May 2017

ACCESS TO JUSTICE HEADLINES

Announcements

The HiIL Justice Accelerator Innovating Justice Challenge 2017 is now open. Apply by June 30th. More information can be found here.

Impact Fund Offers Support for Litigation to Advance Social Justice. Letters of Interest due July 18

News Headlines

ATJ Commissions & Related Developments

Commissions Provide Annual Updates of Activities

AR – Commission Launches New Website

CT – Commission Chair Nominated to Serve on CT Appellate Court

HI – Commission to Sponsor A2J Conference in June

IL – Commission Uses SRLN Maps for Statewide Strategic Plan

Developments in the Courts

Cross-Jurisdictional Review of Public Access to Electronic Court Case Files

CA – Chief Justice Direction Action Based on Recs from Futures Commission

CA – Courts Look to Modernize with Chatbots, Video Tech

CA – Bill Announced to Stop Irrelevant Disclosures of Immigration Status in Open Court

IL – 2016 ARDC Annual Report Highlights
MS – Interview with MS Commission ED, Tiffany Graves

NE – Creates Access to Justice Commission

TX – Champions of Justice Gala Benefiting Veterans Raises $560,200

WA – Commission to Co-Sponsor A2J Conference in June

MD – Officials Want to End Baltimore Rent Court Disparities

MN – Chief Justice Makes Rare Call For Court System Funding

NY – Brooklyn Court Quietly Moves to Toss Out Foreclosure Cases

VI – Outreach Programs Have Lasting Impact on Communities

Canada – Debate Over Allowing Paralegals in Family Court

Canada – Self-Represented Litigants Get a Begrudging Break

**Civil Right to Counsel**

CA - Bay Area Funding Immigrants' Legal Defense

DC - Judiciary Committee Approves $4.5M to Expand Housing Representation

MD - Baltimore Needs 'Paradigm Shift' in Approach to Affordable Housing

**Law Schools & Legal Education**

Trump Budget Seeks to Eliminate Public Loan Forgiveness Program

ABA Seeks Summary Judgment in Lawsuit Over Lawyers Dropped From Loan Forgiveness Program

GA – A2J Center Conducts Serving & Learning Spring Break Projects


**Pro Bono & Public Service**

The Airport Lawyers Who Stood Up to Trump Are Under Attack

How Microsoft is Defending Refugee Minors Facing Deportation

GA – Atlanta School Brings in Lawyers to Fight Student Turnover

MA – Northeastern University School of Law Launches New Pro Bono Collaboration

**Technology & Data**

New GIS Resources Available from SRLN

Canada – A Path to Inclusive Technology
MT – Lawyers Provided $18M in Pro Bono Legal Services in 2016

Poverty Population Trends
An Inside Look at Family and Medical Leave in America

Economic Policy Institute Study Shows Cost of Minimum Wage Violations

How Homeownership Became the Engine of American Inequality

It's Time to Heed the Call of Rural America

Most Unauthorized Immigrants Live 20 Major Metro Areas

Predictors of Persistently Poor Children’s Economic Success

CA – Paying More for Being Poor

General Civil Justice
ABA Delivery Committee Publishes Year in Review

Harvard Law School's A2J Lab Aims to Challenge Legal Exceptionalism

MLPs: Veterans' Health Beyond the Stethoscope

Project to Study Self Help Materials in Debt Collection Cases

These Networks Leverage Synergies for Innovation and Improved A2J

WA – Seattle Federal Judge Says Govn’t Can't Restrict Legal Help for Immigrants

Canada – New Childs Rights Toolkit

Legal Aid Funding & Service Delivery
Trump's Budget Cuts Deeply into Anti-Poverty Efforts

Trump's Cuts to LSC Another Way of Making Poor People Suffer

White House Faces Opposition in Attempt to Defund LSC

ABA President Advocates for $450M Budget for LSC

32 State Attorneys General Write LSC Support Letter

41 US Senators Sign Letter Supporting LSC

State Chief Justices Write Letters in Support of LSC

Video Spotlight
Legal Aid Attorney, Kevin De Liban talks about how he has used creativity to serve clients
Washington Update

President Trump signed legislation on May 5th that extends funding for the federal government through Sept. 30th, the end of FY2017. This appropriation bill provided $385 million for the Legal Services Corporation, which maintains level funding for the program. However, less than three weeks later, on May 23rd, the President released his FY2018 budget request, which proposes the elimination of LSC, while providing $33 million for LSC to wind down its operations.

The ABA will continue its advocacy with Congress for adequate funding in FY2018 for this vital program and is calling upon leaders of the bar, judiciary, ATJ Commissions and others to lend their voices in support of LSC. To aid in these efforts, the ABA has compiled a number of resources on the importance of LSC here.

One immediate action that can be taken is to arrange visits with Members of Congress at their home offices while they are in recess during the week of July 4th. This will provide an excellent opportunity to reinforce the important role that LSC grantees play in providing constituent services and to urge for adequate funding for LSC in the FY2018 budget. For assistance with these efforts and to learn more about the ABA’s advocacy on behalf of LSC, contact Aloysius Hogan, Legislative Counsel, ABA Governmental Affairs Office, or call 202/662-1767.

Job Postings

Connecticut Legal Services Seeks Executive Director, applications due August 2
Iowa Legal Aid Seeks Executive Director, applications due July 17

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

Conferences & Events

2017 National Fundraising Conference and Directors Conference, July 19-July 21

National Conference on Unaccompanied Children, September 13-15 in Houston Texas. Proposals due by Friday, June 2

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

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