



August 1, 2000 • Issue #27

Funding News

➤ **More Good News on State Funding** - Washington State and Oklahoma can be added to the list of states that have received increases in state appropriations for legal services this year. Washington is receiving a one-time addition of \$3,000,000 in temporary assistance to needy families block grant funds (TANF) over the next 18 months. This will bring the total state funding in Washington for 2000 to \$5,400,000. These funds were made available to legal services in large part due to the effective advocacy of organizations working on behalf of welfare recipients. Oklahoma received an increase of \$230,000, raising its total annual state appropriation to \$830,000. The funds are to be used for family law cases. The key to success in Oklahoma was strong support from two powerful legislators, both of whom are lawyers and very supportive of legal services. For more information or to report results of legislative activity, contact Meredith McBurney, Project Director, ABA Project to Expand Resources for Legal Services (PERLS), at mm8091@aol.com or 303/329-8091.

➤ **Land of Lincoln Receives *Cy Pres* Award** - Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, a program serving 65 counties in central and southern Illinois, recently received \$514,000 in residuals from a class action case. The distribution was made under the *Cy Pres* doctrine, which allows funds that cannot be used for their original purpose to be put to the next best use. When this case was settled in 1998, part of the settlement agreement was that any funds left after class members had been paid would be split among three non-profit organizations, with Land of Lincoln receiving a 45 percent share. For more information, contact Linda Zazove, Director of Development, Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, at lzazove@lollaf.org or 618/271-2476, ext. 266.

➤ **Foundation Challenge Grants Pay Off for Legal Services in Utah** - Two foundations recently contributed \$125,000 through challenge grants to the joint fundraising efforts of Utah Legal Services, the Legal Aid Society of Salt Lake and the Disability Law Center. Under the terms of the challenge grant from the George S. and Dolores Dore Eccles Foundation, \$100,000 would be paid when 2000 lawyers contributed to the fundraising campaign. Lawyers were asked to give an amount equal to two billable hours, but gifts of any size counted towards the challenge. The 2000 lawyer goal was recently met and officially announced at the annual meeting of the Utah State Bar. The second challenge grant of \$25,000 from the W.C. Swanson Foundation required a match, which was met, of \$25,000 in contributions from solo and small (less than five attorneys) firm practitioners. For more information, contact Victoria King, Campaign Coordinator, "and Justice for all" at victoriaking72@hotmail.com or 801/257-5519.

Pro Bono Developments

➤ **Ohio Governor Establishes Pro Bono Policy for Government Attorneys** - Ohio has joined approximately 12 other states that have established pro bono guidelines for state-employed attorneys. Governor Bob Taft issued an Executive Order on June 12, 2000, establishing a pro bono policy for attorneys employed in the State of Ohio's Executive Branch. The policy provides guidelines for state-employed attorneys engaging in pro bono legal services and encourages an aspirational goal of 50 hours of pro bono service per year. It also addresses issues such as conflicts of interest, use of state equipment, supplies and office space, and clerical support. The Executive Order and Pro Bono Legal Services Policy can be found at <http://www.state.oh.us/gov/probonopolicy.htm> and <http://www.state.oh.us/gov/eo2000-17t.htm>, respectively. For more information, contact Denise Lee, Ohio Governor's Deputy Communication Director, at 614/ 644-0957.

➤ **Boston Bar Association Sponsors Pro Bono Forum** - On May 24, 2000, the Boston Bar Association sponsored "Pro Bono in the New Millennium," a two-hour forum focused on Massachusetts Rule of Professional Conduct 6.1, an aspirational pro bono service rule, and the perceived barriers to engaging in pro bono work. The forum featured a keynote address by the former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts, who was instrumental in the adoption of Rule 6.1 during his tenure. Following the keynote, the forum featured a panel discussion including representatives from local law firms, corporate in-house legal department and the executive director of the Bar's Volunteer Lawyers Project and a "Meet and Speak," in which participants met with representatives from local legal services organizations. Over 100 lawyers and law students attended the pro bono forum, with many registering to accept pro bono cases with the agencies in attendance. For more information, contact Paul Dullea, Public Service Director, Boston Bar Association, at pdullea@bostonbar.org or 617/742-0615 x308.



WASHINGTON UPDATE

The House passed the Commerce, Justice, State (CJS) appropriations bill on June 26, 2000, providing \$275 million for LSC. On July 18, 2000, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported out its version of the bill, H.R. 4690, approving \$300 million for LSC. Congress adjourned for summer recess on July 27, 2000, without the full Senate taking action on the bill. It is expected that the Senate will debate H.R. 4690 after it returns on September 5, 2000. For the latest information on LSC funding, log on to <http://www.abanet.org/poladv>.

While the \$300 million recommended by the Senate Appropriations Committee is the same amount appropriated by the Senate the past several years, it is \$5 million below current year funding and \$40 million below the President's request. Many other Administration priority programs are underfunded in both the House and Senate bills, and the President has promised to veto the CJS bill when it reaches his desk.

If you have the opportunity, please use the current recess to talk to the candidates of all political parties about the importance of funding for LSC. Remember that your Representative, possibly your Senator, and their opponent are all candidates for election in November—so, now is a good time to get a commitment of support for LSC.

For more information about specific items, call the contact person listed for that item. To contribute items to future issues of *LEGAL SERVICES NOW*, or for general information about this bulletin, contact Bev Groudine at 312/988-5771, fax 312/988-5483 or e-mail bgroudine@staff.abanet.org.