**Announcements**

Interested in advocating for legal aid? The ABA has set up a website to help organize advocacy, donations and volunteer efforts to support civil legal aid programs across the country. Visit the site here: [www.helplegalaid.org](http://www.helplegalaid.org)

**Letters of Intent to Apply for LSC's Technology Initiative Grants**, due March 13, due March 6

**Nominations for the Distinguished MLP Advocate and Outstanding MLP awards**, due March 6

**Nominations for the Harrison Tweed Award**, due March 31

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**News Headlines**

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**ATJ Commissions & Related Developments**

*Commissions Across the Country Conduct Pro Bono Survey*, [view map of progress here](#)

*New Secretary of Labor Nominee Comes from ATJ Commission*

*IL – Court Approves New Standardized Court Forms*

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**Developments in the Courts**

*DC – Court Raises Small Claims Limit*

*IA – Chief Makes Personal Pitch for Funding to Legislative Panel*

*NJ – Adopts Language Access Plan, View the Plan Here*

*NV – Courts Work on Court Improvements*
TN – Free Legal Clinics to be Held Around State
WI – To Hold Equal Justice Conference in March
TX – Challenges to Accessibility of Web-Based Court Records
WI – Tonya Brito Shares Research on SRLs
Canada – New Court Challenges Program to Include More Rights

Civil Right to Counsel
Can Other U.S. Cities Follow NYC’s Footsteps to Help Renters?
CT – Chat TV Program Features Legislative Task Force
NY – A Strong Step by NYC to Help Tenants Keep Housing
NY – Offers Legal Help for Immigrants Detained at Airports

Law Schools & Legal Education
An A2J Challenge for Law Students
Law Schools & Veterans Legal Clinics
CT – Legal Incubator in Bridgeport A Win-Win For Clients and Lawyers
MN – $25M Donation Boosts UMN Services for Immigrants

Technology & Data
Portals Ease User Navigation
Technology Increases Access to Legal Care
A2J Tech Leaders Have Lessons for Corporate Counterparts
Cloud-Based System to Track those Affected by Travel Ban
Machine Learning’s Push in A2J Initiatives
Testing Google Translate’s Switch, Legal Language
Online Justice and Emerging Digital Possibilities
MN & TX – Law Library Website Redesigns Increase Services

Pro Bono & Public Service
The True Measure of an Associate: Helping Others in Need
FL – New Interactive Pro Bono Site Puts Attorneys in Driver’s Seat
FL – Rule Addresses Conflicts in Brief Pro Bono Advice Settings
GA – Launches Pro Bono Campaign
KS – Launches Kansas Pro Bono
MD – UB law students can now use this platform to find pro bono opportunities
NC – Adopts Voluntary Reporting (correction from last month)

Legal Aid Funding & Service
General Civil Justice
**Delivery**

LSC Possibly Targeted for Elimination in FY18 Budget

The Trump Budget: Keep Civil Legal Aid off the Chopping Block

Federal Cuts Would Target Civil Legal Aid for Poor

Draft of First Trump Budget Would Cut Legal Aid for Millions of Poor Americans

Statement of ABA President Re Support for the LSC

Congressional Briefing on Legal Aid and Disaster Recovery

FL – New Study on Economic Impact of Legal Aid

IN – Bar Foundation Gets Help in Statehouse

MA – Boston Bar Foundation Raises $650K for Legal Aid

MA – Four Legal Aid Orgs Get $350K to Help Veterans

ME – New Study on Economic Impact of Legal Aid

MN – New Study of the Economic Impact of Legal Aid

NY – Lawyers Fight Rent Freeze

TX – Bar and Legal Aid Raise $1.1M for Legal Aid

TX – Emergency Funding for Legal Aid to Refugees, Immigrants

TX – Expanded Mental & Legal Help for Immigrants

ABA House of Delegates Adopts Several A2J Resolutions

ABA Launches ImmigrationJustice.US Website

ABA’s Dialogue Magazine Winter Issue

Companies Offer Access to Lawyers Fighting Immigration Issues

U.S. Resistance to Targeting of Immigrants Becomes a Self-Organized System

Lawyers Fight Travel Ban at Airports

How Lawyers Can Increase Veteran's Access

MLPs Help Vulnerable Patients Overcome Health Obstacles

Report: How Paying for MLPs Saves Lives and Money

Survey Shows Greater Need for MLPs at Homeless Clinics

LSC Honors the Legacy of E. Clinton Bamberger

DC – Reduced Fee Lawyer Service Launches Online Directory

UK – Working to Lift Barriers to Unbundling
Washington Update

Bar leaders, Access to Justice Commissions, members of the judiciary and others will soon be called upon to contact their Members of Congress to protect and preserve the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

President Trump is scheduled to release his FY2018 budget in mid-March. There have been a number of news articles recently indicating that he may seek to zero fund LSC. ABA President Linda Klein issued a statement in support of LSC earlier this month, and the ABA is mounting a vigorous campaign for adequate funding of this vital program. Opportunities to get involved are described at www.helplegalaid.org. Another opportunity is to attend ABA Day, which will take place on April 25-27 in Washington, D.C.

As reported previously, the government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR) for FY2017, which maintains funding at FY2016 levels through April 28, 2017. For LSC, that amount 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 much of April, it is not known what the final 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. For more information about ABA Day and the ABA’s lobbying efforts on behalf of LSC, contact Aloysius Hogan, Legislative Counsel, ABA Governmental Affairs Office, or call 202/662-1767.

Sidebar

Infographic Shows A2J in Rural Communities

Video Spotlight: Florida Bar Foundation’s ATJ Video

Video Spotlight: Florida Legal Access Gateway Pilot Project

Job Postings

NLADA Seeks Directors of Information Technology and Communications
Executive Director sought for LAF (formerly the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago), Chicago.

The Volunteer Attorney Program in Duluth, MN Seeks Executive Director, open until filled

Disability Law Center Seeks Executive Director, applications due March 12.

Land of Lincoln in East St. Louis Seeks Executive Director, applications due March 24

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid in Minneapolis Seeks Executive Director, applications due April 11

Conferences & Events

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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Search an Archive of Access to Justice News Headlines.