Announcements

Open Society Foundations (Open Society) is interested in legal empowerment as a means to encourage or preserve the rule of law a crucial element of a healthy democracy both internationally and in this country. Please consider taking their legal empowerment survey.


The ABA Center for Innovation announces fellowships. Applications are due January 31, 2017.

The ATJ Tech Fellows Program 2017 application is now open. Applications are due February 15, 2017.

News Headlines

Civil Right to Counsel
ABA Files Amicus Brief in Case on Representation for Unaccompanied Minors
CA – L.A. County Seeks Right to Counsel for Deportation Proceedings

ATJ Commissions & Related Developments
TX – 2016 ATJ Commission Update
TX – ATJ Commission Legislative Horizon
NY – Support for Right to Counsel for Low Income NY’ers Facing Eviction

Legal Aid Funding & Service Delivery
CA – L.A. Plans $10M for Immigrant Legal Aid
GA – Holistic Legal Services, Bettering Clients’ Lives
ME – New Maine LGBT Legal Fund Launched
NC – Housing Crisis Highlights Need for Legal Aid
NY – Legal Aid Unites Left and Right
TX – Legal Aid for Undocumented Immigrants

Poverty Population Trends
Millions of Renters Face Eviction
42M Americans are Suffering from Hunger
Poor Lack Access to Basic Banking Services
Feel the Sticker Shock of Living in Poverty
NLCHP Issues Annual Housing Report Card
Feel the Sticker Shock of Living in Poverty
Deals Putting Poor People in Lead-Tainted Homes
DC – Advocacy Groups Fight Shelter Reforms

Law Schools & Legal Education
U.S. Underestimates Cost of Loan Programs
ABA Sues Over Public Service Loan Forgiveness Denials
ABA Sues Over Public Service Loan Forgiveness Denials
New Data: Women Now Outnumber Men in Law Schools
'Leaky Pipeline' Puts Women at Legal Career Disadvantage
On the Incubator Movement
MN – Law School Takes Pro Bono on the Road with 'Wheels of Justice'

Technology & Data
Using Tech To Narrow the Justice Gap
Technology Making Pro Bono Easier
LSNTAP’s Legalaid Tech Baseline 2016 Video
How Upsolve Uses Tech to Address Access-to-Justice
Why Data Matters for Securing Racial and Economic Justice
New Podcast on Research and ATJ
Canada – Time to Modernize Courts & Strengthen Faith in Justice System

Pro Bono & Public Service
The Critical Need for Pro Bono Immigration Work

Developments in the Courts
SJI Grants Awarded, Next Round Due Feb 1
Lawyers and Psychologists Help Immigrant Children

Why Volunteering is Good for Your Mental Health

500 Hours Of Pro Bono Work: Biglaw, Small Law & ATJ

CA – Remarkable Experiment in L.A

NY – Lawyers Take On Registry of Child Abuse

OH – Attorneys Report More than 76,000 Hrs in 2015

WY – Volunteer Program Expands Access

Canada – Pro Bono Lawyers Helping Patients Get Well

ID – Sup Ct Ruling Raises Fears About Access to Justice

IN – Sup Ct Looks to Technology in Budget Request

KY – Plan Would Redraw Boundaries for Courts

ME – New Integrated Court Case Management and E-Filing

MI – Program Allows Resolution of Legal Disputes Online

NE – E-Filing for Appellate Courts Complete

NY – White Paper on ATJ and Mentally, Physically Impaired

TX – Report Outlines Plans for Modest Means Clients

General Civil Justice

WH-LAIR Publishes First Annual Report. Also see WH-LAIR blogpost.

The American Bar Association's Greatest Hits (Lost Tracks)

Making Justice Equal

A Year of Big Ideas in Social Change

New Study by Rebecca Sandefur: Helping Tenants Avoid Evictions. Also see Richard Zorza’s post

Study Connects MLPs to Decrease of Chronic Stress

New Year's Resolution: Stop Calling People Non-Lawyers

Court Interpreters Essential to Access to Justice

Video Spotlight

Legal Aid of Nebraska: We Make Equal Justice Happen

Inside Georgia Legal Services Program
Washington Update

On December 9, 2016, prior to adjourning for the year, the Senate passed a Continuing Resolution (CR), previously approved by the House of Representatives, to fund the federal government through April 28, 2017. The President signed the resolution into law the next day. It maintains funding at FY2016 levels, which for the Legal Services Corporation is $385 million. However, the CR did impose an across-the-board reduction of 0.19 percent -- a cut of $668,800 in LSC's appropriation for Basic Field grants.

While the CR provides funds for the federal government through April, it is not known what the appropriations level will be for FY2017. If Congress were to make a significant change in funding for the fiscal year come April, the effect of the change would be realized over, and compressed within, the five remaining months of FY2017.

The ABA will continue its advocacy for adequate funding for LSC. For more information on the ABA's efforts in this area, contact Aloysius Hogan, Legislative Counsel, ABA Governmental Affairs Office, or call 202/662-1767.

Job Postings

Executive Director sought for LAF (formerly the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago), Chicago.

Central California Legal Services, Inc. Seeks Executive Director, Applications due January 31.

Hiscock Legal Aid Society (HLAS) in Syracuse, NY Seeks a President/CEO, applications due
January 31.

Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, DC Seeks Executive Director, applications due February 19.

Conferences & Events

The 2017 Technology Initiative Grants (TIG) Conference will take place in San Antonio, TX on January 11-13.

The 2017 SRLN Conference will take place in San Francisco, CA on February 23-24.

The 2017 MLP Summit will take place in National Harbor, MD on April 6-7.

The 2017 Equal Justice Conference will take place in Pittsburgh, PA on May 4-6.

Email April Faith-Slaker with ATJ news or subscription requests.

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