

DIALOGUE

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News and Perspectives from the ABA Division for Legal Services

LAMP

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Judge Advocates Have Key Role In Helping to Prevent Servicemember Suicides

By David M. Bizar

Servicemember suicide is at an all-time high. The Congressional Quarterly has reported that in the past year the American military has lost more active duty and reservists to suicide than to combat deaths in the same time period in Afghanistan and Iraq combined. Servicemembers often turn to Judge Advocates (JAs) for help with their personal issues, which can be more debilitating to them than battlefield stress. [Read more...](#)

From the Chair...

By Donald J. Guter, RADM JAGC USN (Ret.)

The proposition that low-income American service men and women should be statutorily entitled to civil legal assistance services is bedrock ABA policy, reaffirmed by the House of Delegates in 2007 and adopted as a top ABA legislative priority in conjunction with ABA Day activities in 2010. [Read more...](#)

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LRIS

Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements for LRIS Programs and Panel Attorneys: An Update on Serving Deaf and Hard of Hearing Clients

By Clara Schwabe

In 1991, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law. Almost 20 years later, many solo practitioners and small firms, the bulk of the LRIS community of panel members, are unaware of the requirements of that law with respect to deaf and hard-of-hearing clients. [Read more...](#)

From the Chair...

By Sheldon R. Warren

At the beginning of every new year, we reflect on the events of the previous 12 months and speculate about what is likely to occur in the coming 12 months. Last year was one of the most difficult economic periods this country and the legal profession has seen since the Great Depression. Across the economy, people lost their jobs, homes and retirement savings. [Read more...](#)

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Delivery

From the Chair...

By Richard T. Cassidy

I am proud to announce the recipients of the 2010 Louis M. Brown Award. The recipients joined the Standing Committee on the Delivery of Legal Services both at a presentation at the ABA Midyear Meeting and at the Committee's business meeting. [Read more...](#)

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Pro Bono

CLE Credit for Pro Bono: An Innovative Pro Bono Strategy

By Jamie Hochman-Herz

For the past decade, certain states have permitted attorneys who take pro bono cases to earn credit toward mandatory continuing legal education (CLE) requirements. The purpose of these rules is to encourage more attorneys to take pro bono cases, to reward attorneys who serve the poor, and to acknowledge that many attorneys who take these cases receive practical training that can be comparable to what is taught in a typical CLE session. [Read more...](#)



EQUAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Join us in Phoenix, Arizona
May 13-15 for the
2010 ABA/NLADA Equal Justice Conference
Register now at www.equaljusticeconference.org

From the Chair...

By A. Michael Pratt

2009 National Celebration of Pro Bono a Major Success

When the Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service announced its plans for the first National Celebration of Pro Bono, many questions were raised about the value of a nationally coordinated strategy for recognizing pro bono across the country. Under the leadership of then Chairman Mark Schickman, the Committee believed that the initiative, modeled after the ABA's Law Week strategy—dependent on local projects held during a designated timeframe—would capture the interest and energy of the legal community. [Read more...](#)



START PLANNING NOW FOR THE
2010 NATIONAL PRO BONO CELEBRATION
OCTOBER 24 - 30, 2010
www.celebrateprobono.org

IOLTA

Access to Justice Commissions and IOLTA Programs: Helping One Another to Help More Clients

By Bob Echols

The growth of state Access to Justice (ATJ) commissions has been one of the most striking and consequential justice-related developments of the past decade. As of early 2010, 24 states and the District of Columbia have established one of these blue-ribbon commissions. [Read more...](#)

From the Chair...

By Lora J. Livingston

In spite of challenging times, the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) community has accomplished much over the last year to diversify sources of funding for civil legal aid to the poor, to develop and implement IOLTA rule revisions, and to share ideas and resources with one another.

[Read more...](#)

Grantee Spotlight: Iowa Legal Aid's Legal Hotline for Older Iowans

By Dennis Groenenboom

The nursing home where George's¹ wife resided had decided she was not their ideal patient, and with Medicaid making her payments, they would rather transfer her elsewhere. The elsewhere they had in mind was more than 40 miles away and would mean the end of George's daily visits to care for her and maintain, as best he could, the relationship they had spent a lifetime building. **[Read more...](#)**

News and Notes

IOLTA Rate Comparability Update

Three more states have recently joined the list of jurisdictions that have adopted IOLTA rate comparability. South Carolina and Washington were added in December 2009, and in January 2010, rule revisions were adopted in North Carolina. **[Read more...](#)**

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