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Funding News

📌 **Bar Dues Increases for Legal Services Approved in Missouri and Texas** – In recent months, Missouri and Texas have increased the annual dues that lawyers pay to practice law so that more low-income people can receive access to justice. Last fall, the Board of Governors of The Missouri Bar voted to increase dues for all members by \$20. The initiative, which will generate an estimated \$400,000 annually, was part of a multi-pronged effort to increase revenue to offset the cuts in LSC, IOLTA, and state funding sustained by the Missouri programs. Last month, the Texas legislature approved a bill to increase the bar dues by \$65 for all lawyers except judges, government attorneys, and legal aid attorneys. This legislation, scheduled to sunset in four years, makes mandatory the previously opt-out contribution on the bar dues form. The funds generated from the increase will be split between civil legal aid and innovative criminal indigent defense projects, generating about \$1.738 million annually for each. For more information about Missouri, contact Catherine Barrie, Senior Legislative Counsel, The Missouri Bar, at catherineb@mobar.org or 573/635-4128; for Texas, contact Randy Chapman, Executive Director, Texas Legal Services Center, at rchapman@tlsc.org or 512/477-6000.

📌 **Pro Hac Vice Fees Instituted in Three States to Help Legal Services** – Mississippi, Missouri and Texas have instituted pro hac vice fees in recent months to help fund legal services for the poor. Approximately 22 states have such fees (paid by a lawyer to appear in court in a jurisdiction in which the lawyer is not licensed), and there are now four in which the funds generated are used to fund legal services. (The fourth, Oregon, instituted its pro hac vice fee in 2001.) The fees in Mississippi and Missouri were approved by the supreme courts in those states, while the Texas fee was approved by the state legislature. In Mississippi, the \$200 fee has generated over \$46,000 in three and one-half months. The Missouri fee is \$100 and has generated \$10,000 in the five months since it was implemented. It is estimated that the \$250 fee in Texas will raise \$200,000 annually. For more information about Mississippi, contact Ben Piazza, Chair, Delivery of Legal Services Committee, at bjpiazza@schoolaw.com or 601/956-2345; for Missouri, contact Catherine Barrie, Senior Legislative Counsel, The Missouri Bar, at catherineb@mobar.org or 573/635-4128; for Texas, contact Randy Chapman, Executive Director, Texas Legal Services Center, at rchapman@tlsc.org or 512/477-6000.

Pro Bono Developments

📌 **Nevada Supreme Court Approves Mandatory Pro Bono Reporting** – In May 2003, the Nevada Supreme Court approved an amendment to Rule 191 that requires all members of the bar to submit annual reports on their pro bono service. The rule sets an annual aspirational goal for attorneys of 20 hours of pro bono service, 60 hour of reduced fee service or a minimum \$500 contribution to a pro bono organization. Nevada has a unified bar and the annual pro bono reporting form will be provided by the state bar with the members' fee statements. Nevada now joins Florida and Maryland as the only states in the country that have mandatory pro bono reporting. For further information, contact Lynn Etkins, Pro Bono Project Director, Clark County Legal Services Program, Inc., at letkins@clarkcountylegal.com or 702-386-1070, ext. 137.

Hot On the Web

 **The Impact of Family Law Cases on Pro Bono Programs** – The ABA Center for Pro Bono recently completed a survey of the impact of family law cases on pro bono programs. The results, with recommendations on how programs can bridge the gap between supply and demand for family law pro bono, can be found in the report, *The Impact of Family Law Cases on Pro Bono Programs*, which is now available online. This document identifies some commonly recognized problems in managing and placing family law cases with pro bono attorneys as well as ways that programs are addressing the supply and demand gap. The report also recommends strategies to help pro bono programs increase their capacity to handle pro bono family law cases. The Center created a web board to facilitate further discussion of these issues within the greater pro bono community. To read the report and learn how to join the web board discussion, visit www.abaprobono.org/familylawsurvey.html. For more information, contact Dina Merrell, Director, ABA Center for Pro Bono, at merrelld@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5773.

 **State LRAP Tool Kit: A Resource Guide for Creating State Loan Repayment Assistance Programs for Public Service Lawyers** – This publication, produced by the ABA Commission on Loan Repayment and Forgiveness, contains a wealth of information about creating loan repayment assistance or forgiveness programs (“LRAPs”) for lawyers pursuing public service legal careers. The *Tool Kit* includes information about the eight existing statewide LRAPs, sample LRAP legislation with an analysis, guidance on creating an independent nonprofit organization to administer a program and other resources to assist in the creation of these programs. The Tool Kit is available in print version (while supplies last) or as a free download at www.abalegalservices.org/lrap. For more information, contact Dina Merrell, Counsel, ABA Commission on Loan Repayment and Forgiveness, at merrelld@staff.abanet.org or 312/988-5773.



WASHINGTON UPDATE

On May 1, 2003, the ABA submitted testimony to the Senate Appropriations Committee in support of a \$51 million funding increase for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

During the annual ABA Day in Washington program, held this year April 29-30, 2003, more than 160 ABA and state and local bar leaders met with members of Congress on behalf of LSC and other important justice system issues. One accomplishment of ABA Day was generating support for a letter urging appropriators to provide the \$51 million funding increase. Twenty-six senators signed the letter. Copies of the ABA testimony and the Senate letter are available on the GAO website at <http://www.abanet.org/poladv/new.html>. For more information, contact Julie M. Strandlie, Director, ABA Grassroots Operations/Legislative Counsel at jstrandlie@staff.abanet.org or 202/662-1764.

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.