Announcements

Nominate a Legal Aid Hero for the NLADA's 2017 Kutak-Dodds Prizes. Nominations due April 6.

ABA Center for Innovation and Microsoft announce fellowship opportunity for recent law school grad, applications due April 15.

Have you done great work automating a form using A2J author? Enter to win the SRLN Best Forms Context. Submissions due by May 1.

News Headlines

ATJ Commissions & Related Developments

CT – Creates Mandatory Language Access Training Program for Judicial Branch Staff

FL – Commission Member Reports on Progress

HI – Commission to Host Access to Justice Conference in June

MS – Commission Announces Launch of "Expunge Mississippi"

Developments in the Courts

7 Prototypes to Make Courts More User-Friendly

DE – Chief Justice Speaks About Access to Justice

DE – Court Starts New Judicial Fellows Program

FL – Courts Make Case for Technology Funding
TN – Commission Launches Series of Legal Help Events Across the States

TX – A Critical Legislative Session for Access to Justice

TX – Recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

WA – To Co-Host Access to Justice Conference in June

WI – Judge Boyle appointed to Wisconsin Commission

IN – New Language Access Task Force

NC – Commission on the Administration of Law & Justice Final Report

WI – Judges to Help Indianapolis Division Judicial Emergency

Legal Aid Funding & Service Delivery

Trump Budget Proposes to Eliminate LSC Funding

Conference of Chief Justices and Conference of State Court Administrators Letter of Support for LSC

Trump Plan Would Do Most Damage in States that Support Him

150+ Law School Deans Support LSC

Heads of Over 150 Law Firms Support LSC

General Counsel From 185 Companies Support LSC

American College of Trial Lawyers Issues Statement in Support of LSC

Bar Associations Issue Statements in Support of LSC

LSC Confident of Bipartisan Support in Congress

Voices for Civil Justice Documents Dozens of LSC-Related Articles

Improving Access to Justice by Choosing General Civil Justice

A Solution for the Access Crisis in Our Civil Justice System

What Will Happen to Americans Who Can’t Afford an Attorney?

Proposal for Expanding the Role of Clinicians in MLPs

AZ – New County Library Makes A2J a Priority

CO – Envisioning 100% Access to Justice in Colorado

NY - State Bar & Legal.io to Launch Lawyer Referral Platform

PA – Legislative Budget and Finance Committee Studies Access to Justice

WA - Preliminary Evaluation of LLLT Program

WI - Legislative Study Committee on Access to Civil Legal Services Forwards Recommendations

WI – Sneak Peek: Practicing Public Interest Law

Canada – Would Allowing More Paralegals to Work in Family Law Help A2J?
Where You Bank

AK – House Passes Legislation to Safeguard Access to Justice

MD – Legal Aid Receives Cy Pres Funds

PA – Former Gov Explains Importance of Legal Aid

WI – Eviction Defense Project Opens

Canada – Unbundling for Underserved Family Law Clients

Canada Former Ontario Chief Recommends Allowing Paralegals to Provide Family Law Services Unsupervised

UK – Experiences of Consumers Who May Be Vulnerable in Family Law

UK – Study Finds Just 10% of People with Legal Problems Turn to Lawyer

Civil Right to Counsel

Housing Defense as the New Gideon

PA – Eviction, Tenants’ Right to Counsel Highlight at Council Hearing

PA – Solving Philly’s Eviction Crisis Will Take City Committing to Free Legal Help

Law Schools & Legal Education

CT – Law Symposium Focuses on MLPs

NC – Law Students Object to Proposal to Bar UNC’s Pro Bono Legal Work

VA – Law Students Provide Help in New Civil Rights Clinic

Poverty Population Trends

Fraud and the Elderly: Is Anyone Paying Attention?

How this Atlantic City Family Survives Amid Poverty

New York Spends $$ on Homelessness, Problem Gets Worse

States Reconsider Licenses to Help Ex-Offenders Get Jobs

Tenants Caught in Legal Tangle Get Evicted

What the Unemployment Rate Says About the Economy

Pro Bono & Public Service

What Exelon Did to Win Pro Bono Honors

AL – Southern Poverty Law Center Launches Project to Help Immigrants

IN – To Consider Extension of Filing Fees to Support Pro Bono

NY – Launches Legal Assistance Program for Immigrants

TX – Law Students Representing Immigrant Families Pro Bono

Technology & Data

Tips and Takeaways from the ABA

TECHSHOW 2017
Mind-Blowing Legal Tech Not Seen at the ABA TECHSHOW

Super Powerful AI Lawyer Comes To Aid Of Refugees

The Rise of the Robolawyers

FL – Bar Foundation Analyzing Data on SRL, Pro Bono Needs

Video Feature

Learning About Legal Self-Help Video from California’s Judicial Council and Supported by the Public Welfare Foundation

Washington Update

On March 16, 2017, President Trump released his FY2018 budget blueprint that provided $0 funding for the Legal Services Corporation. Members of the bar and the public are now being called upon throughout the country to let their members of Congress know of their support for this vital program. There are a number of ways to do so. One is to attend ABA Day (ambar.org/ABADay), which will take place on April 25-27 in Washington, D.C. Another is to schedule a meeting with your members of Congress while they are home on recess from April 7th-21st. You can also easily sign-up as a Legal Aid Defender (www.LegalAidDefender.org). This website enables you to write a short statement of your support for LSC that will be delivered to your members of Congress during ABA Day in Washington. Choose the method that works best for you, but be sure that your voice is heard on this critical issue.

Regarding FY2017 funding for LSC, and as reported previously, the government is currently operating under a Continuing Resolution (CR), 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 the ABA’s lobbying efforts on behalf of LSC, contact Aloysius Hogan, Legislative Counsel, ABA Governmental Affairs Office, or call 202/662-1767.

Job Postings

NLADA Seeks Directors of Information Technology and Communications and Senior Program Associate of Federal Funding

The Florida Bar Seeks Executive Director.

Executive Director South for LAF (formerly the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago), Chicago
The Volunteer Attorney Program in Duluth, MN Seeks Executive Director, open until filled

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

Volunteer Legal Services Project of Monroe County, NY Seeks Executive Director, applications due June 21

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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