September 2017

Announcements


The ABA Division for Legal Services is seeking your input on how we can best respond to your needs. Please complete this very short survey (6 questions; 5 minutes) by October 8th.

News Headlines

ATJ Commissions & Related Developments
AR - Justice for All Op-Ed
DE - Not Enough Legal Aid in DE, Commission Finds
NY - Permanent Commission on Access to Justice Holds Statewide Stakeholder Meeting

Developments in the Courts
CA - With 220 languages spoken in CA, Courts Face Interpreter Shortage
IL - It’s Almost Impossible for Inmates to Get a Divorce
KY - Justice is not Blind to Your Finances
MN - Judges, Court Staff To Hold Listening Session In Apple Valley
Legal Aid Funding & Service Delivery
CA - Pledges $30M for Dreamers to Pay for College, Legal Help

FL - Bar Foundation Allocates Up to $500K for Legal Aid After Hurricane

LA - Southeast LA Legal Services Helps Delgado Students Jump Legal Hurdles

NV - Legal Aid Center of Southern NV Unveils Fundraising Plan

OK - Legal Services Program Merits Funding

OK - Want Justice? Fund Legal Aid

TN - United Way of Blount County Funding Helps Legal Aid Case

TX - Offering Legal Aid After Harvey

TX - Legal Aid Groups and Law Firms Volunteer to Aid Houston Residents

Technology & Data
What Does "Viable" Mean in the Context of Consumer Legal Tech

How Can Technology Solve Our Access to Justice Crisis?

Smartphones Help Blacks, Hispanics Bridge Some Digital Gaps with Whites

The Latest Legal Delivery Collaboration: LISA and Billy-They're Robots

Harvard A2J Lab Launches Guardianship Service of Process Study

Chatbots and Apps: Freeing Up Lawyer Time and Improving A2J

AK - Bar Association to Develop App for Low-Income Alaskans

CA - This Silicon Valley Start-Up Wants to Replace Lawyers with Robots

GA - GSU Maps Disparity of Legal Access in Georgia

General Civil Justice
Every Year, Millions Try to Navigate US Court Without a Lawyer

Can $20 A Month Help to Bridge the Justice Gap?

Adding a Legal Dimension to Multidimensional Poverty

MLP Feature: Preventing Homelessness in 15 Min

Housing Help that Paved the Way for Cancer Remission

Poverty Population Trends
The Average Household Would Save $6,200 on Affordable Rent

What US Cities Gain if Housing is Affordable

Poverty Matters: 5 Key Takeaways From the 2016 Census Data

By Age 3, Inequality is Clear

U.S. Census Bureau Records Improvements in Income, Poverty And Health Coverage

How Landlords can Make Life a Living Hell for Renters
Lawyers Have a Role in Decriminalizing Poverty

CA - System Punishes the Poor Through Traffic Violations

CO - Success of Landlords in Eviction Cases Depended on One Factor: Attorneys

MD - Lawmakers Must End Debtor’s Prisons in MD

MO - Efforts to Crack Down on Illegal Evictions

NY - Chief Judge: Lawyers Have Ethical Obligation to Aid Immigrants

“Mass Evictions” Rise in Cities with Influx of Higher-Income Renters

CA - A Political Push for Affordable Housing

MD - Lawmakers Must End Debtors’ Prisons

MO - From Locked Out to Homeless, a St Louis Rental Tragedy

NH - Reverse Mortgages Lead to Uptick in Seniors Seeking Help from Foreclosure

Civil Right to Counsel

NV - State Mandate Means All Kids in System Will Have Attorney

NY - City’s New Right to Counsel Law to Help Protect Tenants

Law Schools & Legal Education

High Anxiety as First Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program Graduates Await Relief

Pro Bono & Public Service

MD - Attorneys Provided $4.6M of Pro Bono Services in Fiscal 2017

Program Gives Free Help to Mexican Migrants Seeking US Citizenship

Lawyers Worked as First Responders to Hurricane Harvey

LSC Awards 4th Round of Pro Bono Innovation Grants

AK - Alaska Bar Program Provides Legal Help for Low-Income Residents

Washington Update

On September 14, 2017, the House approved the FY2018 Commerce, Justice, Science and
Related Agencies (CJS) appropriations bill that included $300 million for the Legal Services Corporation, a $85 million cut from the current LSC appropriation. A bi-partisan amendment to increase the LSC appropriation to $310 million was introduced and several members spoke in favor of it, but that amendment was withdrawn before a final vote was taken. The Chair of the House CJS Appropriations Subcommittee, John Culberson (R-TX), opposed the amendment, but expressed support for the important work of LSC and his commitment to work to increase the allocation in conference with the Senate. While the Senate Appropriations Committee approved $385 million for LSC in July, it is unknown at this time when the full Senate will take action on the appropriation bill. Currently, a Continuing Resolution (CR) is keeping the government funded through December 8, 2017 at its FY2017 levels, which for LSC is $385 million annually.

The ABA will continue its advocacy on behalf of LSC and may soon call upon leaders of the bar, judiciary, ATJ Commissions and others once again to lend their voices in support of this vital program. To aid in these efforts, the ABA has compiled a number of resources on the importance of LSC [here](#). For more information and assistance on advocacy on behalf of LSC, contact Aloysius Hogan, Legislative Counsel, ABA Governmental Affairs Office, or call 202/662-1767.

### Job Postings

- **Connecticut-Disability Rights Connecticut, Staff Attorney**
- **DC - American Immigration Council Seeks Volunteer Coordinator, Justice Campaign**
- **Massachusetts, Springfield - Pro Bono Director at the Hampden County Bar Association**
- **Minnesota; Minneapolis - Volunteer Lawyers Network Seeks Executive Director, applications due December 17**
- **Pennsylvania; Philadelphia - "Save Your Home Philly" Hotline Paralegal**
- **Pennsylvania; Philadelphia - Paralegal, Farmworker Project**
- **Iowa - Legal Aid Seeks Executive Director, applications due October 31**
- **Nevada; Las Vegas - Consumer Rights Staff Attorney**
- **Texas - RioGrande Legal Aid (in Mercedes, TX) Seeks Executive Director, applications due October 15**

### Conferences & Events

- **MIE National Conference for Legal Administrators to be Held in Memphis November 2-3, 2017**
- **National Celebration of Pro Bono to Take Place October 22-28, 2017**
- **IAALS-ABA Conference on Unbundling to take place October 26-27th in Denver, CO**
MIE New Executor Director Training to take place December 5-6, 2017 in Washington, DC

The National Legal Aid and Defender Association's Annual Conference to take place December 6-9 in Washington, DC

Legal Services Corporation's 2018 Tech Innovations Conference to take place January 10-12, 2018 in New Orleans, LA

The Self Represented Litigation Network's 2nd Annual Conference to take place February 22-23 in San Francisco, CA

Email Terry Brooks with ATJ news or subscription requests.

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