Announcements

All nominees for the ABA Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access are also eligible for the BROWN SELECT AWARD, which is open to public voting. View the candidates and cast your vote before noon (CST) on January 8, 2018!

The ABA Senior Lawyers Division, Commission on Law and Aging, Section of Civil Rights and Social Justice, and Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants seek nominations for the John H. Pickering Achievement Award, which honors an outstanding lawyer involved in pro bono activities and law-related societal issues affecting the elderly. Submit your nominations by February 28, 2018!

The ATJ Tech Fellows Program 2018 application is now open. Applications are due February 9, 2018.


ABA Center for Innovation releases its 2017 Annual Report.

News Headlines

ATJ Commissions & Related Developments
FL - App Offers Help to Floridians Who Can't Afford a Lawyer in Family Court

Developments in the Courts
ICE's Courthouse Arrests Undercut Democracy
Legal Aid Funding & Service Delivery
CT/NY - Study: Integrating Legal Aid with Medical Care Improves Veterans' Lives
FL - Tallahassee Dancing with the Stars Event to Benefit Legal Aid
MA - Bar Unites to Support Legal Aid
MD - Maryland Legal Aid Advocacy Director Amy Petkovsek Discusses Lawyer in the Library Program
MS - State Legal Center That Aids the Poor Gets $450,000 Grant
OK - For Too Many in Oklahoma, 'Justice for All' is a Myth
TN - New Legal Aid Society Program Assists Veterans
WI - How a Wisconsin Legal Service for the Poor Came into an Unexpected Windfall

Poverty Population Trends
How Civil Legal Aid Assists Older Adults
U.S. Census Bureau Releases Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates for Counties
Four Million Young People Were Homeless Last Year. Four Million.
With 2020 Census Looming, Worries About Fairness and Accuracy
A Journey Through a Land of Extreme Poverty: Welcome to America
How Wealth Inequality Has Changed in the U.S. Since the Great Recession, by Race, Ethnicity and Income
MS - Interrupting the Poverty Cycle: Looking Back to Move Forward in Mississippi

General Civil Justice
The Poverty Penalty: Should States Suspend Driver's Licenses for Court Scofflaws?
AR - Arkansas Supreme Court Authorizes

Technology & Data
Access to Justice Through Technology for 2018
Two Nonprofit Companies That Are Bridging
Ghostwriting, Expands Unbundling Guidance

AZ - Facing Unexplained Eviction, 83-Year-Old Wages Rare Fight with Landlord

ME - Maine's Elderly Lost $28M to Financial Exploitation - Mostly by Their Grown Children

NY - New Hope for New Yorkers With Criminal Convictions

UK - Magistrates Say Children Suffer in Family Court Hearings When Their Parents Have No Lawyers

the Access-to-Justice Gap with Tech

Startup Provides Automated Legal Help to Those with Low and Moderate Incomes, Starting with Domestic Violence Victims

2017: The Year of Women in Legal Tech

PA - Programmer-Turned-Lawyer Uses His Computer Skills to Help Disadvantaged Clients

AU - Chatbot-Based 'Firm Without Lawyers' Launched

Civil Right to Counsel

Without a Lawyer, Immigrants Lost in a System Stacked Against Them

CT - Connecticut Looks to Help Low-Income Residents in Civil Cases

WI - Common Council Approves Municipal Court Legal Representation for Indigent Residents

Law Schools & Legal Education

Legal Services Corporation Partnering with Access to Justice Technology Fellows to Expand Program

CA - State Bar Submits Report to Supreme Court on Unprecedented Study and Analysis of California Bar Exam

UT - BYU Law Students Want to Give Utah Debtors a Fighting Chance

Pro Bono & Public Service

CA - After the Inferno, Many Sonoma Attorneys Dig Deep, Work for Free

DC - Tzedek DC, a New Jewish Legal-Aid Society, Provides Pro Bono Representation for the Poor in Debt Cases

FL - Have a Civil Law Question? Justice on the Block Has Answers

IL - Illinois Armed Forces Legal Aid Network Launches

MA - New Monthly Event in Cambridge Offers Free Legal Consults to Immigrants

MI - 'Homeless' Lawyer Camps Out in Shack
Washington Update

Before adjourning for the year, Congress passed another Continuing Resolution (CR) to keep the federal government functioning through January 19, 2018. This CR continues to fund the federal government at the FY 2017 level, with a small rescission of 0.6791%. As a result, the Legal Services Corporation's funding for FY18 will be maintained at its FY17 level of $385 million, minus the slight rescission for now. However, the final result for FY2018 will depend upon further Congressional action.

In September, the House appropriated only $300 million for the Legal Services Corporation for FY18, a $85 million cut from the current LSC appropriation. At that time, the Chair of the House Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, John Culberson (R-TX), expressed support for the important work of LSC and his commitment to work to increase the allocation in conference with the Senate. While in July, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved $385 million for LSC in FY18, it is unknown when the full Senate will take action on the appropriation bill. At this point, Congress has until January 19 to enact FY 2018 appropriations legislation, pass another temporary CR, or shut down the government.

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


Virginia (Danville) - Virginia Legal Aid Society Seeks Staff Attorney. Applications due January 1,
Tennessee (Gallatin) - Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands Seeks Managing Attorney. Applications due January 12, 2018.

Pennsylvania - Community Legal Services of Philadelphia Seeks Staff Attorney for SSI Unit and Aging & Disabilities Unit. Applications due January 17, 2018.


California (Pacoima) - Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County Seeks Staff Attorney. Applications due January 30, 2018.


Conferences & Events

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

National Center for State Courts' Civil Justice Initiative Implementation Workshop to take place January 18-19 in Phoenix, AZ

MIE Supervising Legal Work Training to take place January 22-24 in Phoenix, AZ

2018 Pro Bono Institute Annual Conference to take place February 21-23 in Washington, D.C.

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

MIE New Executive Director Training to take place May 8-9 in San Diego, CA

2018 Equal Justice Conference to take place May 10-12 in San Diego, CA

2018 National Meeting of State Access to Justice Commission Chairs to take place May 12 in San Diego, CA

MIE 2018 National Fundraising Conference to take place July 25-27 in Los Angeles, CA

Email Shubi Deoras with ATJ news or subscription requests.

Follow the ABA Resource Center on twitter @ATJResources
Or, you can view our tweets on the main page of the Center's website:
www.atjsupport.org

Search an Archive of Access to Justice News Headlines.