Happy Monday, ATJ Enthusiasts. Some of you know that I am an excellent complainer. I can make High Art of griping. And over the past three weeks I’ve gone from complaining about never-ending winter to today’s uncomfortable mugginess. Well, it was some consolation, this weekend, to observe that the trees outside my home’s window are (finally) fully bloomed, while my coat tree has thinned out as I’ve been able to pack away the winter clothes. Step in the right direction. Lots of ATJ news, so here we go.

The news in very, very short:

- ATJ advances in Mass. trial courts
- Too much emphasis on limited-scope services in pro bono?
- In DC, the Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll
- “Is There Such A Thing As An Affordable Lawyer?,” asks The Atlantic
- $350m Legal Services Corp. appropriation comes out of the House
- Economic benefits to appointed-counsel system in immigration courts
- The Thomson Reuters “Super Lawyers” Pro Bono Award
- LSC president Sandman joins DC ATJ Commission
- Debate still stirs over NY’s required pro bono reporting rule
- New global pro bono index shows robust law firm volunteer efforts
- Thoughts on the evolution of the private bar’s role in supporting civil legal aid
- Why language access is a key component in ATJ
- In CA, online applications for domestic violence restraining orders
- Virginia rule allows more practice flexibility for military spouses licensed as lawyers out-of-state
- NLADA announces its Beacon of Justice Award winners
- Foundation-funded law practice incubator to focus on environmental/community health matters
- Arkansas ATJ Commission’s May newsletter

The summaries:

- 6.1.14 – the Chief Justice of the Massachusetts Trial Court system and the court administrator report on progress in promoting ATJ, including an expansion of alternative dispute resolution programs as well as technology-based and in-person support programs for self-represented litigants. (Opinion piece in The Lowell Sun)
- 5.31.14 – Pro Bono Institute president Esther Lardent wrote recently of the potential pitfalls of too much emphasis on limited-scope arrangements in pro bono cases: “In the right context, limited-scope pro bono service can be a powerful and positive tool. But all too often of late, we seem to equate or conflate pro bono with limited service.” Richard Zorza responds here: “[I]f limited scope is really cutting back on the rest of pro bono, I would suggest that pro bono folks need to talk this as a challenge and look inward and think what they need to do in both the long and short term to rethink and rebuild pro bono so that there is buzz in fields beyond limited scope.”
- 5.30.14 – “For the third year in a row, the Chief Judges of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals and the Superior Court of the District of Columbia jointly published the Capital Pro Bono Honor Roll, which recognizes attorneys who provide vital pro bono legal service to those who cannot afford counsel. Through a self-nomination process…4253…D.C. Bar members and others authorized to perform pro bono work in the District reported providing fifty hours or more of pro bono service in 2013; 2562 of those attorneys reported providing one hundred hours or
more, thereby qualifying for the “High Honor Roll.” Both numbers reflect a significant increase from the previous two years.”  (Media release)

- 5.30.14 – long form journalism lives! And in “Is There Such A Thing As An Affordable Lawyer?,” we explore the vexing market inefficiencies that lead to a dearth of affordable legal services for low- and middle-income Americans, as well as the roles that technological and business innovation may play in creating a better marketplace. This should be required reading for law students who, in their careers, will live through extraordinary changes – some already underway – in the business of law practice.  (The Atlantic)

- 5.30.14 – An update on Legal Services Corporation fiscal year 2015 appropriation progress, from ABA Legislative Counsel Ann Carmichael: “Yesterday the House defeated an amendment to completely defund LSC, by a vote of 116 to 290. As things stand now, the House bill contains $350 million for LSC. The Senate takes up its appropriations bill next week, and then the two chambers will have to conference on final legislation.” For some context on their appropriations, LSC maintains some great webpages showing, among other data points, inflation-adjusted approps levels over time.

- 5.30.14 – the economic benefits of an appointed-counsel system in immigration courts – at present, an experiment underway in NYC. “The [NYC] Bar Association welcomes the issuance of NERA Economic Consulting’s report “Cost of Counsel in Immigration: Economic Analysis of Proposal Providing Public Counsel to Indigent Persons Subject to Immigration Removal Proceedings.” The report finds that a national immigration federal public defender system’s benefits could offset the federal government’s costs, through detention, foster care and transportation savings, even without quantifying other likely fiscal, social and administrative benefits. (NYC Bar blog post)

- 5.30.14 – congrats to the Thomson Reuters “Super Lawyers” Pro Bono Award winners, including law firm Morrison & Foerster, law school clinics at Penn State and the University of Denver, the San Diego Volunteer Law Program, and assorted other individuals and entities. (Media release)

- 5.29.14 – “The District of Columbia Court of Appeals has appointed Legal Services Corporation (LSC) President James J. Sandman to the D.C. Access to Justice Commission. Sandman will serve a three-year term on the 18-member Commission…. The Commission includes judges, past presidents of the D.C. Bar, executive directors of leading legal services providers, and other legal and community leaders. It is chaired by Georgetown University Law Professor Peter Edelman, and is privately funded.” (LSC media release)

- 5.29.14 – the continuing debate around New York’s required pro bono reporting rule: “Several state court administrators at a forum Tuesday indicated their willingness to compromise on parts of a mandatory pro bono disclosure rule, surprising a cohort of the bar who has protested the rule for the past year.” One of the main sticking points is whether the courts will publicly disclose individual attorney reports of their pro bono work and their financial contributions to public interest organizations. At present the courts have held off on such disclosure. (New York Law Journal)

- 5.28.14 – “An increasing number of law firms around the world are providing free legal assistance to good causes, experts said, as Thomson Reuters Foundation launched a global index of pro bono work. The index, based on data from over 100 firms, representing 36,000 lawyers in 69 countries, showed they donated 1.55 million hours of free legal support last year worth $388 million. The index was launched by TrustLaw, a service run by the foundation that matches lawyers offering pro bono work with charities and social enterprises requiring legal help.” (Media release)

- 5.28.14 – John Rosenberg is stepping down from the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service, and here he offers thoughts about the evolution of the relationship between the civil legal aid community and the private bar – one which has gone from initial trepidation (or even hostility) on both sides to a full-fledged partnership in supporting legal aid’s mission. (ABA Center for Pro Bono blog.)
• 5.22.14 – Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation director Lonnie Powers on why “Language Access Projects [are] Crucial to Making Legal Services Accessible.” (Huffington Post)

• 5.21.14 – “A pilot program at the Riverside County Superior Court in California is allowing domestic violence victims to complete applications for Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVRO) online and eFax completed forms to the courthouse…. Individuals applying for a DVRO can now complete their filings online through an Interactive Form Completion system enabled by LawHelp Interactive (LHI) and built using HotDocs software.” (Connecting Justice Communities blog)

• 5.19.14 – not an ATJ item per se, but a new practice rule that will presumably allow military spouses in Virginia to do pro bono (in addition to fee-generating work): “On [5.16.14]…the Supreme Court of Virginia issued an order adopting a new attorney licensing rule aimed at easing the burden on military spouse attorneys seeking to practice law while on orders to military installations in Virginia and the National Capital Region…. The [rule’s] passage makes Virginia the seventh state to adopt a licensing rule that recognizes the unique challenges faced by military spouses in the practice of law. Other states to pass similar rules include Idaho, Arizona, Texas, North Carolina, Illinois and South Dakota.” (Military Spouse JD Network)

• 5.20.14 – “The National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) is honored to announce the 2014 Beacon of Justice Award winners. The exceptional law firms listed below have all devoted significant time and resources to creating and implementing innovative strategies to improve life outcomes for low income individuals. Each winner has been carefully selected by criteria assessing increased access to representation through the utilization of groundbreaking and original ideas, tools, and technology to create new delivery models and initiative.” (Behold the Beacons.)

• 5.20.14 – “Fair Shake Environmental Legal Services, a foundation-supported justice incubator and residency program, has debuted in Pittsburgh and in Akron, Ohio, to serve clients of modest means — individuals, groups and small businesses” with environmental and community-health matters. (Pittsburgh Business Times)

• May, 2014 – the Arkansas ATJ Commission’s May newsletter, The Justice Report, includes on a legal aid economic impact study, cy pres awards, and more.

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Marcin Kłapczyński (WikiMedia Commons)

Happy Monday, ATJ Enthusiasts! “What's happening, Steve, in the world of sports?”, you did not ask. The World Cup – or, in Dutch: “Wereldkampioenschap voetbal.” Tighten it up, Dutch people! – has begun. And Americans have begun their quadrennial ritual of reading as many “Everything You Need to Know To Fake Your Way Through a Soccer Conversation” guides as possible. Closer to home, I'm sorry to report that the treacherous Cubs of my adopted hometown Chicago took two of
three from the Glorious Philadelphia Phillies Baseball Franchise. The Cubs won not through superior play, but through chicanery and high jinx. Disappointing.

Before the ATJ news, four items for your consideration:

- **A *New York Times* piece wonders why poverty has not declined in recent decades of economic growth:** “From 1959 to 1973, the nation’s economy per person grew 82 percent, and that was enough to drive the proportion of the poor population from 22 percent to 11 percent. But over the last generation in the United States, that simply hasn’t happened. Growth has been pretty good, up 147 percent per capita. But rather than decline further, the poverty rate has bounced around in the 12 to 15 percent range — higher than it was even in the early 1970s. The mystery of why — and how to change that — is one of the most fundamental challenges in the nation’s fight against poverty.”

- **The Atlantic highlights “a project…at St. Stephen’s Human Services in Minneapolis** that is documenting the stories of homeless people across the state of Minnesota. Begun in 2008, the project has collected more than 600 oral histories” [from some of the “least heard people in American society”].

- Back to the *NYT*, which looks at language access in state courts: “As Demand for Court Interpreters Climbs, State Budget Conflicts Grow As Well”

- **In the *City Journal*, Northwestern Law Professor John O. McGinnis makes the case for technology radically changing legal economy:** Some observers…blame the recession for [the legal market’s recent downturn and stagnancy]. But the plight of legal education and of the attorney workplace is also a harbinger of a looming transformation in the legal profession. Law is, in effect, an information technology—a code that regulates social life. And as the machinery of information technology grows exponentially…the legal profession faces a great disruption not unlike that already experienced by journalism, which has seen employment drop by about a third and the market value of newspapers devastated.”

The ATJ news, in very very short:

- Required pro bono reporting coming to an Indiana near you?
- NYC City Council considers right-to-counsel in some housing matters
- ATJ reforms in a Canadian administrative agency
- FL Gov. vetoes civil legal aid funding in state budget
- NY State Bar and court administrators to meet over pro bono reporting impasse
- New edition of ABA’s “Legal Services Now” newsletter
- Educating “Limited License Legal Technicians” in WA
- New AmeriCorps legal aid program to aid unaccompanied minors in immigration proceedings
- Lawyers’ roles in breaking down veterans benefit barriers
- The “court–aided one-day divorce” process in CA
- Tech and legal aid in The Natural State (yes, that’s really Arkansas’s boring nickname)
- An ATJ consortium forms in Ontario
- CA Bar Foundation raising bar-prep scholarship $ for to-be public interest lawyers
- A “renewed vision” for legal aid as a poverty-fighting weapon
- The successes of Legal Aid of East Tennessee in securing unemployment benefits to keep families afloat
- Putting together a national map/index of medical-legal partnerships
- The emergence of Veterans Treatment Courts in the states
- New law-practice incubator program in Vermont

The summaries

- 6.16.14 – “An Indiana Supreme Court task force plans to submit recommendations next week for how to increase the amount of free legal services Hoosier attorneys donate to the poor. The
Supreme Court has already decided against mandatory pro bono services, instead asking a task force to suggest ways to implement mandatory reporting of pro bono hours.” (Network Indiana) Here’s the ABA’s page with info on required and voluntary reporting pro bono states.

- **6.11.14** – a right to counsel for NYC residents facing eviction/foreclosure? “Nearly 30,000 New Yorkers were evicted from their homes last year, and many were unfairly booted because they did not know their rights and did not have legal counsel, said Councilman Mark Levine, who is sponsoring a bill to provide services to low-income tenants facing eviction, ejectment or foreclosure. The estimated cost for the services would be roughly $100 million, aides said, but Levine said it would help save more money in the long-run because it prevents people from going into homeless shelters.” (New York Daily News)

- **6.11.14** – one lesser heralded but important facet to civil ATJ involves focusing on administrative agency adjudicative systems. So this announcement from Canada’s Transportation Agency caught my eye: “The Agency is launching new dispute adjudication rules and a new website to provide more user-friendly, transparent and timely service…. The new Rules will make dispute adjudication processes faster…and more predictable. The improvements in the Rules reflect feedback from client surveys and consultations indicating a need for faster service and…plain language information…. The revamped website supports the new Rules with a…reorganized structure and user-friendly web tools, informed by extensive usability testing. And – for the first time ever – users can file adjudication disputes and upload documents electronically. (Digital Journal)

- **6.11.14** – “For the fourth year running, Gov. Rick Scott has vetoed funding earmarked to provide legal service for low-income Florida residents. According to the News Service of Florida, the June 2 veto eliminated $2 million that the 2014-15 state budget of $77.1 billion described as ‘civil legal assistance.’ Scott vetoed $1 million for the same low-income legal services in 2011, as well as $2 million in 2012 and 2013. The total is $7 million in four years. (Florida Keys Info Net) This Tampa Tribune article adds some context about what a lack of state funding means for legal aid in Florida.

- **6.9.14** – “State court administrators have accepted an offer from leaders of the New York State Bar Association to meet and discuss the group’s opposition to Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman’s requirement that lawyers report their pro bono activities to the state.” (New York Law Journal)

- **6.10.14** – here’s the latest edition of Legal Services Now, an ABA newsletter intended to keep local/state bar leaders looped in on civil legal aid news. It’s a joint publication from the ABA’s Divisions for Bar Services and for Legal Services.

- **6.8.14** – lots of ATJ stakeholders are curious to see how Washington States new “Limited License Legal Technician” (LLLT) program will work out. This piece in The Columbian looks in at LLLT classes offered at Clark College, which “…is one of five community colleges offering prerequisite classes for a groundbreaking state program designed to provide more affordable legal advice for those who can’t afford a lawyer.” Here’s the Wash. State Bar Association’s LLLT webpage, too.

- **6.6.14**  – “The Obama administration [is] starting a program to provide lawyers for children facing deportation as it scrambles to deal with the soaring number of unaccompanied minors illegally crossing the border from Mexico. Under the plan, the federal government will issue $2 million in grants to enroll about 100 lawyers and paralegals [funded through AmeriCorps] to represent immigrant children making their way through the immigration court system.” (New York Times) This announcement got a ton of media coverage, from USA Today, Reuters, Fox News Latino, Mother Jones, ABC News and many, many other outlets. Use the Googles.

- **6.6.14** – a look at the barriers which many veterans face in accessing VA benefits, how important legal aid can be to helping veterans break through those barriers, and role of the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center in delivering that aid. (Hartford Courant op-ed)

- **6.6.14** – from the New York Times, “California Pioneers the Court-Aided One-Day Divorce”: “Sacramento Superior Court began offering a one-day program…more than a year ago, and San Diego Superior Court began offering a similar option in March. Details of the programs vary (the Sacramento program has income limits, while San Diego’s currently does not, for instance),
but both are free. Under the San Diego program, you answer a series of questions online to see whether you qualify to use the program; a family law expert, acting as the program’s coordinator, advises you ahead of time what forms and documentation you must bring to court.”

- 6.5.14 – a look at the legal aid landscape in Arkansas, and in particular how the Arkansas Legal Services Partnership has created and deployed technological solutions – like automated court forms – to serve more clients and empower self-represented litigants. (Arkansas Times)

- 6.4.14 – a new consortium of ATJ stakeholders forms in Ontario: “Justice sector partners met on June 3 for the inaugural meeting of TAG – The Action Group on Access to Justice, a forum to foster collaboration on initiatives to make justice more accessible. Through TAG, organizations with similar goals will connect, share knowledge and build solutions to improve access to justice for Ontarians. The Law Society of Upper Canada will act as facilitator and provide administrative and other resources to support the forum.” (Media release.)

- 6.4.14 – “The California Bar Foundation has launched a monthlong crowdfunding campaign to raise money for law school grads who are going into public interest work. The legal nonprofit is trying to bring in $10,000 by July 10 for its Public Interest Bar Exam Scholarship program, which annually provides 15 law school graduates with a BarBri review course and a $1,000 living stipend. Recipients must have graduated from a California law school and plan to take jobs in the nonprofit or government sectors.” (The Recorder)

- 6.3.14 – former Community Legal Services (Philly!) lawyer Rebecca Vallas calls for “A Renewed Vision of Civil Legal Services as Anti-poverty Work” (Talk Poverty website)

- 6.2.14 – “Unemployed Chattanooga-area residents received nearly $2.5 million through Legal Aid of East Tennessee’s Family Stabilization Project over the past four years. Attorneys in the group—who have appealed and won 744 cases—provide legal services to recently unemployed members of the community who lost a job through no fault of their own but were denied unemployment benefits…. [T]he program began in 2010 as a response to the recession. Money to fund the project comes from a $34,000 anonymous grant. Over the past year, it helped 168 unemployed low-income families access $839,078 in employee benefits.” (Nooga.com news site)

- 6.2.14 – the National Center for Medical Legal Partnership is collecting information on U.S. MLPs to include in a national map: “If you are currently part of a medical-legal partnership that is not included on the map below, we encourage you to complete this short online form with information about your partnership.” Deadline: July 2.

- June, 2014 – a look at the emergence of Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs) from National Center for State Courts “Trends in State Courts” journal: “Veterans treatment courts have spread across the United States in recent years and are currently operating in the majority of states. Their foundation, emergence, and current national status are described in this article.”

- June, 2014 – The Vermont Bar Association and Vermont Law School are partnering on a Lawyer Incubator Pilot Project to test a model of encouraging new lawyers to establish law practices in underserved areas of Vermont. The Incubator Pilot will run 18 months in 2014-15 and will involve 2-3 new lawyers, existing staff of VLS and VBA, and volunteer seasoned attorneys. The Pilot staff will oversee the development of each new lawyer’s practice skills, and set up CLE trainings and mentorship opportunities. (Announcement, including 18-month program schedule.)
Happy Monday, ATJ Enthusiasts, from the humid, gloomy Second City. Yuck. Hopefully this weather doesn’t run into the Fourth of July weekend (which is the occasion for you to get the above picture of Independence Hall in the Great City of Philadelphia). Some items for your consideration before the ATJ news:

- My old colleagues at NALP just released the latest data on how law school grads are faring in the job market: “[D]espite two years of growth in the number of jobs obtained by law school graduates, the overall employment rate for new law school graduates fell for the sixth year in a row, to 84.5%. Even though the total number of jobs obtained by this class was somewhat higher than the number of jobs obtained by the previous class, and the number of employment opportunities funded by law schools increased, the Class of 2013 was also bigger, resulting in the employment rate for the Class of 2013 falling, but by just 0.2 percentage points from the 84.7% rate for the Class of 2012” (June 19 press release)

- From the Legal Intelligencer in PA: “As certain legal services have become increasingly commoditized by do-it-yourself websites like LegalZoom.com and RocketLawyer.com, some small and solo practitioners have wondered whether the phenomenon is just one more thing they must contend with in an already difficult market. But attorneys across Pennsylvania said they’ve come to find that lawyers and online legal services companies can peacefully co-exist — and, in some cases, even benefit from one another — because lawyers offer something those websites can’t: real-world experience.”

- the Brookings Institution released a report digging into the reality of how much educational debt recent students/grads are carrying. There has been much reaction to report, and here’s a good compendium.

The ATJ news in very, very short:

- NYC Council expands program providing counsel to those in deportation proceedings
- Texas law school gets $4m donation to launch family law clinic
- New national research project focused on experiences of self-represented litigants in family courts
- Making the case for non-lawyers advocates
- Limited scope representation gets easier in DC
- A call for ATJ advancements in PA
What is a legal aid “Thunderdome” project?
Hawaii hosts LSC president at annual ATJ conference
Group of House members would provide unaccompanied minors with counsel
What is the Legal Services Food Hub?
Increased pro hac vice fee will support ATJ funding in WI
Public service is part of call for legal education reform in CT
Veterans benefits clinics look to be expanding in IN
Equal Justice Works 2013 annual report
Momentum toward launching ATJ Commissions in Canada

The summaries:

- 6.26.14 – “[T]he New York City Council earmarked $4.9 million of the city budget to give legal assistance to foreign-born New York residents facing deportation. This makes New York the first city in the US to provide lawyers for low-income immigrants detained by federal authorities. The city will provide such aid both for undocumented immigrants and for those with legal residency.” ([Christian Science Monitor]) This represents a large expansion on the initial pilot program, for which NBC news provides context here.

- 6.26.12 – “Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law will launch a family law clinic in 2015, financed by a $4 million gift from an anonymous donor. Students enrolled in the VanSickle Family Law Clinic will represent low-income Dallas-area residents in custody and visitation, paternity, spousal and child support, and divorce proceedings.” ([National Law Journal])

- 6.26.14 – ” IAALS, the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System at the University of Denver, announces a first-of-its-kind national project to examine the growing trend of American families who represent themselves in family court…. The study builds upon similar qualitative research undertaken in Canada by Dr. Julie Macfarlane’s National Self-Represented Litigants Project.” ([IAALS announcement])

- 6.26.13 – a guest post on Richard Zorza’s ATJ Blog, by the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute’s Allan Rodgers, argues for more experimentation with use of the lay advocates in court proceedings.

- 6.24.14 – “In a move praised by access to justice advocates, the District of Columbia Superior Court recently adopted rules allowing paid and pro bono lawyers to enter temporary appearances throughout the courthouse. Superior Court joins a growing number of courts nationwide to permit temporary appearances, often referred to as limited-scope representation. Allowing lawyers to enter litigation on a short-term basis makes legal counsel more affordable because clients only pay for the services they need, said Jess Rosenbaum, executive director of the D.C. Access to Justice Commission.” ([National Law Journal])

- 6.24.14 – a nice op-ed highlighting a “report released last month by the Pennsylvania Civil Legal Justice Coalition to the state Senate Judiciary Committee…[highlighting] a growing crisis in the state’s justice system.” The report calls for a veritable ATJ trifecta of solutions: substantially increased state investment in civil legal aid funding, creating an ATJ Commission, and exploring a limited civil right to counsel. (Philadelphia Inquirer)

- 6.23.14 – a new training program in Florida. “The Legal Aid Foundation has announced a new program: Thunderdome Tallahassee, a hands-on legal group training program to provide education, camaraderie, networking, leadership and recognition to a new generation of lawyers serving the community…. [A group of] 15 to 20 diverse young lawyers will apply or be nominated for LAF’s inaugural class. Each will commit to volunteer representation for a family law case more than 9 months of training, mentorship and leadership development. Upon completion of the program, participants will be invited to return as mentors…” (Tallahassee Democrat.) What a fun name! If memory serves the “Thunderdome” concept first took root right here with Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, in 2009.

- 6.23.14 – Hawaii’s 2014 Access to Justice Conference featured remarks from Legal Services Corporation president Jim Sandman and Hawaii Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark
Recktenwald. *(Media release)* I will take this opportunity to offer my services to the Hawaii ATJ Commission if they ever need someone to travel to the Aloha State to do some strategic planning, meeting facilitation, housekeeping, oil-changing, whatever, really. February preferred.

- 6.23.14 – immigration reform is of course not going to happen in the current Congress, but FYI “a group of [seven] Democratic lawmakers on Monday introduced legislation that would provide legal representation to unaccompanied minors caught illegally entering the country…. The Vulnerable Immigrant Voice Act comes as congressional committees prepare to hold hearings Tuesday and Wednesday on the crush of new arrivals from Central America.” *(L.A. Times)*

- 6.20.14 – *introducing the Legal Services Food Hub*, which runs a means-tested program to provide free legal services to eligible farmers, food entrepreneurs, and nonprofits that do food-distribution work: “The Legal Services Food Hub (LSFH) is a project of Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). CLF recruits attorneys to participate in the Legal Services Food Hub and manages the project, performing intake through a dedicated phone line and email address…. After assessing each participant’s case for eligibility, CLF reaches out to the Legal Services Food Hub attorney network and matches the participant with a skilled lawyer who will provide pro bono legal services.”
  - Here’s LSFH’s “Farm and Food Law” guide for lawyers.

- 6.20.14 – the Wisconsin Supreme Court has ordered a raise in the state’s pro hac vice fee for out-of-state lawyers to temporarily practice. The fee will go from $50 to $250, with $150 being directed to support civil access to justice: ($100 to Wisconsin’s IOLTA administrator and $50 to the Wisconsin Access to Justice Commission).

- 6.17.14 – The Connecticut Bar Association’s Task Force on the Future of Legal Education & Standards of Admission has released its report and makes a number of recommendations they believe will help close the justice gap: the “task force strongly recommends the incorporation of more experiential learning to that which is already ongoing. Law schools must coordinate curriculum to enhance the clinical experience, including the cross-migration of clinics within the law school. There ought to be changes to the student practice rule which would allow law students, with appropriate supervision, to engage with under-served litigants as well as work in corporations, with legal services providers and for not-for-profit entities.” *(Connecticut Law Tribune, and here’s the Task Force’s report)*.

- 6.16.14 – “Indiana veterans could have more access to legal help when a state law takes effect July 1. The legislation – passed earlier this year by the General Assembly – allows the state’s law schools to create clinics that will allow students to guide veterans through the disability claims process.” *(Herald Times)*

- June, 2014 – here’s Equal Justice Works 2013 annual report, which highlights the organizations myriad efforts to narrow the justice gap by drawing on the energy of enthusiasm of its fellows. I note that the report is set up in a nifty online format which allows the viewer to page through it as if it were a book.

- June, 2014 – from Canadian Forum on Civil Justice’s monthly report: “Inspired by the success of Access to Justice Commissions in the United States,… newly-formed (and forming) provincial A2J Committees will provide an outlet for provinces to direct focus and resources towards pressing access to justice issues. We will be featuring these initiatives in our monthly newsletters, but you can also visit the Action Committee website to view regular posts on new and ongoing access to justice initiatives.”

*Author: Steve Grumm*