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JUST News

Connecting Minnesota's Justice Community

Dear Statewide Colleagues,

In this edition, you'll read about the upcoming Legal Services Statewide Conference this fall, what to expect from implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Minnesota, and bipartisan support for LSC funding.

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.

Understanding Poverty and Increasing Our Impact

Registration Opens August 1st for the Legal Services Statewide Conference

State Support is excited to announce that registration will open next week for the Legal Services Statewide Conference, "Understanding Poverty and Increasing Our Impact," October 9 - 11, 2013.

This year's conference will be the first to take place in person since 2009, and will again be held at Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria, MN.

On Wednesday, October 9th, the conference kicks off with a special event featuring Chris Farrell and Stephen Smith, creators of the MPR radio documentary "The War on Poverty: From the Great Society to the Great Recession." Farrell and Smith will join the legal services community to moderate a discussion on both the history and modern face of poverty in the United States.

Thursday's opening plenary on October 10th, will be given by notable poverty consultant and advocate, Jodi Pfarr, who will help us increase our understanding of the experience of poverty by examining economic status and class. Pfarr will also conduct break-out sessions on related topics for all legal services roles.

Attendees can expect to accrue 10 or more hours of CLE from among standard, elimination of bias, ethics and law office management offerings. New entertainment and social opportunities will be plentiful, as well as old favorites, and attendees are encouraged to participate! Keep an eye on your inbox on Thursday, August 1st, for a special training announcement, including a link to the official conference information and registration page. And, here are the top ten reasons to attend the 2013 Legal Services Statewide Conference:

10. Cost to attend: a bargain. Benefits of attendance: priceless
9. Meet guys from MPR (and see what they look like)
8. Prizes for bunco, bingo, trivia, and the new medallion hunt!
7. What happens at karaoke night stays at karaoke night
6. Find out how many legal-aiders it takes to light a bonfire
5. More CLEs than you can shake a stick at (no sticks allowed)
4. Open mic talent show! Learn why your colleagues went to law school (or should be famous)
3. Attend a legal practice group for statewide insights
2. See what your colleagues do in their spare time at the Legal Services Craft and Art Show
1. Because it's been four years since we've done this in person!

The Affordable Care Act Comes to Minnesota

Ralonda Mason Discusses MinnesotaCare with MPR

Minnesota is set to implement the Affordable Care Act, and will be the first state in the nation to offer a basic health care program as part of the federal health insurance expansion:

MinnesotaCare. Despite the potential pitfalls, advocates of the revamped MinnesotaCare are focusing on the opportunities that will come with the expansion.

One opportunity will be adjusted eligibility rules for MinnesotaCare that will bring an influx of new enrollees. Ralonda Mason, staff attorney with Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, spoke with Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) about MinnesotaCare and the affordability gap that could remain for those who make just a little too much to qualify. "People with that income level just don't have much other money left for other necessities like health care," she said. "So I'm very concerned that the assistance ... won't be sufficient to allow people to purchase policies that will really be useful to them." [Read the full article.](#)

Senate Appropriations Committee Allocates 

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BWLAP New Laws Registration Now Open

The New Laws training program was designed by the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project (BWLAP) for those who want to be kept informed about the most recent changes to state and federal statutes and case law that affect battered women and children in Minnesota. Registration for this two-day training (held at multiple locations statewide) is now open and features a wide range of topics that intersect with domestic abuse. For more information and to register, visit the [BWLAP website](#).

State Support Tech Tips

Click on the icon below for our current list of popular tech tips!

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



\$430 Million for LSC

WASHINGTON – In a show of bipartisan support for federally funded civil legal services, the Senate Appropriations Committee yesterday approved \$430 million for the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) in FY 2014. This amount represents a \$90 million increase over LSC's current funding level, and is consistent with the White House budget request for FY 2014.

"We want to thank Senators Mikulski and Shelby for showing such strong leadership and support for LSC, and for recognizing the importance of federally funded civil legal aid," said LSC Board Chairman John G. Levi. Read the full press release [here](#).



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