October 14, 2016

Dear Poverty Roundtable Participants:

On behalf of The ABA’s Commission on Homelessness & Poverty, welcome to Collaborate to Advocate: Lawyers and Communities Working to End Poverty. I am thrilled that all of you are able to participate in this event!

The Commission thanks everyone who helped to make this event possible. We thank the dozens of experts who are participating today—representing some of the finest programs in the region—who will share their perspective and insight throughout the dialogue. This roundtable will include 35 participants, including many bar leaders as well as members and liaisons of the Commission from across the country, each with his or her own voice and area of expertise. We are grateful for this enthusiastic local and national participation.

This convening, which brings together experts from throughout Charleston, is part of a multi-year initiative aimed at identifying and promoting best practices for eliminating legal and justice system-related policies, practices and procedures that unfairly perpetuate or worsen the harmful effects of poverty. Working with stakeholders from the state and local government, service provider, religious, academic, political and legal communities, the Commission will host additional anti-poverty roundtables in a diverse set of communities—ranging from urban areas in large cities, smaller cities, suburban communities and counties, and rural areas—to reflect the broad range of geographies where poverty exists. We have held roundtables in Miami, Chicago, Houston, San Diego, San Francisco, DeLand, FL and Alabama (Birmingham, Montgomery and Selma), and are scheduled to hold additional programming in Oklahoma City later this month (including a rural convening with tribal representation in Sulphur).

Today’s discussion will be highlighted on the Commission’s site at www.ambar.org/homeless under the tab for Collaborate to Advocate: Lawyers and Communities Working to End Poverty. We look forward to not only supporting your efforts as you continue the dialogue, but also highlighting your success to other communities as we implement this initiative.

Best regards,

Ted Small
Chair, American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty
Background:
Nearly 50 million Americans now live below the federal poverty line. Recent societal, economic and political events (economic meltdown, mortgage foreclosure epidemic, Trayvon Martin, Hurricane Katrina, Ferguson, Missouri, Michelle Alexander’s “The New Jim Crow,” 9/11, the “school to prison pipeline,” unaccompanied minors coming across the border, etc.) have given rise to unprecedented public awareness of income inequality in America, the number of children living in poverty and the disparate treatment and impacts of the law and justice systems on communities of color and populations that face other barriers and obstacles to justice, such as disability, limited English proficiency, immigrant status and other factors.

Initiative Goal:
Identify and help promote and implement best practices for eliminating legal and justice system-related policies, practices and procedures that unfairly perpetuate or worsen the harmful effects of poverty on low-income people and communities, including obstacles and barriers to public benefits, employment, housing, treatment and services needed by people experiencing homelessness or living in poverty.

Working Definition of Poverty:
Poverty is a state or lived experience caused and perpetuated by various, often compounded, factors such as:
- Inadequate economic resources and opportunity to build assets, including employment, adequate income and assets to meet basic human needs such as food, housing, clothing, etc.;
- Insufficient access to social resources such as healthcare, justice and education;
- Weak political standing and limited opportunity for meaningful association and engagement;
- Isolation and lack of cultural identity support;
- Inability to hold institutions and individuals accountable for fair and equitable behavior;
- Disparate treatment based on poverty compounded by other forms of structural unfairness and disparity based on race, ethnicity, gender identity, disability, age, religion, sexual orientation, indigenous identity, national origin, etc.
Manifestations of Poverty:
1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness;
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems;
3. Food inadequacy;
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes;
5. Inadequate education outcomes;
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage;
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises;
8. Lack of personal and physical safety;
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity; and
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure.

Implementation: Anti-Poverty Roundtables, Toolkit for Communities Seeking to Develop and Operationalize Local Anti-Poverty Agendas, and the ABA Online Quilt of Community Anti-Poverty Discussions
The goal of each roundtable is to bring together 10-15 community stakeholders who are interested in identifying, promoting and implementing best practices for eliminating policies, practices and procedures that unfairly perpetuate or worsen the harmful effects of poverty on low-income people in that particular local community. To connect other communities with the national anti-poverty discussion, the Commission will encourage the designation of at least one panelist in each community who is willing to develop an edited summary of the ideas exchanged and proposed new programming for posting to a Commission-moderated online blog entitled, “Operationalizing A New Anti-Poverty Agenda: An Online Quilt of Community Discussions.” This online blog would allow each roundtable to share its diverse perspective on the most pressing manifestations of poverty within their community as well as its proposed solutions. With the addition of notes from each roundtable, the Commission would add a patch to the national Online Quilt in order to bring together diverse patterns of anti-poverty ideas. These shared ideas could be implemented by other communities who in turn share their own strategies for combatting poverty, creating a resource for all communities to use in removing the practices, policies and procedures that worsen or perpetuate poverty. Additionally, in furtherance of its goal of educating the bar and the general public about homelessness and poverty and the ways the legal community can collaborate with other stakeholders to assist those in need, the Commission is developing a resource entitled: Toolkit for Communities Seeking to Develop and Operationalize Local Anti-Poverty Agendas, in which the Commission will compile a wealth of ABA policy and programming knowledge into a series of “blueprints for action” that are cross-disciplinary and specifically address each of the identified Manifestation of Poverty areas.
Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness & Poverty: An Anti-Poverty Community Roundtable
Charleston, SC
Friday, October 14, 2016
8:30 AM to 12:30 PM
One80 Place
35 Walnut Street

Agenda

8:30 AM – Continental breakfast will be served during a casual networking opportunity

9:00 AM – Welcome and Introductions
Jeff Yungman, One80 Place Homeless Justice Project
Ted W. Small, Chair, ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty

9:15 AM – Overview and Discussion: What does poverty look like in Charleston?
Anthony Haro, Lowcountry Homeless Coalition

- Data and statistics
- Existing resources
- Greatest challenges

Participants will be invited to share their perspectives on the data presented and discuss their views on existing resources and greatest challenges with regards to poverty and homelessness in Charleston.

9:45 AM – What are effective alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness and Poverty?

Participants will frame the dialogue with an update on local issues and initiatives, and a series of model strategies will be presented in furtherance of an interactive discussion.
Legal and justice system barriers – Eric Tars, *National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty*

Effective strategies: housing, treatment, education/training, income supports, pre-booking diversion, and Homeless Courts – Steve Binder and Renato Izquieta, *ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty*

The Charleston Homeless Court – Mary Vosburgh, *One80 Place Homeless Justice Project*

10:45 AM – Break

11:00 AM – Collaboration and Implementation: Innovations and Solutions

*How do providers, organizations, advocates, lawyers, the criminal justice system, etc. currently collaborate to address poverty in Charleston?*

- What have we learned from the recent panhandling and “tent city” experiences?
- What are the best practices you’ve identified and implemented?
- How would you and your organization like to collaborate further? What challenges or barriers impair your ability to collaborate and implement new solutions?
- How do you measure and report success? (e.g., metrics, data collection efforts, statistics and reporting methods)

12:00 PM – Next Steps

*What’s on the horizon for Charleston anti-poverty initiatives, and what can the ABA do to support your efforts?*

- What are your next steps?
- Who/what will it take, and how will you get there?
- How can the ABA and the legal community support local anti-poverty initiatives—including alternatives to the criminalization of homelessness, pre-booking diversion, and the establishment of a Homeless Court?

12:30 PM – Concluding remarks
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:

Amy Barch, Turning Leaf Project, abarch@turningleafproject.com, 843-847-1089

Organization Website and Mission:

www.turningleafproject.com, we serve men who have been assessed at a medium to high risk of incarceration to change their attitudes, thinking and behavior so they can adapt successfully to community based living without re-incarceration.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:

We work with men 25 – 50 years old who are just released from jail or prison to reduce their chances of being re-incarcerated.
Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

Best practices in the field of reentry revolve around the concepts of RNR (risk / need / responsivity). Risk principle – provide more intense services to those more likely to re-offend. Need principle – interventions should address crime producing risk factors like antisocial personality, thinking and peers (not simply stabilization issues). Responsivity – Interventions should be cognitive behavioral in nature, and programs should recognize specific barriers to treatment (childcare, transportation, low functioning, etc.).

Our men attend classes five days a week to achieve a large dosage of cognitive behavioral treatment, after which we place them onto a transitional job with a government work crew. The men have regular case management (also cognitive behavioral based), are drug tested weekly and continue participating in an evening class after job placement. The men are paid a financial stipend for their time in the program before job placement. The entire program lasts 6 – 9 months.

Barriers and Challenges:

Our model was built around transitional job placement on government work crews. We have not been able to secure enough government jobs to meet program needs, so we have begun to look to private sectors employers to continue to grow.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

The U.S. Courts use Turning Leaf as an alternative to prison for select men facing federal criminal charges.

If I Ruled The World:
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:
J. Scott Bischoff, II, Esq.
Savage Law Firm
Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 720-7470
scott@savlaw.com

Organization Website and Mission:
www.savlaw.com

My law firm provides representation to clients in the areas of criminal defense, personal injury, and professional licensing. The majority of our practice is devoted to criminal defense at the local, state, and federal level.
Since joining the firm over five years ago, I have been committed to providing pro bono representation to members of the Charleston homeless community who have pending municipal court misdemeanor charges. I believe the criminal justice system must recognize its role in the fight against homelessness by coming up with alternative ways to resolve low-level criminal cases rather than repeated and extended incarceration, particularly when so many members of the homeless community suffer from substance abuse and/or mental health issues. As a member of the criminal defense bar, I welcome the responsibility I have to the legal profession to help take care of these members of our community who need help.

**Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:**

I work to end the cycle of incarceration within the criminal justice system by providing pro bono representation to members of Charleston’s homeless community.

**Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:**

I’ve managed to successfully resolve nearly all of my cases over the past five years through alternative dispositions that did not involve incarceration by helping my clients and law enforcement come together and better understand one another on a personal level. Humanizing one another on low-level criminal cases has been highly effective, but can only work when a client is willing to help themselves and law enforcement is willing to listen and recognize the bigger picture.

**Barriers and Challenges:**

Clients with acute substance abuse issues, because those individuals are more likely to be repeat offenders. Police officers who lack compassion and understanding of homelessness also pose a problem, but fortunately in our community there are very few.

**Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?**

Yes. All of the above.

**If I Ruled The World:**

Citizens of our country and community would come together often to assist the homeless members of our community who simply cannot escape the vicious cycle of homelessness without our help. Organizations like 180 Place would be set up in major metropolitan areas all over the country. State and local governments, to include judges, prosecutors, and law enforcement officers, would recognize that a multi-faceted approach to combatting homelessness improves the lifestyle of everyone.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:

Ashley Brooks, Director of Programs & Services, abrooks@aids-services.com

Organization Website and Mission:
www.lowcountryaidsservices.com

Lowcountry AIDS Services is a nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for persons living with HIV and AIDS and to providing HIV prevention resources and programs for schools, churches, community organizations, and the workplace in Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester counties.

In carrying out this mission, LAS strives to:
• Provide practical and emotional support to people with HIV/AIDS, their families, friends, and loved ones.
• Educate the public about HIV and AIDS and its prevention, actively confronting discrimination when it interferes with compassionate care for clients.
• Act as an advocacy, resource, and referral agency for people affected by HIV and AIDS.
• Work cooperatively with and provide assistance to the healthcare community and social service organizations.
• Represent the needs of people affected by HIV and AIDS on a local, state, and national level; ensure their fair and equitable treatment; and secure sufficient resources.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:

In order to carry out our mission, Lowcountry AIDS Services uses a case management model for working with those we serve. Case management is a process by which staff works with clients to develop individualized service plans for how clients will manage multiple aspects of HIV disease whether that be psychosocial, financial or medically related. The goal is for clients to become as self-sufficient as possible, live with dignity and to ensure they have a good support system.

The intake assessment is a comprehensive tool that will assess the client’s overall needs, including financial needs, assistance with rent or utilities and medical treatment or medications. Most clients have diverse needs and all are addressed during the assessment interview. All clients are educated about their disease, risk management, medical and medication compliance. All clients are also given a nutritional assessment and an appointment with the nutritional counselor. Clients may be given referrals to medical care, substance abuse counseling and financial management as needed.

Case management staff uses supportive services to assist clients with the completion of their service plans. Supportive services include risk management counseling, support groups, housing assistance, legal assistance, financial management, food and nutritional support/education, medication adherence, and volunteer services. Weekly support groups are offered as a way for clients to increase personal well-being.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

The most important part of the case manager/client collaboration is mutual respect, trust and a willingness to meet any challenges together. LAS case managers are compassionate, caring and hardworking; they are always willing to take that extra step for their clients and it shows in the number of success stories that are part of this agency’s history.

Barriers and Challenges:

LAS faces many challenges in providing services. In this difficult economic climate of reduced funding, our resources are stretched thin and we continue to see the rate of new infections climbing and service needs increasing. LAS is continuing to seek additional and diversified funding sources, such as private foundations and innovative fundraisers but infection rates are continuing to climb. South Carolina currently ranks 13th in the nation for new HIV infections. In 2013, the CDC identified the greater Charleston area as an “emerging community,” defined as a metropolitan area in which there have been at least 500, but fewer than 1,000, AIDS cases reported to and confirmed by the CDC during the most recent five calendar years for which such data is available. Also according to the CDC, the
Charleston/North Charleston metropolitan area ranked 31st among all U.S. metropolitan areas for the highest rate of new HIV infections in 2013. However, when considering the number of AIDS cases in 2013 in all U.S. metro areas, Charleston rises to a ranking of 19th.

Also, Charleston’s position as a top ranked tourist destination increases visitor and transient population numbers, which add to increased possible HIV infection for our resident population. In Charleston County alone, estimated visitor numbers for 2014 amounted to 5,600,000. Adding in Dorchester and Berkeley Counties increases visitor counts to well over 6,000,000 annual visitors. Charleston also continues to outpace state averages for population growth, which will continue to account for additional HIV infections if infection rates hold steady. The population change, according to the US Census for Charleston County, increased from 350,204 in 2010 to 381,015 in 2014. This represents an 8.8% increase, approximately double that of the rate of 4.5% for the state as a whole. A continued trend for population growth will increase HIV infections, caseloads and clients needing safe and affordable housing options.

Housing costs in the Charleston area have continued to outpace the growth of local incomes, leading to a severe shortage of safe, decent, and affordable housing. The rising costs of housing coupled with a high regional rate of unemployment continue to be significant challenges to ensuring clients are stably housed. Many of our clients who are employed do not earn enough to afford adequate housing. Other clients who are medically unable to work, experience extreme difficulty in obtaining disability benefits. Additionally, clients with histories of drug abuse and treatment, often find that the only affordable housing available to them is in neighborhoods of heavy drug use thus hampering their recovery. In the state prison system inmates living with HIV/AIDS are segregated from the general population based on their HIV status. Not only does this practice violate their right to confidentially, it often creates a stigma that follows them back into their communities upon release, thus further preventing them from securing stable housing. LAS attempts to identify local landlords with quality properties in safe neighborhoods who price their properties fairly and who will work with clients with less than perfect credit or a history of incarceration. Persons with HIV AIDS continue to be stigmatized especially in the South. LAS is combating the stigma of HIV/AIDS by providing education and the awareness of the disease to the public at local health fairs and testing events and in social and main stream media campaigns.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

Yes, we partner with a law firm that provides our clients with pro bono legal services (non-criminal).

If I Ruled The World:

Resources would be unlimited and distributed equally.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:
George B Cauthen; Nelson Mullins Riley and Scarborough LLP/Columbia Homeless Court/PO Box 11070, Columbia, SC 29211, 803-255-9425

Organization Website and Mission:
http://www.nelsonmullins.com/overview/pro-bono

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
Reporting for 2 organizations:
• Nelson Mullins: Project Help: after hearing Judge Jay Zainey speak at an ABA conference, Nelson Mullins (Stuart Andrews, Norah Rogers and George Cauthen) started a city of Columbia/Richland County branch of this program. The legal needs of hundreds of homeless people in South Carolina have been assisted through this program. Nelson Mullins later started a branch in Greenville South Carolina with South Carolina legal services. Members of the firm have also performed legal work for Harvest Hope, a South Carolina food bank, and various Habitat chapters in United States. For 15 years we partnered with legal services in Richmond Virginia to keep a homeless shelter in downtown Richmond.

• City of Columbia homeless court: in the fall of 2013 Columbia City Council woman Tameika Isaac Devine asked chief administrative Judge Dana Turner and George Cauthen to organize a homeless court for the city of Columbia. Through the efforts of many, including solicitor Dan Johnson and assistant solicitor Daniel McLeod Coble, the Columbia homeless court has been operational for over a year. Norah Rogers and George Cauthen are assisting the Charleston homeless court committee.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

ABA support (through the ABA Center on pro bono, ABA commission on homelessness and poverty, etc.), being involved in Judge Zainey’s Project Help network and Solace network, the Pro Bono Institute, NLADA, the local United Way have all been helpful on homeless issues.

Barriers and Challenges:

Funding: never enough funds.
conflicts: our firm is a business Law firm and we often get conflicted out of poverty issues.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

They are our brothers and sisters. In states where we have offices, we have legal services organizations as line items in our budget for donations. We have people that serve on their boards, we partner with LSC grantees on cases, we take referrals from LSC grantees and our attorneys assist in promoting LSC funding with Congress.

If I Ruled The World:
I thought I did! I would require 2 years of public service of every citizen (military, public interest law, public interest health, teachers in rural parts of the State, etc.) And I would make wearing ties optional.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:

Brian Duffy
President, Charleston County Bar Association
843 720 2044
b Duffy@duffyandyoung, com
Secretary @ charleston county bar.org

Organization Website and Mission:

www.charlestoncountybar.org

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:

Community outreach programs including legal seminars and voter registration drive.
Support worthy organizations with funding or publicity.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Barriers and Challenges:

- Time in a volunteer organization, and money.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

Yes

If I Ruled The World:

The legal system and quality representation would be accessible and efficient for all.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information: David Gehr, CDMHC Housing Director, 843-852-4100, david.gehr@scdmh.org – This form was completed by Deborah Blalock, Executive Director of the Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health. deborah.blalock@scdmh.org

Organization Website and Mission: “To support the recovery of those living with mental illnesses”

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty: CDMHC, a mental health center operated by the SCDMH, offers holistic treatment to those we serve, thereby, addressing basic needs in addition to mental health needs. We may assist people with employment, housing, entitlements, medication, etc. We also link them with primary care.
Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches: We use the evidenced practices of MI (Motivational Interviewing), DBT (Dialectical Behavioral therapy), TFCBT (Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), CBT (Cognitive Behavioral Therapy), EMDR (Eye Movement De-sensitization and Reprocessing), PE (Prolonged Exposure Therapy), PCIT (Parent-child Interactional Therapy), and IPS (Individual Placement and Support). We use the best practice models of Mental Health Court, Mobile Crisis, Highway to Hope Mental Health Mobile, School-Based Services, and HOMESHARE (an adult foster care-like program).

Barriers and Challenges: STIGMA, transportation, lack of low-income housing

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs? yes

If I Ruled The World: I would eradicate stigma surrounding mental illness.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:
Anthony Haro, Executive Director
Lowcountry Homeless Coalition
843-633-1536
Anthony@lowcountryhomelesscoalition.org

Organization Website and Mission:
www.lowcountryhomelesscoalition.org
Lowcountry Homeless Coalition’s Mission: Plan, develop, and implement comprehensive and coordinated strategies to address and end homelessness.
Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:

We develop and implement collaborative initiatives in an effort to quickly house individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Currently we are engaged in development and management of the Coordinated Entry System (CES). CES strives to make the homeless service system accessible by all persons and to streamline the entry process with common assessment materials and use of a shared database for tracking services and outcomes. CES standardizes how housing services are administered through ensuring that people get connected with the right amount of housing and supportive services and through prioritizing the most vulnerable individuals and families for the next available assistance. We also review performance outcomes of local homeless providers and provide TA where appropriate or suggest reallocation of funding from consistently under-performing programs if necessary. We are also dedicated to collecting and presenting the best information possible on homelessness in an effort to more clearly illustrate the path towards finally ending homelessness once and for all in Charleston.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Our community of service providers has been able to assist an average of 40 people every month transition from homelessness into housing since January 2015. This is accomplished through Permanent Housing programs like Rapid Re-Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing. The Housing Fist approach is a national best practice that we are dedicated to furthering here in Charleston. This approach centers on the belief that everyone in a community can achieve housing stability, and that everyone deserves safe, decent housing. Housing First is committed to lowering traditional barriers to housing such as sobriety requirements and requirements to engage in supportive services. This facilitates quick transitions to stable housing followed by supportive services in housing. Research shows that Housing First is the most effective method of ending Chronic Homelessness (long histories of homelessness paired with a disabling condition), Salt Lake City Utah was able to decrease their chronic homeless population by 98% through adopting a Housing First approach.

Barriers and Challenges:
1. A lack of significant resources invested by local governments (state, county, city) in housing programs to support rental assistance, utility assistance, etc. AND supportive services in housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.
2. A lack of significant resources invested by local hospitals in housing programs for chronically homeless, high-utilizers.
3. A lack of a single shared, regional, collaborative action plan to end homelessness adopted by local city and county governments that includes investment of local government funds to assist in housing individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
Yes, we collaborate with the Homeless Justice Project as well as with Pro-Bono Legal Services of Charleston. In addition, we have been participating in the local group who is working to create a homeless court.

If I Ruled The World:

Housing would be a right! We would have enough resources (both human capital and funds for housing payments) and affordable housing stock to be able to assist ALL individuals or families return to housing within 30 days if they were to ever experience homelessness.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:
Professor James Klein, Director of Externship Program
Charleston School of Law
843-377-2449
jklein@charlestonlaw.edu

Organization Website and Mission:
Charlestonlaw.edu

The mission of the externship program is to provide a rich experiential learning course to upper class law students. In addition to enhancing the lawyering skills of our students, the course seeks to engage the students in meaningful and effective public service.
Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:

The externship program is not a direct provider of legal services. The program places students with direct providers including public defenders, solicitors, the AUSA’s, judges, legal services, pro bono legal services, One Eighty Place, ACLU, Charleston Housing Authority, MUSC General Counsel, Charleston School District General Counsel.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

The purpose of the Externship Program is to enhance the lawyering skills of our students through experiential learning at the various field placements. Students are supervised by licensed attorneys.

Barriers and Challenges:

A major challenge is to attract enough students to enroll in the externship course so that we are able to place as many of our students as possible to our field placement sites.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

Yes. That is precisely what the program does.

If I Ruled The World:

We would have many qualified law students who are eager to engage in this experiential learning course and provide a rich experience that bridges the gap between traditional law school courses and the actual practice of law.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:
Deborah LaRoche, Program Director
Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach’s Neighborhood House
Mailing: PO Box 607, Johns Island, SC 29457
Physical: 79 America Street, Charleston, SC 29403
Deborah.laroche@olmoutreach.org
843-805-8064

Organization Website and Mission:
www.olmoutreach.org
The mission of Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach is to encourage and support self-sufficiency and self-worth for people in need in our community through education, wellness, and outreach services.
Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
Neighborhood House (NH) is Our Lady of Mercy Community Outreach’s downtown site. Primarily, NH assists in meeting the urgent needs of people living in poverty in the 29401 and 29403 zip codes through direct services, education, and wellness programs. We offer a lunch program through our soup kitchen M-F (#3), food pantry services each afternoon M-F (#3), and a clothing center M-Th (#9). Our social worker also works with individuals and families who need emergency financial assistance with rent (#1, #7), utilities (#7), prescriptions (#4), and other basic needs. She collaborates with other professionals and other organizations to help those move into more stable housing opportunities as appropriate (#1, #7, #8).

In terms of education (#5), we offer a weekly budgeting class (required for those seeking financial help) (#7), parenting support group (#7, #9), computer lab (#5, #6), and adult education tutoring (#5). We are in the process of developing a Workforce Development Program (assistance with job searches, resume building, etc.) and the Bridges Out of Poverty peer support/mentoring program, and hope that both of these programs will be under way later this fall (#5, #6, #7, #9, #10).

In order to promote health and wellness (#4), volunteers from the medical community provide basic health screenings (blood pressure, diabetes, rapid testing for HIV, etc.) and referrals to appropriate medical clinics once a month (usually on the third Thursday of the month). Each week, we distribute produce gleaned by volunteers from the Charleston Farmers’ Market (#3, #4) in order to increase access to healthy fruits and vegetables.

All of the services and programs of NH are provided with a conscious effort to maintain the personal dignity, capabilities, and gifts of each client we encounter. Our success, then, is best measured by creating situations where clients no longer need our services, and instead come back to help others who are in similar circumstances.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
See above. We are currently in the process of developing programs that truly help empower individuals to reach their own educational, financial, and personal goals. Introducing Bridges Out of Poverty’s Getting Ahead in a Just-Gettin’-By World curriculum this fall will help increase this type of programming considerably, along with a re-boot of our computer classes to include practical, hands-on skills training to help people become more employable.

Barriers and Challenges:
Like many non-profits, funding for general operations is an ongoing challenge. While we are fortunate to receive grants for particular items (i.e. food in the food pantry, etc.), funds for general operating expenses such as staff salaries, utilities, and general maintenance are often scarce. We also wrestle with being known as one of Charleston’s “best kept secrets;” we are constantly looking for new audiences with whom to share our story, partner, and collaborate. That said, with a relatively small staff (3 full time and 2 part time employees at this site), we also struggle to maintain our ongoing array of programs, services, meetings, and obligations each day.

Conceptually, we also work tirelessly to address the needs of those who are caught in generational poverty, who may have lost (or never had) the intrinsic desire to better one’s own circumstances. Coupled with the challenges of the community at large (education, violence, drug abuse, etc.), we often have a difficult time convincing clients to invest in themselves and do the difficult work of improving their personal situations. Helping people break out of the crisis-to-crisis cycle is a difficult, yet vital, part of the work we do.
Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
We collaborate when possible, and make referrals to agencies in the area (One80 Place, Pro Bono Legal, etc.) as appropriate. We also host a parenting class on Fridays that meets DSS’s requirements when parents are mandated through the courts to attend parenting classes.

If I Ruled The World:
I would ensure that all willing and able persons had ample opportunities for jobs that afford them a living wage (above the poverty line), and that would grant them confidence and self-pride in their ability to provide for themselves and their families. For those unable to work, such as the elderly, physically disabled, or mentally ill, I would ensure that safety nets were in place so that basic needs are met.

I would also eliminate drug addiction, domestic abuse, and teenage pregnancy with the wave of my magic wand 😊
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:
Alissa C. Lietzow, Esq
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services
Physical: 111 Church Street, Charleston, SC 29401
Mailing: PO Box 1116, Charleston, SC 29401
843-853-6456

Organization Website and Mission:
www.charlestonprobono.org
Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization initially sponsored by the Charleston County Bar Association in 2004. We are the only independent legal service program sponsored by a county bar association in the State of South Carolina. We aim to bridge the gap that separates low-income families from the benefits and protections of the justice system. Through advice and counsel, brief preparation services, private bar involvement, and referrals to other service organizations, we serve a vital and growing need in our community.
Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness – assist in fighting evictions, help with social programs to obtain means necessary to find stable housing
2. Disproportionate involvement in civil justice systems: assist in all areas of family law and estate planning.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

Barriers and Challenges:
Lack of funding; Need for more pro bono attorneys; disconnect between organizations

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs? Yes, it’s a huge part of who we are and what we do.

We at Charleston Pro Bono believe in the importance of collaboration and partnering with other area organizations. We’ve worked closely with a local chapter of Habitat for Humanity to assist families moving into new homes. We also host monthly legal clinics to advise the patients of the Ryan White Wellness Center at Roper St. Francis Hospital. Patients are able to meet one-on-one with an attorney for help preparing a Will, Health Care Power of Attorney, Durable Power of Attorney, or for advice on other legal matters.

Finally, Charleston Pro Bono engages with law students, both locally and across the United States through our fellowship and externship programs. We emphasize the importance of pro bono service and provide unique clinical opportunities for these students who, in turn, are able to assist us with our growing caseload by conducting intakes and drafting documents under the supervision of volunteer attorneys.

If I Ruled The World:
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:

Melissa Maddox-Evans, Esq., General Counsel
The Housing Authority of the City of Charleston
550 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29403
(843) 720-3683 (telephone)
(843) 720-3977 (facsimile)
mme@chacity.org (email)

and
Melissa Maddox-Evans, Chief Executive Officer  
Charleston County Housing and Redevelopment Authority  
2106 Mt. Pleasant Street  
Charleston, SC 29403  
(843) 628-6204 (direct)  
(843) 475-0229 (mobile)  
mme@cchra.net (email)

Organization Website and Mission:

Housing Authority of the City of Charleston

OUR MISSION
The Housing Authority of the City of Charleston provides decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing for low to moderate income citizens of the City of Charleston.

OUR VISION

The website for the agency is [www.chacity.org](http://www.chacity.org).

Charleston County Housing and Redevelopment Authority

OUR MISSION
The Charleston County Housing and Redevelopment Authority provide quality affordable housing and assists in improving economic opportunities for the low-income citizens of Charleston County.

OUR VISION
That the Charleston County Housing and Redevelopment Authority will be a high performing, national leader in anticipating and meeting the needs of low-income citizens of Charleston County for affordable housing and economic opportunities through both public and private sectors.
Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:

**Housing Authority of the City of Charleston**

Since our inception in 1935, the Housing Authority of the City of Charleston has provided assistance to tens of thousands of families. Over 4,000 households, roughly 9.2% of the population of the City of Charleston, are occupied by families who receive housing assistance through our Agency. Seven commissioners govern the Authority and are selected by the Mayor and City Council. The Commissioners employ a President/Chief Executive Officer and, through that person, the remaining staff are employed to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Authority. That mission is to provide decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing to low and moderate income citizens of the City of Charleston. The 107 employees of the Authority provide the day-to-day operational support for 1,407 public housing households located throughout the city and over 1,500 Housing Choice Voucher Program (Section 8) participants living in private accommodations.

The Authority's staff performs admissions, maintenance, property management, administrative, and resident service duties. In addition to operating the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher Program, the Authority has a Housing Finance Agency which is a component fund providing loans to create housing opportunities for low - and moderate - income citizens. The Housing Finance Agency arm of the Authority provides 870 additional units of private housing opportunities for the citizens of Charleston.

**Charleston County Housing and Redevelopment Authority**

The Charleston County Housing and Redevelopment Authority was created March 15, 1972 by a Resolution of the Charleston Legislative Delegation and by a subsequent Ordinance of Charleston County Council dated July 18, 1972. It is a separate entity from the County of Charleston Government with its own seven-member
Board of Commissioners and a staff of twenty-five. Since that resolution, the Authority has grown to house 256 seniors on two sites; Joseph Floyd Manor and Brighton Place. An additional 143 families are housed in single family homes, 2-3 bedrooms, many brick, many with garages, some with 2 or 2 ½ baths, all in substantial neighborhoods and subdivisions within Charleston County. Additionally, we serve over 850 families through providing the families with Housing Choice (Section 8) Vouchers. Several our Section 8 families are enrolled in a special Family Self Sufficiency program designed to assist them in becoming totally free of all government subsidies in five years.

The Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) Department currently has 1,079 units allocated for vouchers. Housing Choice Vouchers allow low-income households to pay approximately one-third of their income in rent. The remainder of the rent is paid through federal subsidies to the landlord by CCHRA. Charleston County Housing contracts with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer vouchers for low-income families, elderly, and/or disabled people.

**Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:**

**Housing Authority of the City of Charleston**

**The Family Self-Sufficiency/Home Ownership Program:**

CHA is proud to administer the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)/Home Ownership Program for its Housing Choice Voucher participants. The FSS Program is awarded through grant by HUD and provides opportunities for residents to become self-sufficient with established goals, such as first-time home ownership, starting a small business, or college education. The Family Self Sufficiency Program graduates receive funds from an escrow account held in reserve on their behalf in order to assist them with becoming self-sufficient. CHA is also the recipient of the Resident Opportunity Self-Sufficiency (ROSS) Grant to assist individuals with job placement, connecting with local resources in order to achieve life goals.
The Office of Special Housing Needs

The Office of Special Housing Needs caters to those individuals who are currently transitioning from homelessness and may need special support services for mental health needs and to achieve financial independence. The OSHN Office also administers elderly supportive services programs for our senior residents. We partner with several other agencies, including the Department of Mental Health, the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, and the Department of Social Services to ensure that residents have access to support services that they need.

Resident Outreach/Supportive Services

All public housing neighborhoods are staffed with full time Program Specialists at each management office who coordinate services, activities, and programs for residents. We offer over 40 different programs and activities. Examples of outreach programs include: After School Tutoring - Community Festivals - Elderly Support Program - Family Self Sufficiency - G.E.D. Classes- G.O.T. Class - Jake’s Music Program for children - Let’s Talk - Movie Night - Summer Camps - Summer Feeding Program - Mommy and Me - Netbook Giveaway - Resident Advisory Boards and Resident Associations Training – Abraham’s Closet - Turning Point Support Group for victims of domestic violence - Senior Food Pantry - Vita Tax Service – Sherwin Williams Apprenticeship Program. All programs are designed to foster community, professional, personal and family development.

HUD-VASH Program

The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) Program combines Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) rental assistance for homeless Veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). VA provides these services for participating Veterans at VA medical centers (VAMCs) and community-based outreach clinics. CHA proudly serves over 250 veterans through this program.
Charleston County Housing and Redevelopment Authority

CCHRA is also proud to administer the Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program for its Housing Choice Voucher participants. The FSS Program is awarded through grants by HUD and provides opportunities for residents to become self-sufficient with established goals, such as first-time home ownership, starting a small business, or college education. The Charleston County Housing and Redevelopment Authority's Housing Choice Voucher Family Self Sufficiency Program celebrates the accomplishments of its FSS Graduates annually. All graduates received funds from escrow to assist them with becoming self-sufficient.

Note: Housing Authorities are authorized to develop local waitlist preference policies based upon the needs of a jurisdiction for the following groups: Elderly, disabled, chronic homelessness, working families, domestic violence victims and families displaced by natural disaster or governmental action.

Barriers and Challenges:

Funding

The one most significant challenges housing authorities face in administrating federally-subsidized housing programs is balancing the increasing need for affordable housing within the community with decreasing federal funding allocations. The Low-Income Public Housing Programs and the Housing Choice Voucher Programs, which are the largest programs, are most impacted by decreased federal funding levels. Funding levels are an average of 80-90% of the estimated need each year. Housing Authorities must be creative in securing non-federal funding sources in order to provide sustainable housing for the needy. As the physical public housing stock is aging, there are also challenges in meeting the large volume of accumulated and deferred maintenance repair needs and modernization work capital improvement funding is insufficient to meet the demands.
Gentrification

The Charleston, SC area is becoming one of the fastest growing areas demographically and is transforming from a top vacation destination to a desired place for permanent relocation. The area averages approximately over 40 people moving to the region each day. Due to the increase in demand for housing, particularly on the peninsular, homes values and rental rates have also increased. The increased prices for homes most impacts workforce and low-income families, first-time home buyers and renters and forces these families to the outskirts of the region, further from job centers. It has increased transportation burdens on the region as persons travel from homes in more affordable areas to work in the urban areas.

Income-Based Discrimination

In addition to the rising costs of housing in the Charleston area, housing authorities have also experienced difficulties in finding landlords that are willing to accept Housing Choice Vouchers (Section 8) in their rental homes and developments. Discrimination against persons on the basis of legal source of income is currently not a fair housing violation. Many landlords refuse to rent to Section 8 voucher holders, limiting the pool of available housing options. Discrimination against legal sources of income also negatively impacts disabled veterans and seasonal workers.

Note: There are several other barriers and/or challenges to finding adequate housing, such as the lack of housing in close proximity to work employment centers and public facilities, lack of adequate transportation, the need to remove regulatory barriers and the lack of diversity in the types of housing available. For more information on these regional needs and challenges see The Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Housing Assessment Report. [http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/zoning-planning/files/Housing-Needs-Assessment-Final-Draft.pdf](http://www.charlestoncounty.org/departments/zoning-planning/files/Housing-Needs-Assessment-Final-Draft.pdf)

**Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?**

Our agencies currently partner with the Charleston School of Law’s Externship and Pro Bono Programs. Under these programs second and third year law students
receive training on the administrative grievance hearing process and serve as Hearing Officer for denials of admission or termination of assistance for Housing Authority applicants and participants. Law students also have the opportunity to work under the supervision of in house counsel and learn all aspects of affordable housing and landlord/tenant law, corporate and nonprofit governance, nonprofit administration, employee/labor laws, contracts administration and procurement.

Residents of our programs are referred to Charleston Pro Bono Legal Services and to South Carolina Legal Services for assistance in order to obtain personal legal representation.

**If I Ruled The World:**

All persons regardless of income, race, color, ethnicity or national origin, disability, religion, gender or sexual orientation would have the opportunity and access to obtain affordable housing, gainful employment in close proximity to their home and have access to quality public education within their own neighborhoods.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:

Meredith Miller/Veterans Administration/843-297-0019 meredith.miller2@va.gov

Organization Website and Mission:

http://www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp
The aim of the Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) program is to avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration among Veterans by ensuring that eligible, justice-involved Veterans have timely access to Veterans Health Administration (VHA) services, as clinically indicated. VJO specialists provide direct outreach, assessment and case management for justice-involved Veterans in local courts and jails and liaison with local justice system partners.
Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:

VJO works to assist justice-involved Veterans in linking with VA services that may aid in recovery of mental ill and/or substance abuse along with ending homelessness.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Helping one Veteran at a time in linking with services and hope that things can be different.

Barriers and Challenges:

Everyday stressors and hurdles that the homeless encounter which can sometimes get in the way of following through with treatment, etc.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

Yes

If I Ruled The World:
I would give everyone, despite socioeconomic situation, the same opportunities to succeed and have a brighter future.
**Statement of Services**

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

**Ten Manifestations of Poverty:**

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

**Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:**

Johnna C. Murray, Director  
Community Development Department  
Charleston County Government  
jmurray@charlestoncounty.org

**Organization Website and Mission:**

[www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org)  
The Department manages US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant dollars to develop strong communities by providing decent housing, a suitable living environment, and expanding economic opportunities, principally for low- and moderate-income persons.
Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
We offer grants to non-profit organizations to provide public services and entities to provide housing rehabilitation to sub-standard housing units that are owner-occupied.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

Barriers and Challenges:
Our community has great needs particularly in the quantity of affordable housing, the prevalence of substandard housing, and access to healthcare.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
The Community Development Department provides HUD funding to Charleston Pro Bono to assist low-to-moderate individuals in accessing free (or greatly reduced) legal services.

If I Ruled The World:
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:

Sally Newman, Charleston Legal Access, sally@charlestonlegalaccess.org, (843) 640-5980

Organization Website and Mission:

www.charlestonlegalaccess.org.
Charleston Legal Access is a nonprofit law firm dedicated to expanding access to legal services and rights in South Carolina. CLA serves moderate and low income individual clients, providing legal representation at reduced fees calculated on a sliding scale, and participates in litigation to overcome systemic injustice.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:

It is an open secret that the attorneys fees associated with legal difficulties can be disastrous for low and moderate income Americans. Many low income individuals who do not qualify for free, government
funded legal representation take the risk of going without an attorney, only to find themselves in worse financial and legal trouble because of their lack of legal guidance.

Charleston Legal Access is a new, nonprofit law firm designed specifically to serve low income people with moderate assets. Our priorities are transparency, openness, and unflagging dedication to the interests of our clients. We spend little on overhead and utilize grants and donations to further reduce the rates we can offer potential clients. All fees are calculated on a sliding scale tailored to an individual’s income. Our services address isolation, financial instability, disproportionate (unrepresented) involvement in the justice system, and unfair imbalances of power in contractual relationships.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

We are in our first year of operation, so we are very much developing this model. We have successfully tapped into a population that has been completely unserved until this point; the working poor are as a group unable to access most of the existing free legal services. Our services also focus on providing focused, individual care to specific cases rather than serving the most volume possible, which allows us to build our reputation within the legal community and with clients.

Barriers and Challenges:

Operating an organization that is a hybrid between a private (fee-charging) law firm and a nonprofit is inherently challenging in navigating the legal compliance requirements associated with nonprofits and legal representation. Compliance has therefore been time consuming during our setup period.

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

Yes.

If I Ruled The World:

There would be no more leaf blowers or fax machines anywhere.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:

Ashley Pennington - Ninth Circuit Public Defender
101 Meeting St., 5th floor | Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 958-1870 | apennington@cder.org

Organization Website and Mission:

lojcountrydefenders.org - Provide effective, client-centered legal representation.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:

We only represent clients who are at or below the federal poverty guidelines.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

They are charged with offenses that could result in imprisonment.

MacArthur Safety and Justice Initiative in Charleston County
Barriers and Challenges: Heavy Caseload

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

Yes, w/ Legal Aid

If I Ruled The World:

There would be appointed lawyers available in all SC Criminal Courts.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:

Kristy Pierce Danford, Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), kdanford@charlestoncounty.org

Organization Website and Mission:

http://cjcc.charlestoncounty.org

The mission of the CJCC is to assist in making sustainable, data-driven improvements to Charleston County’s criminal justice system and thereby improve public safety and community well-being.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
Over the next three years, six key strategies will be implemented to safely reduce the jail population by 25%. Strategies include:

1. Officer risk-based decision-making to reduce jail admissions
2. Triage center service for high-need individuals, suffering from mental illness, substance abuse, homelessness, etc.
3. Automated court reminders
4. Risk-based bail-setting, including indigent defense representation
5. Reengineered case management to reduce the time to case resolution in General Sessions
6. Centralized data warehouse

Of the manifestations of poverty mentioned above, these strategies most directly address disproportionate involvement in the criminal justice system.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:

While the CJCC is in its early, formative years of development successes include:

- Completion of a system map and corresponding data analysis,
- Prioritization of areas for reform within the local criminal justice system,
- Achievement of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Safety and Justice Challenge grant to fund implementation of reform efforts,
- Formalized CJCC bylaws,
- Initial installation of the six strategies,
- Accepted into the National Network of CJCCs, and
- Joined the White House Data Driven Justice Initiative.

Barriers and Challenges:

One of the main challenges has been revising the CJCC’s transformation plan to maintain as much consistency with the original plan as possible despite a significant reduction to the original budget. The other challenges faced are typical challenges associated with managing change (e.g., constraints of workload, timing, data, etc.). Hence, the first year of the plan is mainly focused on infrastructure development (e.g., policies and procedures, technology, data systems, and staffing).

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

Yes, CJCC members include elected and appointed executives from the local criminal justice system (e.g., county, municipal and state officials from law enforcement, courts, and behavioral health agencies) and community representatives. For example, the Circuit Solicitor, Circuit Defender and Chief Administrative Judges at the Summary and Circuit levels are each active members of the CJCC, as are the Clerk of Court and Summary Court Directors within the County, Charleston, N. Charleston and Mt. Pleasant. The Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court is also an ex officio member.

If I Ruled The World:

Pervasive systemic challenges would be treated holistically with common sense, evidence-based solutions, and purposeful attention to the drivers of change.

I’d also have my own personal magic wand for use in case of emergencies.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information: Norah Cooney Rogers
Pro Bono Coordinator
Nelson Mullins LLP PO Box 11070
Columbia SC 29211 norah.rogers@nelsonmullins.com

Organization Website and Mission: Law Firm with a long established Pro Bono Program
www.nmrs.com

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
Closet in 1 and 2

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Nelson Mullins assisted with the creation of the Columbia and Charleston Homeless Court

Barriers and Challenges:
As to 1-10 it would be funding issues and sometimes collaboration
Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

We are a law firm so we have several projects and cases where we do collaborate with legal services in the States where we are located and numerous nonprofits assisting those of limited means.

If I Ruled The World:

Create a successful program in South Carolina that assists low-income (up to 300%) with custody and divorce issues when children are involved. This is one of the top legal issues and there is no legal assistance for this population. It becomes a real issue when one parent has the money to afford a lawyer and the other is unable to represent herself or hire a lawyer and visitation and other issues at risk.

I would also like to see a national program whereby recent graduates of law school can commit to 3 years of service at a legal service agency in a rural area and receive a reduction in school debt. Once employed, they would also be required to handle a small pro bono case load for an additional two years. This program could be modeled much like debt forgiveness program for teachers. There are so many young lawyers that cannot find work and what a great way to recruit lawyers to learn how to handle legal issues for the poor and then have the skill to assist after employment.
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:

Sue Berkowitz
Ashley Thomas
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
1518 Washington Street
Columbia SC 29201
803-779-1113 x 113
athomas@scjustice.org

Organization Website and Mission:

http://scjustice.org/
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center is dedicated to advocacy for low income people in South Carolina to effect systemic change by acting in and through the courts, legislature, administrative agencies, community and the media, and helping others do the same through education, training and co-counseling.

Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
SC Appleseed fights for low-income South Carolinians to overcome social, economic and legal injustice. For over 20 years, SC Appleseed has improved the quality of life for all South Carolinians. We serve a wide range of needs for the low-income community through legal work, economic development, social legislation and educational work.

Safe housing, reliable transportation, food, education and other necessities that should be a right rather than a privilege, are our goals. We seek equity through our laws and the assurance that our legal system is looking out for those most in need. These are the promises that a civil society makes to all its citizens. It is the pursuit of these rights that drives SC Appleseed forward.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Creation of Lawyers 4 Vets Pro Bono Legal Clinic
Systemic/Impact Litigation
Legislative advocacy
Use of Community Organizers

Barriers and Challenges:
Conservative lawmakers
Organizations not working together/silos
Lack of resources

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?

Yes. We have a network of pro bono attorneys and law firms who we co-counsel with. We have partnered with SC Legal Services as well.

If I Ruled The World: If I ruled the world we wouldn’t need this Roundtable and there would be no list of the ten manifestations of poverty to discuss!
Statement of Services

Please complete this template to describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty highlighted by the Commission below. Templates will be circulated to the Commission and other roundtable participants prior to the program to provide background information and context in an effort to allow for more time to delve deeper into the critical issues and best practices. Templates will ultimately be posted on the Commission website in an effort to highlight the excellent work of your organization. Please feel free to attach/hyperlink documents.

Ten Manifestations of Poverty:

1. Substandard and unaffordable housing and homelessness
2. Disproportionate involvement in criminal and civil justice systems
3. Food inadequacy
4. Inadequate healthcare and poor health outcomes
5. Inadequate education outcomes
6. Lack of opportunity for full employment at a living wage
7. Living through an unending and continuous cycle of crises
8. Lack of personal and physical safety
9. Stigma and lack of personal dignity
10. Isolation from community and political infrastructure

Speaker/Agency/Contact Information:
Alesia Rico Flores
City of Charleston Municipal Court
180 B Lockwood Blvd.
Charleston, SC 29403
ricofloresa@charleston-sc.gov

Organization Website and Mission:
Municipal Court judges and staff ensure citizens and users of the court receive efficient, fair and impartial justice, regardless of individual circumstances and background, in order to protect each citizen’s right to due process under the laws of our country and state. http://www.charleston-sc.gov/index.aspx?nid=821
Describe the work of your organization to address (one or more of) the manifestations of poverty:
The City of Charleston Municipal Court works to ensure that all Defendants receive a fair and impartial hearing. Their Constitutional Rights are explained and a public defender is appointed to represent all defendants who desire a lawyer but cannot afford a lawyer.

Success, Best Practices, Model Approaches:
Success:
The Supreme Court of South Carolina has approved the establishment of a Homeless Court in the City of Charleston.
Success:
The Charleston County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) was awarded $2.25 million from the Safety and Justice Challenge to invest in a mix of strategies that will further reduce the average daily jail population over the next three years. [http://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/challenge-site/charleston-county/](http://www.safetyandjusticechallenge.org/challenge-site/charleston-county/) The City of Charleston Municipal Court will be the pilot site for a court reminder system for defendants.
Best Practices: Always explore alternatives to incarceration when appropriate.
Model Approaches: Establish a fair and impartial system by providing access to legal representation for those in need. Encourage fair resolutions.

Barriers and Challenges:
We need to collaborate more with all relevant agencies to ensure that an adequate amount of social services/programs for the homeless population are available that would allow them (when appropriate given the circumstances and the nature of the crime) to be diverted from the criminal justice system to organizations that could address the possible underlying causes of criminal activity (i.e. substance abuse; mental health challenges; lack of education; inadequate housing).

Does your organization currently collaborate with lawyers/legal services/court programs?
The City of Charleston Municipal Court has collaborated with defense attorneys, prosecutors, judges, law enforcement and One80 Place to establish a Homeless Court. We have also collaborated with various agencies while serving as committee members of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Counsel.

If I Ruled The World:
The entire homeless population would be given the necessary resources (substance abuse counseling; mental health counseling; job training; educational opportunities; respectable housing) to escape homelessness and the revolving door of the criminal justice system. Each person would be assigned a case worker to help them navigate through the difficult process to self-restoration.
Additional Participant Bios and Information:

**Lieutenant Christine Middleton** joined the Charleston Police Department in December 1990. She graduated from Baptist Hill High School, received her Bachelor of Science Degree from Voorhees College and Basic Training Certification from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

Lt. Middleton has served the Charleston Police Department in many capacities that include: Uniform Patrol Division-Teams 2 & 3, Central Investigation Division- Burglary Investigator, Office of the Chief of Police-Administrative Assistant, VICE Investigator, Internal Affairs-Investigator, Administrative Services-Training Administrative Sergeant, Midnight Shift Command Duty Officer, Team 5 Commander & currently Support Services Unit Commander.

Lt. Middleton has received numerous departmental commendations for outstanding acts and dedication to duty. Community recognition awards include: the NAACP Trail Blazer Award and MLK Portrait Award.

**Marybeth Mullaney** has spent her legal career fighting to protect people's civil rights as a criminal defense attorney and has now expanded her practice to include protecting employees' rights from unscrupulous employers. She has dedicated her career to fighting for the underdog.

Marybeth received her Juris Doctor from the University of South Carolina in 1993, and started her legal career working as a public defender in New York City with the Legal Aid Society. During that time she represented hundreds of clients in jury trials, suppression hearings, guilty pleas and grand jury proceedings.

In 2007, Marybeth worked as an Assistant Public Defender with the Ninth Circuit Public Defender's Office in Charleston, SC. Serving in that position, she managed a demanding caseload and was named Statewide Public Defender of the Year in 2009. In 2011 Marybeth opened a boutique law firm specializing in overtime violations and criminal law. She was recently voted one of the best attorneys in Mount Pleasant by Mount Pleasant Magazine.

Originally from Irmo, South Carolina, Marybeth graduated from Irmo High School. She received her BA in economics from Fairfield University and worked briefly for Citibank in New York before changing direction and attending law school at the University of South Carolina. She currently lives in Mount Pleasant with her husband and two children.

**Michael Seekings** serves as the councilmember for District Eight. He was reelected to his second term in November 2013. He is also a successful attorney and businessman who has spent the last twenty years living and working in Charleston. He began his legal career as a Clerk to the Honorable Donald S. Russell, former Governor of the State of South Carolina. After practicing law in Washington DC with the firm of Latham and Watkins, Mike embarked on his career in Charleston where he has been on the leading edge of design, construction, and development issues.
that affect the citizens of the city, county and state. He also serves as an Adjunct Professor at the Charleston School of Law. He is a board member of the Bridge Run, The CACVB and the Gibbes Museum. He also serves on the South Carolina Bar Association House of Delegates, as well as the Executive Committee.

**Sylvia Skeeter** is the Court Administrator for the Municipal Court for the Department of Budget, Finance and Revenue Collections. The Municipal Court Division is responsible for the management and proper administration of all facets of the City’s Municipal Court operations in support of the City’s Chief Municipal Judge and other municipal judges who serve the Municipal Court. The Municipal Court Division provides: administrative support to the judicial arm of the court, case docketing, case management, alternative sentence monitoring, court fine collection, court fine and case load reporting.

Municipal Court judges and staff ensure citizens and users of the court receive efficient, fair and impartial justice, regardless of individual circumstances and background, in order to protect each citizen’s right to due process under the laws of our country and state.

**Debbie Walker** is the Coordinator for Charleston County Adult Drug Court. Charleston County Adult Drug Court provides a cost-effective alternative to traditional prosecution and incarceration of nonviolent offenders with substance abuse problems. Crimes will be reduced and offenders habilitated through court supervision and substance abuse treatment. The program is designed to promote self-sufficiency and personal responsibility. The program involves working with the Drug Court staff, all dedicated to the participant's recovery for a minimum of 12 months. The defendant's charges will be dismissed upon successful completion of the three-phase program. Participants will be involved with self-help meetings; attend weekly court appearances; submit to random drug testing and attend all treatment sessions.
MEMBER & LIAISON BIOGRAPHIES

CHAIR
THEODORE W. SMALL, JR.
Shareholder
Law Office of Theodore W. Small, P.A.
613 E New York Avenue
DeLand, FL 32724
Mailing Address: PO Box 172, DeLand, FL, 32721
386/740-0788
tsmall@businessemploymentlawyer.com

Ted Small is the principal of Law Office of Theodore W. Small, P.A. He represents clients concerning employment and business law matters, administrative charges pending at the EEOC or FCHR, and lawsuits pending in state or federal court in Florida. Before starting his own law firm, Mr. Small was a partner in the law firm of Holland & Knight, LLP, where he practiced commercial litigation and employment law in its Tampa, Washington, D.C. and Orlando offices. While working with Holland & Knight's Community Services Team, Mr. Small developed and coordinated the firm's Adopt-A-Neighborhood project which encompassed corporate, tax, legislative and litigation assistance to non-profit groups in D.C.’s Shaw Urban Renewal Area. In addition, Mr. Small obtained first-hand management experience as the president and executive director of a D.C. non-profit research organization, the Council on African American Affairs, Inc.

Mr. Small earned his A.B., magna cum laude, in 1989 from Harvard University, where he was the recipient of Harvard College Scholarships and the Robert Winfrey Leadership Award. He earned his J.D. in 1992 from the University Of Virginia School Of Law, where he was the recipient of the Hardy Cross Dillard Scholarship, the Mary Claiborne and Roy H. Ritter Award, the Herbert L. Kramer Public Service Award, the Alumni Association Special Recognition of Leadership Award and the Black Law Students Association Jack Gravely Award. At UVA, Mr. Small participated in the Peer Advisor Program, Black Law Students Association, and was the co-founder and coordinator of Students United to Promote Racial Awareness (“SUPRA”). After law school, Mr. Small clerked on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals for the Honorable Joseph W. Hatchett.

His significant community activities include memberships in the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty (2012-), Access to Legal Services Committee of The Florida Bar’s Vision 2016 Commission (2013-15), Alumni Board of UVA Law School Program in Law and Public Service (2008-); and have included multi-year appointments to the ABA House of Delegates (Florida Bar delegate, 2005-2012), Florida Legal Services, Inc. Board of Directors (2005-2011), ABA’s Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service (2009-2012), Florida Bar Judicial Nominating Procedures Committee (2006-2012), Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of NBA Executive Board (2008-10), ABA’s Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession (2000-03), the University of Virginia Law School Alumni Council (2001-04), and the Selection Committee for the University Of Virginia School Of Law Dillard Scholar Program (1994-2006). Mr. Small was also a founding member of the Ron Brown Scholar Selection Committee (1997-2003), and a founding member and chair of the Public Schools Committee of the ABA’s Section on Individual Rights and Responsibilities (1997-99).
Steve Binder is a deputy public defender with the San Diego Office of the Primary Public Defender, where he has practiced since 1988. He co-founded the Homeless Court Program (HCP) in 1989 and the Veterans Treatment Court (VTC) in 2011. He represented the first VTC participants to receive Restorative Relief under Penal Code 1170.9(h) in California. He authored a grant request for Dept. of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance funding for the HCP. Mr. Binder has received many awards for his work. In May 2013, he received the Thomas Wynn Sr. Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement from the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. In November 2009, he received the VA Secretary’s Award for Achievement in Service to Homeless Veterans from Eric Shinseki in Washington D.C. In 2004, the HCP was selected as one of fifteen finalists for the Innovations in Government Awards by the Ash Institute/Kennedy School of Government-Harvard University. The American Bar Association presented the “Hodson Award” to the San Diego County Office of the Public Defender for outstanding service by a public agency with the Homeless Court. He is a Special Advisor and former Chair to the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty. He serves on the Judicial Council Collaborative Justice Courts Advisory Committee for the Judicial Counsel of California.

Kay Hansen has been a Senior Staff Attorney with Iowa Legal Aid since returning to her home state of Iowa in May 2016. In addition to assisting ILA's clients, Ms. Hansen is also assigned responsibility for work within the SSVF (Supportive Services for Veteran Families, a U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs program) partnership project in Des Moines. She is a member of Iowa Legal Aid's Race Equity Committee and its Limited English Proficiency Committee.

Prior to beginning her work with ILA, Ms. Hansen served as a judge at the 36th District Court in Detroit, Michigan for twelve years. While at the court, she worked to establish the court's homeless court, Street Outreach Court, Detroit (SOCO), and co-shared judicial responsibilities for it after creation. During 2015-16, Ms. Hansen was also the presiding judge of the 36th District Court's Community Court. In addition to her judicial responsibilities, Ms. Hansen served on the State Bar of Michigan's Criminal Issues Initiative Committee, the Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association's Board of Directors, and in a variety of roles with the Michigan District Judges Association.

Ms. Hansen is in her third year as a member of the Commission on Homelessness and Poverty. She is a life member of the NAACP, of the National Association of Women Lawyers, and of the National Association of Women Judges. She is a member of the Michigan and Iowa bars.
ANIKA SANDERS JACKSON
Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth and Reconciliation
8 Mulberry Road
Selma, AL 36703
615/479-1901
ajackson@selmacenterfornonviolence.org

Ainka Jackson is the Executive Director of the Selma Center for Nonviolence, Truth and Reconciliation at Healing Waters Retreat Center, where she facilitates their work to bridge divides and build the Beloved Community. She was previously the Metro Guardian ad Litem for the Metro Nashville Public Defender's Office, where she represented children who have been abused or neglected. Prior to that position, she was a Department of Children's Services Case Manager, a teacher and an Assistant Public Defender, adult division. She has witnessed how these systems connect and feed into one another. Born in Montgomery, Alabama and raised in Selma, Alabama, she appreciates that every successful legal and legislative movement required a people movement. Therefore, she also helps organize students, parents and the faith community to address the over-representation of black and brown children in the juvenile justice system and being pushed out of school, as well as mass incarceration. As a co-founder of the Nashville Campaign to End the New Jim Crow, she has helped organize Mass Incarceration forums for Judicial, District Attorney and mayoral Candidates. Jackson also recently was one of the organizers and presenters for the Revisioning Justice Conference at Vanderbilt University where Michelle Alexander, Bryan Stevenson and Howard Zehr were keynote speakers. She was the Vice President of the Children’s Defense Fund Nashville Freedom School Partnership Board and also a leader on the Criminal Justice/Mass Incarceration taskforce for Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH) and presented at the largest mayoral forum Nashville has ever had. She has also presented at numerous conferences and institutions including, on truancy and the school to prison pipeline at the annual Samuel Dewitt Proctor Institute for Child Advocate Ministry. She is an incoming member of the board for the Young Lawyers Section of the Alabama State Bar. She received the first annual In Peace & Freedom Award in 2016 and is a level 1 certified Kingian Nonviolence trainer. She also facilitates the Selma Anti-Poverty Roundtable initiative, which was birthed from the ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty’s Anti-Poverty Roundtable discussion in Selma, AL. The local collaboration is currently developing strategic plans to address the lack of a homeless shelter; organizing NGOs, including faith-based institutions to empower the blocks surrounding their organization; spurring economic development using the assets that already exist in Selma; community policing and other issues involving the legal system. She is a graduate of Spelman College and Vanderbilt Law School.

ELIZABETH PALMER
Rosen Rosen & Hagood LLC
151 Meeting Street, Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401-2239
843/577-6726
epalmer@rrhlawfirm.com

Elizabeth Palmer’s work focuses primarily on business litigation, commercial litigation, employment law, personal injury, education law, and general civil litigation. She has been selected to the South Carolina Rising Stars List in business litigation by Super Lawyers for the past four years. In 2015, Beth received the "Young Lawyer of the Year" award by the South Carolina Bar Association. Beth takes great pride in her activities outside of her practice and devotes a great deal of time to professional and community organizations. She has been a leader of the Young Lawyer Division (YLD) of both the American Bar Association and the S.C. Bar Association for numerous years. She currently serves as the ABA YLD’s Public Service Project Coordinator, charged with overseeing the implementation of this year’s national public service project, World Wise Web: Protecting Our Youth from Internet Predators, which is designed to educate youth about safe online behavior. In her previous role as the ABA YLD’s Public Service Director, she was primarily responsible for the creation and implementation of Project Street Youth: Young Lawyers Advocating for Homeless Youth, which organizes legal clinics and supply
drives for homeless and transitional youth. In previous years, Beth was involved with the development of Bullyproof, an anti-bullying initiative that is still active and being presented throughout the country, as well as American Voter, a project designed to educate high school seniors about the history of the right to vote and inspire them to exercise that right.

**LIAISONS**

**RENATO IZQUIETA**
Legal Aid Society of Orange County  
2101 N Tustin Avenue  
Santa Ana, CA 92705  
rizquieta@legal-aid.com

Mr. Renato Izquieta is a Supervising Attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Orange County (LASOC). He started his legal career in 1997. As a legal services attorney he provides assistance to the low income community with family law, tenant defense, public benefits, consumer matters, IRS tax issues and a variety of other civil legal matters. He provides direct services to the homeless and veterans through his collaboration with the Orange County’s Homeless and Veteran’s Court and the ABA. Mr. Izquieta sits as a Judge Pro Tem for the Orange County Superior Court. In 2012, Mr. Izquieta received Humanitarian Person of the Year award presented by the Orange County Superior Court, Homeless Outreach Court. Mr. Izquieta previously served on the ABA Commission on Homeless and Poverty and with the Coordinating Committee on Veterans Services and Benefits. He now serves on the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense.

**JEFF YUNGMAN**
One80 Place Homeless Justice Project  
35 Walnut Street  
Charleston, SC 29403  
843/737-8361  
jyungman@one80place.org

Jeff Yungman is the Director of the One80 Place Homeless Justice Project in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1980 after leaving the New Orleans Police Department, Jeff obtained a Masters in Social Work and a Masters in Public Health from Tulane University. After a variety of social work jobs, in 1999 he became Clinical Director of One80 Place, the homeless shelter in Charleston. Then in 2004, after recognizing the need for legal services for the residents of One80 Place, Jeff enrolled in the inaugural class of the Charleston School of Law.

While attending law school, Jeff started the One80 Place Legal Clinic in partnership with the law school and local law firms. In 2008, after Jeff graduated, the legal clinic evolved into the Homeless Justice Project providing civil legal services to any individual in the Charleston area who is homeless. The Project provides holistic advocacy focusing primarily on the areas of disability claims, veterans’ benefits, family law, landlord/tenant issues, consumer issues, and identification.

Jeff has made presentations on legal issues affecting the homeless at local, regional, and national conferences. In 2010 he was appointed to the ABA Commission on Homelessness and Poverty and is currently a liaison with the Commission. Jeff is also an adjunct professor at the University Of South Carolina College Of Social Work and the Charleston School of Law.

**FORMER MEMBER**

**GEORGE CAUTHEN**
Meridian, 17th Floor  
1320 Main Street  
Columbia, SC 29201
George Cauthen is a partner of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Columbia, SC, where he heads the Banking, Bankruptcy and Creditors Rights Team and practices in the area of creditor bankruptcy law. Mr. Cauthen is a member of the South Carolina Bar and the Florida Bar, and he is a Certified Specialist in Bankruptcy Law by the Supreme Court of South Carolina. Additionally, he is a Certified Specialist in Consumer and Business Bankruptcy Law awarded by the American Bankruptcy Board of Certification. He has served as the General Counsel for the Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity and as the Chair of the Pro Bono Committee for the American College of Bankruptcy. He has been a member of the American Bar Association Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants and the American Bar Association Commission on Homelessness & Poverty, as well as the South Carolina Access to Justice Commission. He currently serves on the Board of South Carolina Legal Services.

STAFF

AMY HORTON-NEWELL
Director
ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty
1050 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036
202/662-1693
amy.hortonnewell@americanbar.org

Amy Horton-Newell has served as the Director of the Commission on Homelessness & Poverty at the American Bar Association since 2001. Amy is also the Director of the ABA Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits & Services. She coordinates ABA policy development and programming related to the special legal needs of people experiencing homelessness and poverty, and she collaborates with national, state and local advocacy groups, associations, and government agencies to provide technical assistance and address issues related to homelessness and poverty. Horton-Newell has been a member of the National Homeless Advocates since 2001 and a member of the Homeless Veteran National Advocacy Working Group since its establishment in 2011. From 2003 through 2011 Amy served on the Board of Directors for the Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless in Maryland. Since 2001, she has served on the Montgomery County Continuum of Care as well as on the Planning Committee for Montgomery County Homeless Resource Day. Amy is currently chairing the Montgomery County Interagency Commission on Homelessness. In 2014, Amy was honored by the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans for her leadership and personal commitment to ending veteran homelessness in the United States. Amy received a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from the University of Maryland, College Park, where she was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She graduated from the University of Maryland School of Law where she focused on poverty law and street outreach and was admitted to the Maryland Bar in 2000.

Speaking engagements have included presentations at national conferences sponsored by the American Bar Association, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, National Alliance to End Homelessness, National Coalition for the Homeless, National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, as well as presentations to state and local bar associations, judicial organizations, government officials, service providers and advocacy groups across the country. Horton-Newell edited and contributed to “Lawyers Working to End Homelessness” (2006), and co-edited “Runaway and Homeless Youth and the Law: Model State Statutes” (2009) and “Educating Children Without Housing: A Primer on Legal Requirements and Implementation Strategies for Educators, Advocates and Policymakers” (2014).