ABA Access to Justice Commission Expansion Project

2013 Innovation Grants

To promote innovation by encouraging Access to Justice Commissions to develop and test innovative new projects replicable in other states and expand the scope of their ongoing activities into broad new areas beyond existing work. Grants target critical areas of potential innovation. Grantees will share work product and lessons learned with other states to promote replication and avoid unnecessary duplication of effort.


Connecticut Access to Justice Commission. Outreach to expand donor base for new fellowship program placing new law school graduates in legal aid programs.

New Mexico Access to Justice Commission. Unified on-line legal aid intake system with the capacity to refer applicants to the appropriate provider and level of service necessary to deal with their problem (“triage”).


Tennessee Access to Justice Commission. Pilot rural pro bono outreach projects to be established through faith-based organizations.

Vermont Access to Justice Coalition. On-line referral tool from the state’s legal aid intake web site to the Vermont Bar Association’s lawyer referral service, coordinated with the development of a panel of attorneys available to provide reduced-fee, limited scope representation.

Wyoming Access to Justice Commission. Pilot Skype-based remote law offices for civil legal aid at rural sites, as part of a broad redesign, coordination and expansion of the state’s legal aid delivery system.

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Previous Grants

November 2012 Innovation Grants

- **Alabama Access to Justice Commission.** Web-based delivery of pro bono services for self-represented litigants.
- **Colorado Access to Justice Commission.** Limited scope representation; models for affordable services.
- **Hawaii Access to Justice Commission.** Language access; implicit cultural bias.
- **Maine Justice Action Group.** Public libraries as point of access for legal aid.
- **Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission.** Fundraising outside the legal community.
- **Mississippi Access to Justice Commission.** Delivery partnerships with health care, social services, and other new partners.
- **Washington Access to Justice Board.** E-filing.

Grants to Promote the Creation of New Access to Justice Commissions

*To expand access to civil justice for low-income people by increasing the number of state-level Access to Justice Commissions and supporting emerging Commissions, and more broadly by increasing and strengthening partnerships among the courts, the bar, civil legal aid providers and funders, law schools, legislators, executive officials, and other stakeholders.*

March 2013

- Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education
- Supreme Court of Ohio
- Supreme Court of Oklahoma
- Philadelphia Bar Association
- Rhode Island Judiciary

October 2012

- Georgia State Bar Access to Justice Committee
- Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
- Indiana Bar Foundation
- Montana Justice Foundation
- New Hampshire Access to Justice Commission
- Supreme Court of Virginia
- Supreme Court of the Virgin Islands