This workshop was held at the 2018 Equal Justice Conference in San Diego, California.

Title:

Using Community Lawyering To Promote Racial And Economic Justice

Presenters:

Carrie Vaughn Cromey, Legal Services of North Florida, Inc., Pensacola, FL
Oscar Londoño, Community Justice Project, Miami, FL
Natalie N. Maxwell, Florida Legal Services, Inc., Newberry, FL

By incorporating community lawyering into our practices, legal services programs work with communities to address the systemic causes of injustice faced by our clients. In this interactive session, presenters will introduce community lawyering and how they have implemented it in their practices to promote racial and economic justice.
COMMUNITY LAWYERING FOR RACIAL & ECONOMIC JUSTICE:

* [A community] lawyer’s role in change is supporting community organizations and other organized groups of people (i.e. worker/tenant associations, immigrant/community coalitions, and unions), who win benefits and shift power through collective action and strategic campaigns ..... True sustainable change comes from building large-scale, democratic organizations focused on building the power and conscious leadership of poor and working people.*

Charles Elsesser, Community Lawyering: The Role of Lawyers in the Social Justice Movement

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY LAWYERING *

Legal Support to Organizations & Members
Know Your Rights & Community Education
Legal Observation & Defense of Protesters
Research & Advocacy for Community-Led Policy Campaigns
Transactional & Capacity-Building Support to Organizations

* Some of these examples may be more limited for LSC-funded organizations, but there are many ways to be a community lawyer!

RECOMMENDED READINGS

P. Shah & C. Elsesser, Community Lawyering
S. Cummings, Movement Lawyering
W. Quigley, 20 Tools for Movement Lawyering
S. Cummings & L. Eagly, A Critical Reflection on Law and Organizing
M. Grinthal, Power With: Practice Models for Social Justice Lawyering
G. Lopez, Rebellious Lawyering: One Chicano’s Vision of Progressive Law Practice
C. Elsesser, Community Lawyering – The Role of Lawyers in the Social Justice Movement
B. Hung, Law and Organizing from the Perspective of Organizers: Finding a Shared Theory of Social Change
W. Quigley, Reflections of Community Organizers: Lawyering for Empowerment of Community Organizations
Bertha Social Justice Institute, Center for Constitutional Rights, Movement Lawyering Reading Guide