
  A new effort by the North Dakota Bar Association and University of North Dakota Law School seeks to alleviate the attorney shortage in rural North Dakota.

- **Continental Breakfast: ABA President James Silkenat** *(The American Lawyer)*
  ABA President Silkenat discusses the Legal Access Job Corps and other ABA initiatives.

BAR JOURNAL ARTICLES

January 2013

- **Chicago-Kent’s Solo-Attorney Incubator Nurtures New Lawyers** *(Illinois Bar Journal)*
  Chicago-Kent’s innovative law school program gives new admittees office space and real-world experience under the guidance of former professors, meanwhile providing low-cost legal services for the public.

March 2013

- **Law Practice Management: Riding the DIY Wave** *(Illinois Bar Journal)*
  Article discusses the proliferation of do-it-yourself law sites like Rocket Lawyer and Legal Zoom and suggests that practitioners respond by using technology more efficiently and by serving and billing clients in new ways.

June 2013

- **What Ethics Issues to Consider When Offering Unbundled Legal Services** *(ABA Journal)*
  Article discusses ethical issues that arise in the context of unbundled legal services.

July 2013

- **Task Force Finalizes Practical Skills Proposal** *(California Bar Journal)*
  California task force sends to the State Bar’s Board of Trustees a far-reaching proposal geared towards improving the practical skills of new lawyers.

- **Panel Gives Nod to Limited License Idea** *(California Bar Journal)*
  California State Bar working group recommends further study of a limited license to practice law program in order to boost access to legal services for low- and moderate-income Californians.
August 2013

- **New Supreme Court Rules a Boon to Limited-Scope Representation (Illinois Bar Journal)**
  Article discusses the new amendments to Illinois’ limited scope representation rules which create business opportunities for lawyers by making it easier to represent clients for part, but not all, of a lawsuit or transaction.

- **Incoming ABA President James Silkenat puts a job corps for new lawyers at the top of his agenda (ABA Journal)**
  Incoming ABA President Jim Silkenat will focus on the unmet legal needs of disadvantaged communities and the oversupply of unemployed lawyers.

September 2013

- **Law Firm that Filled in Petition Blanks Wasn’t Ghostwriting, 11th Circuit Says (ABA Journal)**
  A federal appeals court overturns sanctions imposed on lawyers after an employee at their law firm helped a client fill in the blanks of a bankruptcy petition without disclosing that assistance when the document was filed with the U.S. bankruptcy court.

October 2013

- **INCubator-Style Programs Growing Among Law Schools (ABA Student Lawyer)**
  Law schools are increasingly recognizing the need for expanded the hands-on, post-graduate training for new lawyers that legal incubators provide.

- **Legal Access Job Corps will place law grads in areas with unmet legal needs (ABA Journal)**
  ABA President Jim Silkenat discusses the “paradox involving access to justice” that those of low and moderate income cannot find or afford a lawyer while at the same time law graduates find it difficult to gain the practical experience.

BLOGS AND COMMENTARY

January 2013

- **Increasing Access with Tech: Report from LSC Tech Summit (Virtual Law Practice)**
  Stephanie Kimbro reports on the two Legal Services Corporation (LSC) Technology Summits.
February 2013

- **ABA Passes Unbundling Resolution** ([Richard Zorza’s Access to Justice Blog](http://www.richardzorza.blogspot.com))
  Richard Zorza responds to the ABA's new unbundling resolution, recently passed at the ABA Midyear Meeting.

- **ABA Adopts Unbundling Resolution** ([Virtual Law Practice](http://www.virtuallawpractice.com))
  Stephanie Kimbro responds to the ABA's new unbundling resolution, recently passed at the ABA Midyear Meeting.

- **Lawyers “Need to Unbundle Services” to Compete with Online Providers** ([Legal Futures](http://www.legalfutures.co.uk))
  Blogger discusses how offering unbundled legal services can improve access to the law for the rising number of self-represented litigants, as well as help lawyers expand their client base and compete with online document assembly services like Rocket Lawyer and LegalZoom.

- **Stephanie Kimbro: The Next Lawyering Frontier** ([Attorney at Work](http://www.attorneyatwork.com))
  Stephanie Kimbro discusses opportunities for today’s lawyers, social media, unbundling, and ethical guidelines for the practice of law over the Internet.

March 2013

- **List of Must-Reads Related to Law and Tech** ([Virtual Law Practice](http://www.virtuallawpractice.com))
  Stephanie Kimbro posts a list of the top updates in virtual law practice from the past 6 months.

- **The Unbundling of Legal Services: Will Lawyers Do It or Leave It to Consumers?** ([Attorneys Liability Protection Society Blog](http://www.alpsblog.org))
  Robert Minto reflects on unbundling, as discussed at the 2013 Western States Bar Conference.

- **Get a New Model or Lose Clients** ([The Lawyer](http://www.thelawyer.com))
  In areas where technology can help clients to help themselves, the billable hour is outdated, as discussed in this recent post.

May 2013

- **Balancing Fun with Legal Nuance in Game Design** ([Virtual Law Practice](http://www.virtuallawpractice.com))
  Stephanie Kimbro discusses the creation of an educational game that will engage players on an emotional level to help them think about real-world legal issues.

- **Law Society Publishes Guidance on ‘Unbundling’ Legal Services to Lower Costs** ([Marilyn Stowe Blog](http://www.marilynstowe.com))
The Law Society's recently published guidance for lawyers in England planning on offering unbundled services are summarized and discussed by family law blogger, Marilyn Stowe.

**July 2013**

- **How Entrepreneurship is Reshaping the Legal Industry (Forbes Commentary)**
  Forbes contributor Cari Sommer makes the argument that this is a good time for legal entrepreneurship and discusses some trends we can expect to see.

**August 2013**

- **New Center For Law Practice Technology (Richard Granat’s eLawyering Blog)**
  Richard Granat announces the opening of the Center for Law Practice Technology – himself and Stephanie Kimbro as co-directors – as well as discusses the importance of understanding legal practice technology.

**November 2013**

- **Julie MacFarlane on Barriers to Unbundling (Richard Zorza’s Access to Justice Blog)**
  Richard Zorza discusses Dr. Julie McFarlane’s blog about why lawyers are not offering unbundling services.

**December 2013**

- **Bona Fide Office Rule In the News Again (Virtual Law Practice)**
  Stephanie Kimbro discusses an opinion from the Delaware Supreme Court surrounding the state’s bona fide office rule, noting the rule’s limitations and its potential to discourage lawyers from considering virtual law practice and online legal services.

**REPORTS**

**February 2013**

- **Using Technology to Unbundle in the Legal Services Community**
  Stephanie Kimbro’s report in the Harvard Journal of Law and Technology provides an overview of the different forms of unbundling and examines the use of technology to unbundle legal services and deliver the unbundled services to clients.
May 2013

- **Unbundling Family Legal Services**
  In the wake of England's drastic legal aid cuts, the Law Society has published guidance for solicitors opting to unbundle in order to lower the cost of legal services.

July 2013

- **The Judicial Working Group on Litigants in Person: Report**
  The Judiciary of England and Wales' Judicial Working Group on Litigants in Person has issue a report which includes a number of technology-related recommendations.

EVENTS

March 2013

- **2013 Wisconsin Equal Justice Conference (State Bar of Wisconsin)**
  The Wisconsin Equal Justice Conference was held on March 8, 2013 in Madison at the UW Pyle Center. This biannual event was developed by the State Bar’s Legal Assistance Committee as a way to bring together people committed to expanding equal justice under law for low income and disadvantaged Wisconsin residents who face civil legal issues.

April 2013

- **The Georgetown Iron Tech Lawyer Contest (Georgetown Law School)**
  The annual Georgetown Iron Tech contest was held this year on April 17th. Teams of law students worked with Neota Logic to produce apps that help people assess their legal needs.

- **Tomorrow’s Lawyer with Richard Susskind (Suffolk University Law School’s Institute on Law Practice Technology and Innovation)**
  Presented by Suffolk University Law School's New Institute on Law Practice Technology and Innovation, Richard Susskind gave a lecture on April 18th.

May 2013

- **Future Friday Seminars: Strengthening Your Practice Through Technology (American Bar Association)**
  A series of seminars offered by the ABA presented information on the latest technological innovations affecting the practice of law.

- **The Ethics of Unbundled Services (The Pro Bono Institute)**
  On May 15th, the Pro Bono Institute hosted a webinar on the ethics of unbundled legal services and pro bono.
June 2013

- **Law Review Symposium: Justice, Lawyering and Legal Education in the Digital Age (Chicago-Kent College of Law)**
  The June 15th symposium, featuring 17 speakers, was hosted by the Chicago-Kent Center for Access to Justice & Technology and the Chicago-Kent Law Review.

September 2013

- **Access to Justice Online Training Series for Libraries (Pro Bono Net)**
  Pro Bono Net offered four national training webinars for librarians, with the goal of increasing awareness about free, online resources for people with legal needs. The webinars were recorded and made available online through Pro Bono Net for those who could not attend.

- **Court Technology Conference 2013 (National Center for State Courts)**
  The 2013 Court Technology Conference, featuring a dedicated educational track on Self-Represented Litigants took place on September 17-19th in Baltimore, MD.

November 2013

- **Until Civil Gideon: Expanding Access to Justice (Fordham Law School)**
  Fordham Law School’s November 1st symposium included sessions entitled: Civil Gideon; The Role of Non-lawyers; Unbundled Legal Services; Technology and Self-Help; and Court Innovations.

**INITIATIVES AND PROGRAMS**

**Enterprise Fund: Blueprint to Enhance Legal Services and Alleviate Under-Employment of Lawyers**
In 2013, the ABA Board of Governors funded the Blueprint to Enhance Legal Services and Alleviate Under-Employment of Lawyers (the Blueprint Project). The Delivery Committee is leading a coalition of ten entities on the year-long, multi-disciplinary, collaborative project that seeks solutions based on systemic changes in the delivery of legal services to clients with low and moderate incomes. A steering committee, chaired by Bob Hirshon, is working toward a website that will generate a conversation about a series of issues to enhance cost effective delivery of legal services.

**Legal Access Job Corps**
In 2013, ABA President Jim Silkenat created the Legal Access Job Corps, an initiative advancing innovations that marshal the resources of lawyers to expand access to legal services. The task force leading the initiative is comprised of legal education, legal aid, and legal service delivery experts, with the goal to identify ways of providing legal services to underserved populations while at the same time offering employment and practical experience to unemployed and underemployed lawyers.
Incubator Resource Page
The ABA Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services surveyed law school incubator/residency programs and created an online directory with detailed profiles of all established programs across the country. A number of incubator/residency programs were launched in 2013, including:

- **ESQ. Build - Sole Practitioner Incubator** (The University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law, Memphis, TN)
- **Justice Entrepreneurs Project** (The Chicago Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL)
- **Long Island Community Justice Center (LICJC)** (Touro College Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center, Central Islip, NY)
- **Resident Associate Mentoring Program (RAMP)** (Benjamin N. Cordozo School of Law, New York, NY)
- **Richmond Legal Development Center** (Richmond, VA)

Additionally, a number of programs were created in 2013 to be launched in early 2014 such as:

- **Access to Justice Incubator** (Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY)
- **Associates Fellowship Program** (Rutgers School of Law, Newark, NJ)
- **ASU Alumni Law Group** (Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ)
- **Cleveland-Marshall Solo Practice Incubator** (Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, Cleveland, OH)
- **Justice Bridge – Legal Residency and Incubator Program** (Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA)
- **Legal Innovators for Tomorrow (LIFT) Fellowship Program** (Louisiana Civil Justice Center, New Orleans, LA)
- **Low Bono Incubator Program** (Seattle University School of Law, Seattle, WA)

**POLICY**

**COURT RULES AND ORDERS**

January 2013

- **Louisiana District Court Rule 9.12**
  Effective January 1, 2013, an amendment to Rule for Louisiana District Courts 9.12 allows attorneys to file a Notice of Limited Appearance in lieu of a Notice of Enrollment. The Louisiana Supreme Court also created forms to serve as the Notices of Limited Appearance, which are divided by family-law-related and non-family-law-related cases. The amendment also contains specific withdrawal procedures for use once the agreed-upon services have been completed.
February 2013

- **New Jersey Supreme Court Rule 1:21-1**
  Effective February 1, 2013, amendments to New Jersey Supreme Court Rule stated that a lawyer does not need to maintain a fixed physical location for the practice of law, but does have to make sure the practice is conducted in a way to ensure “prompt and reliable communication with and accessibility by clients, other counsel, and judicial and administrative tribunals”

July 2013

- **Illinois Supreme Court Rules 11, 13 and 137**
  Effective July 1, 2013, amendments to Illinois Supreme Court Rules 13, 11, and 137 clarify and encourage the practice of limited scope representation. The amended rules outline procedures for initiating the limited scope representation, service of documents during the representation, and withdrawing from such representation. Additionally, the amended rules make it clear that an attorney may assist a person who is representing him/herself in drafting or reviewing a pleading or other paper without making a general or limited scope appearance and without the attorney signing the pleading or other paper as otherwise would be required.

August 2013

- **Arizona amendments to Ethics Rules 1.5, 4.2, 4.3, and 6.5, Rule 42, Arizona Rules of the Supreme Court, and Rules 5.1 and 11, Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure.**
  Effective August 28, 2013, the amendments facilitate limited-scope or short-term legal representation. The amended rules outline procedures for initiating the limited scope representation, service of documents during the representation, and withdrawing from such representation.

October 2013

- **Connecticut Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5(b), 1.16, 4.2 and 4.3**
  Effective in October 2013, amendments to Connecticut’s rules outline procedures for communicating fees and expenses for lawyers who provide limited scope services to a client, withdrawing after filing a limited appearance, and communicating with an otherwise unrepresented party for whom a limited appearance has been filed.

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

After reviewing recommendations before the House of Delegates, the Delivery Committee co-sponsored the following item, consistent with the Committee’s mission to expand access to justice for those of moderate income:
2013 Midyear Meeting

- The Delivery Committee promulgated policy on unbundling legal services that was brought to the House of Delegates as Resolution 108, stated as:

  RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association encourage practitioners, when appropriate, to consider limiting the scope of their representation as a means of increasing access to legal services.

  FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association encourage and support the efforts of national, state, local and territorial bar associations, the judiciary and court administrations, and CLE providers to take measures to assure that practitioners who limit the scope of their representation do so with full understanding and recognition of their professional obligations.

  FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association encourage and support the efforts of national, state, local and territorial bar associations, the judiciary and court administrations, and those providing legal services to increase public awareness of the availability of limited scope representation as an option to help meet the legal needs of the public.

LEGISLATION

**South Dakota: HB 1096**
South Dakota Governor Dennis Daugaard has signed HB 1096 into law, making South Dakota the first state in the nation to have legislation designed specifically to assist recruitment of attorneys into rural areas.

MODELS

**Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access**

The Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access honors programs and projects dedicated to matching the unmet legal needs of the middle class and those of moderate incomes with lawyers who provide affordable legal information, services and representation.

The Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access is presented annually to projects, programs and law firms that have made creative contributions to the delivery of legal services in ways that are exemplary and replicable. In 2013, the Delivery Committee recognized three programs.
2013 Brown Award Recipient:

Access Legal Care
Access Legal Care, established in May of 2011, is a Michigan law firm that provides affordable help for common legal needs. By using a model that includes fixed fees and other methods of reducing costs, the law firm is able to offer services that cost 40-60% less than the industry average. Methods of reducing costs include centralizing operations for economies of scale, leveraging technology and automating tasks, utilizing “of counsel” lawyers who have their own independent practices, relying on limited scope representation, and other approaches to streamline services. The firm focuses on the 20% of legal services that most lower and middle income people are likely to need, while referring out other services. Such an efficient and streamlined model is not specific to Michigan and demonstrates a creative combination of cost-reducing processes that may be implemented in other states.

2013 Brown Award Meritorious Recognition Recipients:

JustAdvice Program
Based out of the University of Maryland Carey School of Law, JustAdvice is a faculty and student executed program that provides legal assistance for $10 to people who do not qualify for free legal services yet cannot afford traditionally priced assistance. The program relies on a skills-based teaching model that provides students with a learning experience while simultaneously serving the needs of the community. Clients receive brief legal advice supported by wrap around services from the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy and Social Work. After the 30 minute consultation, clients leave with a roadmap of how to proceed, including referrals and a list of important legal concerns.

Project Rural Practice
In an effort to address the notable decline in the availability of attorneys living in rural and reservation communities, the State Bar of South Dakota founded Project Rural Practice (PRP). PRP’s mission is to establish leadership on issues important to rural legal practitioners, to provide education about and promote the preservation of rural legal practice, to encourage veterans to attend law school and practice law in a rural community, to connect rural communities and practitioners with job-seeking attorneys, and to bring the rural legal practice into the 21st century. In its effort to connect rural law practitioners and communities with job-seeking attorneys interested in the lifestyle and challenges of rural practice, PRP has fostered a partnership with the University of South Dakota School of Law to promote rural practice within its student body.

RESEARCH

The Self-Help Center Census and Directory
In 2012, the Delivery Committee initiated a national survey of legal self-help centers. Data collection continued through 2013 and the results were analyzed and summarized. The results will enable those dedicated to improving access to justice to get a better sense of the scope, value and overall benefits of self-help centers. The information collected will also be used to compile a
directory of programs. The report will be released and the directory completed in 2014; the
directory will continue to evolve as additional centers submit their information.

The National Self-Represented Litigants Project: Identifying and Meeting the Needs of
Self-Represented Litigants
University of Windsor professor, Julie Macfarlane released a study on self-represented litigants
in three Canadian provinces: Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario. The study relied on in-depth
personal interviews and focus groups to collect information on individuals’ motivations,
expectations, resources relied on, experiences in the system, and the consequences of self-
representation. The full report contains a number of detailed recommendations for improvement.

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Will Hornsby, Staff Counsel
April Faith-Slaker, Research and Policy Analyst
Sara Smith, Research and Policy Analyst
Janice Jones, Program and Events Manager