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JUST News

Connecting Minnesota's Justice Community

Statewide Colleagues,

State Support extends its best wishes to our esteemed supervising attorney, John Freeman, who departs this month to pursue consulting opportunities. Read on, and discover how to get involved in new social and entertainment offerings at state conference this fall, and how Ramsey County libraries are embracing LawHelpMN.org.

Keep in touch! Send us your announcements, case notes, press releases, event info, and other news. You can send your submissions to statesupport@mnlegalservices.org.

A New Venture for State Support's Supervising Attorney

John Freeman Resigns from Legal Services State Support

Legal Services State Support will bid a fond farewell this month to John Freeman, our current supervising attorney. John joined State Support in 2006 as a staff attorney, following two years as a staff attorney and Skadden Fellow at Anishinabe Legal Services. John became supervising attorney of State Support in September 2011.



While at State Support, John played key roles in the rapid expansion of LawHelpMN.org; the development of our FormHelper project, a set of do-it-yourself legal form interviews for pro se litigants; and the creation of innovative pilot projects that allow clients to seek advice and apply for legal services online.

John's leadership in developing pro bono resources for ProJusticeMN.org resulted in national recognition for the "Start-to-Finish" Expungement Tool, an interactive online resource that helps pro bono attorneys help clients remove crippling barriers to employment. For that project, State Support was honored with an Innovation Award for Best Use of Technology in a Pro Bono Project by Law Technology News.

Of his time at State Support, John said, "I have been deeply blessed to work with such committed coworkers and partners through some very challenging times for our client community. My colleagues at State Support, in the broader legal aid community, and in the private bar have never ceased their efforts to expand the reach of justice, despite significant obstacles. I'm very fortunate to have played some part in that."

John is leaving State Support to pursue consulting opportunities, but plans to continue to focus his efforts on our underserved neighbors. He hopes and expects to run into many of you, and asks that you all stay in touch.



State Conference to Feature Exhibitor Tables and Open Mic Stage

New Offerings Will Include the Arts, Crafts, and Performance Talents of Legal Services Staff

Online registration for the 2013 Legal Services Statewide Conference "Understanding Poverty and Increasing Our Impact," opened one week ago, and excitement is already building. In addition to being a great opportunity to learn, earn CLE, and network with colleagues from across Minnesota, the state conference is a chance to get inspired, to recharge, and to have fun! Your State Support office is working diligently to provide an experience to remember, including favorite activities and entertainment from past conferences, along with new offerings.

This year, conference participants can register as exhibitors in the first ever Legal Services Art and Craft Show. Artisans and hobbyists alike are welcome to vend their wares at an exhibitor table on Wednesday, October 9th, from 4:00 - 6:45 p.m. for the opening of the conference. Space is limited, so [sign-up today](#) to showcase and sell your creations to your statewide colleagues.

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Fibromyalgia & SSI Training - August 15th

State Support will present a day-long training on August 15th, addressing fibromyalgia diagnosis, current medical authorities, treatment options, vocational assessment, challenges in SSI applications, and more. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

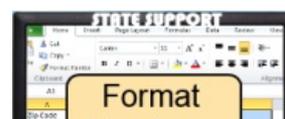
State Support Tech Tips

Format Numbers in Excel

Click on the icon below to view this issue's recorded presentation.

As always, check with your IT department prior to software download.

Have tech ideas or questions? Submit them [here](#) for future tech tips.



If you have a penchant for performing, this year's conference will offer you a stage on which to wow conference attendees. Our first Open Mic Stage will be an opportunity for talented legal aiders who also happen to be musicians, jugglers, poets, or magicians to entertain us. Space is limited, so [sign-up for a time slot today](#), and give a short performance on Thursday, October 10th from 8:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The Legal Services Statewide Conference will be held October 9 - 11, 2013 at Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria, MN. [Register now!](#)

RamseyCountyLawHelp.org Connects Library Patrons to Legal Services

Quick Access to Essential LawHelpMN.org Resources Via County Library Website

In response to the needs of those unable to afford an attorney, a coalition of legal aid offices and Ramsey County libraries created [RamseyCountyLawHelp.org](#) to connect library patrons with high quality, free legal resources. RamseyCountyLawHelp.org is an easy-to-use website for Ramsey County residents that provides critical legal information and referrals on a range of civil legal topics.

In addition to the many legal areas covered, visitors can fill out court forms, review fact sheets, and find out about upcoming clinics and classes at their local libraries. The site also creates quick access to the hundreds of resources at [LawHelpMN.org](#).

"We are excited to offer Ramsey County LawHelp to our patrons. It provides amazing self-help legal resources that are local, current and comprehensive," said Susan Nemitz, Director of the Ramsey County Library. "This website provides patrons with the tools they need to understand and address...very complicated and frightening legal problems."

RamseyCountyLawHelp.org was created with funding from the Legal Services Corporation, and is a collaboration between legal aid programs, libraries, and Pro Bono Net. Legal aid partners include Central Minnesota Legal Services and Legal Services State Support, a project of the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition. Library partners include the Ramsey County Public Library, Ramsey County Law Library, and St. Paul Public Library.



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State Support is a project of the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition

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