



September 2017

# Justice News

Minnesota's Newsletter for the Legal Services and Pro Bono Community

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## Registration Commences for October Statewide Conference!

State Support is excited to announce that registration is now open for the 2017 Legal Services Statewide Conference: Connecting With Our Community. The conference will be held at Arrowwood Resort and Conference Center in Alexandria, MN from Wednesday, October 25 to Friday, October 27, 2017. Conference-goers can expect to learn more about innovative service delivery models, how to better serve our diverse client populations, and how effective self-care translates into more sustainable and effective advocacy. Attendees can earn up to 13.75 hours of Minnesota CLE credit, including standard, elimination of bias, and ethics credits. [Read more and register today!](#)



## ProJusticeMN: Brand New Design and Intuitive Features



State Support is pleased to announce a brand new design and custom features for its dedicated professional community website. Freshly redesigned, [ProJusticeMN](#) curates content specific to the site's two primary audiences: the legal

aid community and volunteer attorneys. Here are some of the great new custom features on the mobile-responsive site:

- A new design for the [Case Placement Tool](#) that highlights the estimated

time commitment, the skill level needed to assist with the case, which skills are developed, and whether the organization posting the case offers mentorship, free training, and/or malpractice insurance.

- New [Library](#) functionality allows you to quickly and easily navigate the library folders and offers new search and filter capabilities.
- The [Calendar](#) features a new user-friendly design and improved search filters.

## Equal Access to Communication

Legal Aid's Minnesota Disability Law Center (MDLC) is a vital resource for those whose rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Minnesota Human Rights Act are in peril. Upholding equal access to communication is one of the hallmarks of MDLC's work. In a recent case, an MDLC client was denied access to routine bank transactions because his credit union changed its policies about accepting IP relay calls for deaf customers, making his access far more difficult than that of hearing customers. [Read more.](#)



### Featured Advocate



Meet **Courtney Baga**  
Associate Attorney at Faegre Baker  
Daniels

#### **About Courtney**

Courtney is an associate in the business litigation group at Faegre Baker Daniels. She works in complex commercial litigation, frequently franchise, trade secret, and contract disputes. Courtney also founded an LGBT Legal Clinic with the support of the Volunteer Lawyers Network (VLN) and FaegreBD.

#### **About the LGBT Legal Clinic**

OutFront and Gender Justice do a great job of providing more specific help.

As a summer associate at FaegreBD, I attended many of the VLN brief services clinic with the attorney volunteers, and realized that might be a great fit to fill this gap. I never expected to have so much support and positive energy to help me on my way, but FaegreBD and VLN were immediately on board to make the clinic happen, and there were attorneys from our community eager to give back in the same way I wanted to."

**On staying active:** "I retired from professional figure skating to go to law school, and now teach and perform aerial circus arts to stay active."



"I founded the LGBT Legal clinic to provide access to legal help for the most vulnerable in the LGBT community, and so the client population driving the clinic's focuses are trans folks of color in poverty. We partner with the Minnesota Trans Health Coalition which runs a space called the Exchange to provide support groups, safe space, a food shelf, clothing, a shot clinic, and other fundamental needs to trans folks putting trans folks of color forward. We also partner with Family Tree Clinic, a non-profit health clinic and one of the primary sources of transition-related medical care for this community. We train all our volunteer attorneys on the process to correct identity documents with name and gender markers, as this is an ever-present need for this community. We also have attorneys that can assist with housing, consumer credit, employment, family law, and other legal issues."

#### **What inspired you to found the clinic?**

"I have been a part of and doing work in this community since I was in middle school, so the natural extension of that when I became a law student was to determine how I could use my new skills and access to serve my community as well. I was shocked to find that there were no regularly-available legal resources for routine or minor legal needs that our community could access in a space that would be known to have trans community cultural competencies.

### **Featured Pro Bono Opportunity**

[Volunteer Online to Help Victims of Hurricane Harvey](#)

### **Featured Pro Bono Case**

[Veteran with honorable discharge seeking criminal expungement](#)

### **Quick Links**

[State Support Trainings](#)

[Comings and Goings](#)

[Positions Available](#)

[ProJusticeMN CLE & Event Calendar](#)

[LawHelpMN.org](#)

[VLN Tips of the Month](#)

[ProJusticeMN Library](#)

### **Save the Date**

[Would You Want the Judge to Read That?](#)

**September 9**

[United States Supreme Court Update](#)

**September 12**

[Representing Central American Asylum Seekers](#)

**September 15**

Social Justice Uncorked  
**September 22**

Basic Human Rights & Immigration  
**September 22**

Representing Youth in Foster Care: A Training Program for Child Advocates  
**September 22**

VLN Volunteer Orientation- Making a Difference for Clients in Poverty CLE  
**September 27**

**Stay Connected**



<http://www.mnlegalservices.org/>  
[statesupport@mnlegalservices.org](mailto:statesupport@mnlegalservices.org)

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