Access to Justice Headlines

February 2016

News Headlines
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ATJ Commissions & Related Developments
Legal Aid Funding & Service Delivery
Developments in the Courts
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Law Schools & Legal Education
Civil Right to Counsel
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General Civil Justice
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ATJ Commission & Related Developments

FL Commission Receives Permanent Status
FL Chief Justice Discusses Commission's Upcoming Projects
MD - Renewed Commission to Advocate for Legal Aid
MD - Launching a Fresh Push to Get the Poor Represented
MS - Commission publishes 2015 Annual Report
MS - Commission: Legal with a Cause
MS - Tiffany Graves Talks about Closing the Gender Poverty Gap
TX - Enhanced eFileTexas to help SRLs
TX - Commission Liaison Faces Challengers in Court Races
TX - Great Video for Raising Awareness for Civil Legal Aid

Legal Aid Funding & Service Delivery

Legal Aid is Big Help to Survivors of Domestic Violence
LSC Sends Budget Request to Congress

Sidebar

The Public Welfare Foundation and the National Center for State Courts have announced the Justice for All Project. The project will support efforts by the states to include all relevant stakeholders in the civil justice community in a partnership to better understand, adopt, and move toward implementation of the CCJ/COSCA resolution on Meaningful Access to Justice for All. RFPs due in May. For more information about the project, see this "fast facts" document.

Conferences & Training

Register for the Equal Justice Conference to take place May 12-14 in Chicago IL, along with a number of other adjoining meetings and events. Of note:

- the Self Represented Litigation Network Preconference,
- the MIE Next New Executive Director Training,
- the National Meeting of State Access to Justice Chairs, and
- additional programming.

Register for the Access to Justice Through Incubator Programs and Non-Profit Law Firms Conference to take place April 1-2 in Kansas City, MO.

Register for the Future Is Now: Innovative Client-Centric Strategies for Building Your Legal
Developments in the Courts

CCJ/COSCA National Task Force on Fines, Fees and Bail Practices
NCSC 2015 Report on Civil Litigation in State Courts
NCSC Court Technology Bulletin Reports on E-Filing by State
Compelling New Report on Seeking Protection Orders
AZ - In Civil Cases, Many Still Self-Representing
CT - Proposed Cuts Compromising ATJ
FL - Sup Ct Chief Justice Making History
IL - More on E-Filing and Civil Court Cases
IL - Videoconferencing Eases Prison Divorce Process
IN - Task Force on Remote Access, Privacy of E-Court Records
KY - Courts Cannot Function with Proposed Budget Cuts
NY - State Court Access to Justice Program 2015 Report
WI - Sup. Ct Adopts Mandatory E-filing in Circuit Courts

Pro Bono & Public Service

Major Law Firms Provide Voices to the Voiceless
GA - Predictions for What’s Hot in Pro Bono in 2016
IL - Pro Bono After the Marriage and Dissolution of Marriage Act
MD - 2014 Pro Bono Status Report Published
MN - Judicare: The 'Low Bono' Option You May Not Know
PA - Pro Bono Patent Assistance Program

Law Schools & Legal Education

MA - Accelerator to Practice Program

Civil Right to Counsel

Harvard CR-CL Law Review Takes up Right to Counsel
NCCRC List of 2016 Right to Counsel Bills in State Legislatures

Awards

Nominations for the 2016 MLP Awards, due by March 7, 2016.
Each spring, the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership recognizes an exceptional medical-legal partnership program and advocate through the Outstanding Medical-Legal Partnership Award and the Distinguished Medical-Legal Partnership Advocate Award.

Nominations for the Harrison Tweed Award, due by April 1, 2016.
This award recognizes the extraordinary achievements of state and local bar associations that develop or significantly expand projects or programs to increase access to civil legal services for poor persons or criminal defense services for indigents.

Nominations for the 2016 Kutak-Dodds Prize, due by April 1, 2016.
The NLADA bestows this award annually to honor the accomplishments of one civil legal aid attorney and one public defender who, through the practice of law, are reinforcing the principle and reality of justice for all under the law. Each prize carries a cash award of $10,000.

Job Postings

Legal Services of Southern Missouri seeks new Executive Director, applications due March 13, 2016.

Other Opportunities

RFPs for LSC's project to improve state legal help websites, due March 4.
Wanted: Competitors for the NCSC Hackathon to take place March 4-5, 2016.
Senators Introduce Bill to Provide Children in Immigration Proceedings a Lawyer
WI - Sup Ct Urges Leg. to Create Civil Access to Counsel Study Committee

**Technology and Data**

As Need for Interpreters Grows, Alaska Turns to Technology
Automating Legal Advice: AI and Expert Systems
App Helps Reduce Disputes About Child Support
Social Justice Hackathon Brings Real Solutions
Can Big Data Increase Access to Justice?

**General Civil Justice**

Remarks at UN Event on Access to Legal Aid as a Measure of Access to Justice, and see the video here.
Divided ABA Adopts Resolution on Nonlawyer Legal Services
Winter Issue of the ABA Dialogue Magazine
Ireland: Society Damaged When Some Can't Access Legal System
Canada: Access to Justice is a Social Issue
Canada: National Database of Professionals Assisting SRLs
Law Review Article: Cancer, Employment Problems, and MLPs

**Poverty Population Trends**

US Ranks #51 in Global Rankings for Children's Access to Justice
Stanford Report: US Performs Poorly on Poverty and Inequality
Harvard Sociologist on Watching Families Lose Their Homes
Forced Out: For Many Poor Americans, Eviction Never Ends
Diapers or Food? A Choice No Parent Should Have to Make
Too Poor to Retire and Too Young to Die

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