News Headlines
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ATJ Commissions & Related Developments

AR - Commission & College Senior Map Legal Needs
AR - Tyson Exec, District judge, to Lead ATJ Commission
FL - $500K to Get Portal Project off the Ground
MS - Legislators Commend ATJ Commission for Helping Poor
MT - Public Forums Generate Press Coverage: on disabled, need for attorneys on reservations, op-ed by Beth Baker, and other updates
NY - Q&A with Helaine Barnett, Chair of NY ATJ Commission

Legal Aid Funding & Service Delivery

U.S. Has Defaulted on Pledge of Equal Justice, Says Jim Sandman
Civil Legal Assistance Critical to Disaster Relief
Five Legal Assistance Groups Receive Funds Under BOA Settlement
AK - House Approves More Funding for Alaska Legal Services Corp
CA - CA Rural Legal Assistance Receives $800,000 Cy Pres Award

Sidebar

National Reentry Week: April 24-30. Each year, more than 600,000 individuals return to our neighborhoods after serving time in federal and state prisons, facing serious and complex obstacles to successful reentry. The long-term impact of criminal records prevents many from obtaining employment, housing, higher education, and credit, and these barriers can contribute to a cycle of incarceration. To highlight this issue, the Justice Department is designating the week of April 24-30, 2016, as National Reentry Week. Read more about it here.

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 Future Is Now: Innovative Client-Centric Strategies for Building Your Legal Practice Today Seminar to take place April 15 in Chicago, IL.

Register for the MIE Supervising
Developments in the Courts

Justice Moves Slowly for Those Who Need Interpreters
Welcome to Rent Court, Where Tenants Can Face a Tenuous Fate
AR - Court Fines Can Now Be Paid at DMV Offices
DE - Judiciary Unveils Mobile Friendly Court Website
NM - Governor Vetoes Bill to Improve Court Interpreter Services
OH - Sup Ct Adopts Rule to Increase Fees, Help Fund Legal Aid
UT - Students Use Fairy Tale Scenario, Learn About Judicial Process
Canada: Empirical Assessment of Judicial Settlement Conferences
Canada: Report from the National Self Represented Litigants Project
UK: Report on Going to Court without a Lawyer

Pro Bono & Public Service

Five Truths About Pro Bono
How Charles Schwab launched Their Pro Bono Challenge
OH - Sup Ct Approves New Status for Lawyers
Steps New Lawyers Can Take to Help End the Justice Gap
Australia: Smaller Firms Can Punch Above Their Weight in Pro Bono
The Changing Contours of 'Low Bono'
Suzanne Pontinen: Why Volunteer Lawyers Network’s Services Are Needed
Why Volunteering Will Help You Be A Better Lawyer

Law Schools & Legal Education

Study Finds Widening Law School Debt Gap Based on Race and LSAT Score
CA - State Bar Requires Law Schools to Disclose Attrition Rates
GA - Read About New Law Student Practice Rule

Civil Right to Counsel

Proposals to Increase Access to Free Lawyers in Civil Cases

Legal Work Training to take place June 27-29 in Ann Arbor, MI

Awards

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

The New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty Seeks a New Executive Director, applications due June 14, 2016.

Other Opportunities

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. Also see Richard Zorza's post about the project.

Graphic Spotlight
States Look to Provide Lawyers for the Poor in Civil Cases
Migrant Children Deserve a Voice in Court
Can a 3 Yr Old Represent Herself in Immigration Court?
The Injustice of Deporting Children Without Representation
MI State Law Review Article: Civil Right to Counsel in DV Cases
CA - AG Filing Amicus Brief to Ensure Unaccompanied Minors Have Attorneys

What are the poor doing all year? The below graphic shows how poor vs nonpoor adults spend their year. The great majority are not able to work because they are children, elderly, disabled, or students. Others spend significant time as caretakers. Click the image below for more information.

Technology and Data

- William Hubbard Speaks About Technology and Access to Justice
- Graphics on US Households With Computers & High-Speed Internet
- ABA Techshow 2016: Q&A with Keynote Speaker Cindy Cohn
- AZ - Coconino Courts Have Eye on Information Technology
- CALI Announces A2J Project Matching Portal
- FL - Bar President's Page: Equal Access Requires Court Tech Upgrade

General Civil Justice

- ABA Delivery Committee's 2015 Year in Review
- ABA Opinion: Communicating with People Receiving Unbundling
- ABA President Paulette Brown: The Voice for Justice
- Canada: Middle-Class Injustice
- Rebecca Sandefur Presents Research at Recent DOJ Meeting
- ABA Future of Legal Services Check-ups Paper, Comments due April 15
- The Journey of Social Justice Lawyer Luz Hererra
- Justice Dept Announces Resources to Assist Reform of Fine and Fee Practices
- The Chicago Bar Foundation’s JEP Toolkit to Help Make Legal Services More Affordable
- White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable Workshop Report

Poverty Population Trends

- Calculator Estimates Your Risk of Poverty During Next 15 Yrs
- CA - Reaches deal to be First State with $15/Hr Min Wage
- NY - Evictions Down by 18%, NY City Cites Increased Legal Services
- New Book Out on Poverty and Evictions, by Matthew Desmond
- Pediatricians Should Screen Kids for Poverty
- Poverty and Disability in America Matter
- Report finds Sharp Increase in Veterans Denied VA Benefits
Email April Faith-Slaker with ATJ news or subscription requests.

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