

MEMORANDUM

TO: Tim Shearin
FROM: Pauleen Consebido
DATE: October 24, 2016
SUBJECT: Systems Alignment and Modification Work Group Summary of Programs

CONNECTICUT PROGRAMS

Apostle Immigrant Services¹

Mission: Since 2008, Apostle Immigrant Services has worked with immigrants in the greater New Haven area, helping them attain their goals: achieving US citizenship; gaining work authorization; uniting with family members; becoming legal residents; improving educational skills.

Services: The program is staffed by one attorney and several accredited representatives. In addition, the program provides the following services: applications for permanent residence ("green cards") for asylees, refugees and family members; petitions for family members; citizenship; U visas and VAWA cases for victims of domestic violence; Green card renewals; employment authorization; deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals; TPS

Contact info: 81 Saltonstall Avenue
New Haven, CT 06513
Tel: 203-752-9068
Fax: 203-752-9136
ais.fairhaven@gmail.com

Center for Children's Advocacy²

Mission³: The Center for Children's Advocacy's (CCA) mission is to fight for the legal rights of Connecticut's most vulnerable children.

Services: The program has a staff of 21: 4 staff attorneys, executive director, paralegal, office manager, 9 directors, mobile legal office coordinator, educational consultant, project coordinator, teen legal advocacy project, development and communications associate. CCA

¹ Apostle Immigrant Services, <http://www.apostleimmigrantservices.org> (last visited Oct. 1, 2016).

² E-mail from Martha Stone, Executive Director, Center for Children's Advocacy, to James T. Shearin, President Conn. Bar. Found. (Oct. 14, 2016, 10:26 EST) (on file with author).

³ Center for Children's Advocacy, <http://www.kidscounsel.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

provides: Individual legal representation and consultation for children and their families (60%); Systemic advocacy, including litigation, administrative advocacy and legislative advocacy (20%); Legal Education, including training for youth, parents, attorneys and other professionals; consultation for professionals about children's rights; and legal resources and consultation for attorneys representing children (20%).

In addition, to determine who to provide services to, the CCA looks at the gross income of the client's family unit that cannot exceed 125% of the federal poverty level. The household's net assets cannot exceed \$5,000. Assets are considered only to the extent that the assets are accessible to the client or client's parent or guardian for purposes of obtaining counsel. Clients served through individual legal services live in:

Bridgeport: 21%

Hartford: 22%

New Britain: 6%

New Haven: 25%

Stamford: 3%

Waterbury: 2%

Other Fairfield County towns: 6%

Other Hartford County towns: 8%

Other New Haven County towns: 5%

Towns in Litchfield, Middlesex, New London, Tolland and Windham Counties: 2%

In addition, CCA provides services through:

Telephone Advice (4%)

In person representation (56%)

Litigation/administrative complaints (6%)

Other administrative advocacy (13%)

Legislative advocacy (1%)

In-person and webinar training and telephone non-client consultation (20%)

Other agencies providing legal representation for children within CCA's geographic service areas are Connecticut Legal Services, Greater Hartford Legal Assistance, Statewide Legal Services, the Children's Law Center, Lawyers for Children America and New Haven Legal Assistance. The Juvenile Public Defender's Office and private attorneys under contract with the Juvenile Public Defender's Office provide representation to minors involved with the juvenile justice system or with DCF. CCA collaborates with many other service providers and organizations across the state. These providers and organizations refer clients to CCA, participate in CCA's children's legal rights trainings and work with CCA to bring about systemic reforms. At this time, CCA is unable to take the cases of 34% of the children who contact CCA or are referred to CCA.

CCA currently conducts outcome evaluations of some of its programs. Those evaluations include: Evaluation of Outcomes of Advocacy for Homeless Youth; Action on Legal Needs; Outcomes for Closed Cases; Outcomes for All Cases; and Evaluation of Outcomes of Advocacy for Bridgeport Children and Youth.

Funding: CCA's 2016-17 budget is \$1,998,229. CCA is funded by foundation grants, CT Bar Foundation funding from IOLTA, JBGIA and CFGIA, individual donations, fundraising events and earned income. CCA could be more effective if funding were available for more paralegal or administrative support staff. In addition, CCA's attorneys could be more productive

if CCA were able to improve the technology used by attorneys meeting with clients outside the office. And CCA could scale up its training and technical assistance for pro bono attorneys if funding were available for a part-time pro bono service coordinator. Further, CCA could more easily retain its high quality attorneys if it were able to address its funding deficit this year, as the funding deficit has forced CCA to suspend staff raises and contributions to pension funds.

Contact info: Martha Stone
Executive Director
mstone@kidscounsel.org
(860) 570-5327

The Center for Family Justice⁴

Mission: The Center for Family Justice breaks the cycle of abuse and violence – domestic, sexual and child – by providing services that create hope, restore lives and drive social change through education and community collaboration.

Services: The Center for Family Justice provides high-quality support and services to anyone, of any age, impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse, in the Fairfield County.

The Center provides services for the following:

Domestic Violence: The staff at The Center for Family Justice provides crisis intervention, risk and danger assessments, individual safety plans, and individual *and group counseling for those in present or past abusive relationships.*

Sexual assault: Specially trained advocates/counselors provide trauma-informed crisis intervention, emergency counseling, support groups and advocacy for victims of sexual assault, rape, sexual harassment or any other type of unwanted sexual contact.

Child abuse: The staff at The Center for Family Justice provides crisis intervention, conducts forensic interviews and offers emotional support and counseling to children who are victims of sexual and domestic violence, including cases where the children viewed abuse.

Advocacy: The Center's Advocates are counselors trained and certified specifically in the area of domestic and sexual assault. They empower and counsel victims and survivors through emotional support, safety planning, case management services, and advocacy within medical, court, child welfare and other systems of care.

Crisis hotline: Counselors/advocates are available 24/7 to help victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Center staff provides help to family, friends, neighbors or co-workers answering questions and providing information.

⁴ The Center for Family Justice, <http://centerforfamilyjustice.org> (last visited Oct. 24, 2016).

Safe house: Kathie's Place is an emergency shelter for adults and children fleeing their abusive situations. Crisis Counselors/Advocates offer support in a secure, nonjudgmental environment where families, individuals and children can learn to keep themselves safe, access appropriate services, and work toward an independent living situation.

In addition, membership in a number of important organizations support and advance the Center's mission. They include: The Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition, Connecticut Association of Nonprofits, Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Connecticut Food Bank, the National Children's Alliance, the Connecticut Alliance to End Sexual Violence, the Trafficking in Persons Council and the International Alliance for Hope.

Funding: For FY 2015 total revenue was \$2,719,189: Grants (Federal & State) \$1,342,287; Contributions \$695,628; Professional Services and Other Fees \$41,464; Fundraising Events \$438,826; Investment Income, Unrealized Appreciation and Realized Gains on Investments \$29,265; Other Revenue \$171,719.

Contact info: 753 Fairfield Ave.
Bridgeport, CT
(203) 334-6154

The Children's Law Center of CT⁵

Mission⁶: Since 1996, the mission of The Children's Law Center (CLC) is to protect poor children in family court cases and to advocate for systemic changes to the adversarial system and other policies that advance the well-being of children involved in family transitions.

Services: Through the primary Legal Representation program, legal representation is provided to indigent children whose parents are engaged in high conflict family court custody disputes. Cases almost always include additional exacerbating issues that put children at risk, such as domestic violence, neglect, addiction, or mental health issues. In order to be eligible for the program, at least one parent must be below 125% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines. If one parent is below 187.5% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, then it may be possible to spend them down to below 125% by accounting for specific expenses.

CLC is staffed by: 6 staff attorneys, 1 social worker, 1 development director, 1, marketing and development associate, 1 administrative assistant, 1 deputy director, 1 executive director. In addition, the program must be court appointed to each case and it is the court that defines the scope of services provided to each client served. In general, CLC performs an assessment of the child's situation and report back to the court.

Needs that are not currently served but would like to service if given the opportunity is

⁵ E-mail from Justine Rakick-Kelly, The Children's Law Center of Conn., to James T. Shearin, President, Conn. Bar Found. (Oct. 14, 2016 12:30 EST) (on file with author).

⁶ The Children's Law Center of Conn., <http://www.clcct.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

Expansion of the Families in Transition (FIT) mediation and co-parenting program throughout the state. Although CLC's legal representation program is essential in protecting children's legal interests in family court, the appointments are usually made to high conflict cases that have been in the court system for some time. If CLC could fully staff the FIT program, there would be the opportunity to divert people from the court system into this non-adversarial system, decreasing the chances of the case developing into a high conflict situation.

Outcome measures are done on an ongoing, multi-faceted outcome measurement process consisting of surveys and interviews. At least once per year, the Executive Director meets with every Judge before whom we appear to inquire about our services. CLC has been gratified to learn how well respected the program is by judges and how impressed they are with the quality of work of CLC attorneys.

Funding: CLC is funded through grants and foundations (44%), State contract legal reimbursement and State Legislature (38%), event income (14%), and individual and corporate contributions (4%). Further, CLC have secured a contract with the Office of the Chief Public Defender where CLC is contracted to represent a defined number of children each year. In addition, CLC also has a Development Director and Associate who is continually cultivating individual donors, eliciting sponsorships, and organizing fundraising events.

Contact info: Melissa Stachelek
Program Manager
MellissaStachelek@tip-ct.org
(860) 832-8000

Clinics: Law Schools

Quinnipiac School of Law⁷

Civil Justice Clinic⁸: The Civil Justice Clinic operate within the law school's Legal Clinic, an on-campus law office that provides no-cost legal services to low-income people in New Haven, Hartford, or Bridgeport. There is no strict cut off in terms of income. Issues that the clinic handles involve child support, unpaid wages, immigration, housing, unemployment benefits, prison conditions, civil rights, and the collateral consequences of criminal convictions. The clinic also represents prisoners, and on occasion represented state and national organizations in connection with the filing of briefs.

In determining services to provide, the professor directing the clinic choose cases and projects based on community need, pedagogical value, and student interest. New Haven Legal Assistance, Connecticut Veterans Legal Center and Yale law clinic provide the same services to the same population in the same geographical area.

The clinic handles approximately 25-30 cases per semester and there are a large number of people that the clinic is unable to serve. The clinic becomes aware of services through

⁷ Quinnipiac School of Law, Clinics and Externships, <https://www.qu.edu/academics/colleges-schools-and-departments/school-of-law/academics/clinics-and-externships/clinics/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁸ E-mail from Carolyn Kaas, Dir. of Clinical Programs, Quinnipiac Sch. of Law, to Pauleen Consebido, Student, U. of Conn. Sch. of Law (Oct. 17, 2016, 08:22 EST) (on file with author).

referrals from New Haven Legal Assistance, Statewide Legal Services, and the Connecticut Legal center. In addition, letters are received directly from prisoners.

The delivery method of services is in-person representation, many of which involve litigation in the courts and litigation before/adjudication by state and federal agencies. The funding comes from the Quinnipiac University School of Law in terms of salaries of the professors and the operating budget for the clinic. In addition, the clinic received a private grant to fund a post-graduate fellow to work on issues involving juvenile sentencing in Connecticut and nationwide.

Efficiency is not the goal of the clinic, education is. The clinic is satisfied that the quality of legal representation provided to each client is superb, and the educational mission is accomplished by maximizing student autonomy and maintaining a student-teacher ratio of 8:1.

Tax Clinic⁹

The Tax Clinic serves low-income taxpayers throughout Connecticut. At least 90 percent of the clinic's clients must have incomes not exceeding 250 percent of the poverty level. 10 percent or less of the clinic's clients exceed this income definition. 75 percent of the clients are located in Fairfield, New Haven, Middlesex, and New London Counties, and the remaining 25 percent are located in Hartford, Litchfield, Tolland, and Windham Counties.

The services provided by the clinic includes representation to individuals in controversies with the Internal Revenue Service, the United States Tax Court, and other federal courts. Education activities are also provided about rights and responsibilities as taxpayers. UConn School of Law also maintains a Tax Clinic. The type of service provided depends on the scope of funding for the clinic which comes from a federal grant from the Internal Revenue Service (Taxpayer Advocate Service Low Income Taxpayer Clinics grant program) with cases averaging at 160 cases per year. The university must provide dollar for dollar matching funds to supplement the grant award. In addition, the Taxpayer Advocate Service acts as an ombudsman and often aids taxpayers in administrative cases with the Internal Revenue service. There is a huge demand for these services and the professors running the clinic are certain that there are a large number of individuals that go unserved.

Clients become aware of the services through notice from the Internal Revenue Services, a 211 info line, and referrals from Statewide Legal Services, New Haven Legal Assistance, Connecticut Veterans Legal Center, Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, the Connecticut Department of Children and Families, and on occasion, from counselors with various prisons in the Connecticut Department of Corrections, as well as local attorneys and accountants. The majority of services are provided in person, through telephone contact, mail and email.

In measuring effectiveness, the clinic is obligated to report its activities and use of funds to the Tax Payer Advocate Service through semi-annual reports, which help identify case trends generally driven by new legislation such as the Affordable Care Act. As an academic clinic, its ability to expand services is limited.

⁹ E-mail from Carolyn Kaas, Dir. of Clinical Programs, Quinnipiac Sch. of Law, to Pauleen Consebido, Student, U. of Conn. Sch. of Law (Oct. 17, 2016, 08:22 EST) (on file with author).

University of Connecticut School of Law¹⁰

Asylum and Human Rights Clinic¹¹: The Asylum and Human Rights Clinic serve non-citizens living in Connecticut who fled from fear of persecution in their home country, and are seeking asylum in the United States. There is no precise income threshold, but the clinic represents only individuals who cannot afford to hire a private attorney. Most of the clients served are statewide and Western Massachusetts, on occasion. The service area for the clinic is through representation before the U.S. Department of Homeland Security or the Immigration Court. Taking a case depends on the capacity of the clinic at that time, and whether arrangements can be made to ensure that the case will result in a hearing before the academic year or semester.

The clinic provides the same services as the International Institute of Connecticut, and is only able to represent a fraction of those who contact the clinic to seek assistance. Referrals to the clinic comes from community agencies, organizations serving immigrant communities and private attorneys.

The method of delivery for the clinic's services is through intensive in-person representation by a team of two law students supervised by an attorney/faculty member. Funding comes from the University of Connecticut for one full time professor, one full time clinical teaching fellow and part of an administrative assistant. In addition, litigation and other case expenses are funded through grants from several foundations, law school funds, and private donors.

In terms of cost effectiveness, the clinic measures in terms educational outcomes for students as well as client service; this is an intensive law school clinical program for which students receive 9 academic credits and typically devote about 450 hours per semester per student to clients' cases. Since 2002, the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic has handled 121 asylum cases to completion. In 112 of those cases (93%), the Clinic's clients were granted asylum or other forms of relief from removal. In many instances, spouses and children were also beneficiaries of the asylum grant, so the number of refugees who have been able to secure legal status in the United States as a result of the Clinic's work is well into the hundreds. The addition of more staff could make the clinic more effective.

The Asylum and Human Rights Clinic works closely with legal services agencies, immigration and refugee service providers, and the private bar to help find lawyers and other needed services for asylum-seekers. It participates in a statewide Child Migrant Rights Task Force and in the Hartford Immigration Court's Pro Bono Committee. Over the past several years, the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic has developed innovative interdisciplinary collaborations with the UConn School of Social Work and UConn Health Center that engage students and faculty from multiple disciplines in collaborative work on behalf of refugees; launched the Immigration Detention Service Project, a spring break service trip that provides *pro bono* assistance to detained asylum-seekers; and engaged in extensive outreach and public programs on refugees, immigration, and human rights. The Asylum and Human Rights Clinic is

¹⁰ U. of Conn. Sch. of Law, Clinical Programs, <https://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/clinical-programs> (last visited Oct. 24, 2016).

¹¹ E-mail from Jon Bauer, Director Asylum and Human Rights Clinic U. of Conn. Sch. of Law, to Pauleen Consebido, Student, U. of Conn. Sch. of Law (Oct. 7, 2016, 16:46 EST) (on file with author).

a past recipient of the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition's Myra M. Oliver Award for exceptional service to Connecticut's immigrant communities.

Client representation provided by the Asylum and Human Rights Clinic is primarily provided by law students who enroll in the Clinic for academic credit. Other law students with language skills serve as interpreters in the Clinic's cases, either as part of their student employment or on a pro bono basis. Each semester, a student from the School of Social work interns with the Clinic to help clients with non-legal needs. Interns and faculty from the UConn Health Center conduct mental health evaluations that are used as evidence to support clients' asylum claims. Undergraduate interns sometimes volunteer with the Clinic to assist in providing services.

Center for Children's Advocacy Clinic¹²: Law students assist the legal staff at the Center for Children's Advocacy in representing individual children in cases involving abuse/neglect, families with service needs, special education, juvenile justice, and access to medical/mental health care. In addition, students will represent adolescents at Hartford high schools where the Center operates a Teen Legal Advocacy Clinic.

Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative (CULI) Clinic¹³: CULI began providing legal services to needy nonprofit organizations in January 1998, from the campus of UConn School of Law. With the assistance of law students, CULI has provided a unique service learning opportunity for law students and critical legal assistance for the nonprofit sector that has been underserved for decades.

CULI provides legal services to nonprofit groups and corporations working in Connecticut. CULI clients should have a commitment to neighborhood revitalization in some way, although that definition has been broadly construed. Most of CULI's clients are located in urban communities. CULI clients typically have no budget to cover legal expenses, although several clients have paid for CULI's legal services, on a sliding scale, where they had the financial capacity.

Criminal Law Clinic, Appellate Division¹⁴: The Clinic represents indigent clients on direct appeal from conviction and in habeas corpus actions. Most appeals are to the Connecticut Supreme and Appellate Courts, while our habeas work brings us to the United States District Court of Connecticut and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Student representation includes presenting oral argument in state or federal court

Criminal Law Clinic, Trial Division¹⁵: Students and Clinic staff handle criminal and related cases for indigent criminal defendants at the trial level in state courts and, on occasion, in

¹² U. of Conn. Sch. of Law, Center for Children's Advocacy Clinic, <https://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/center-childrens-advocacy> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹³ U. of Conn. Sch. of Law, Conn. Urban Legal Initiative Clinic, <https://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/connecticut-urban-legal-initiative> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁴ U. of Conn. Sch. of Law Criminal Law Clinic, Appellate Division, <https://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/criminal-law-clinics> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁵ U. of Conn. Sch. of Law Criminal Law Clinic, Criminal Trial Division, <https://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/criminal-law-clinics> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

federal courts. Students have primary responsibility for conducting an appropriate investigation, doing legal research, preparing pleadings, and setting an agenda for each court appearance at every stage of the case, including bond argument, arraignment, pretrial discussions, coordinating diversionary programs, arguing pretrial motions, trial, and sentencing. Students represent clients in felony and misdemeanor cases, and represented victims and witnesses involved in the criminal justice process.

Environmental Law Clinic¹⁶: This clinic is offered through the Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE), the premier non-profit public-interest legal advocate for Connecticut's environment. Students will work directly with CFE attorneys on CFE matters pending before administrative agencies, courts and the legislature. Clinical assignments will be performed at CFE's office in New Haven, CT.

Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic¹⁷: UConn's IP Law Clinic clients are drawn from Connecticut's innovator-entrepreneurs who demonstrate financial need, have basic intellectual property law needs and are committed to the development and use of their intellectual property in generating economic growth in Connecticut.

Client services currently available include, but are not limited to, patentability searches, preparation of provisional/non-provisional patent applications, trademark clearances and registration applications, copyright matters, and the drafting of related intellectual property agreements.

Although IP Law Clinic services are free, clients are responsible for all U.S. Patent & Trademark Office fees and other costs that may be necessary for the clinic to provide assistance, including, for example, the fees for filing a patent, trademark or copyright application, and expenses related to copying, postage and the like.

Tax Clinic¹⁸: The Tax Clinic is a pro bono legal clinic that gives free legal help to low income taxpayers with tax problems--either with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) or the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services (DRS). The Tax Clinic also works with attorneys in Connecticut who volunteer to help low income tax payers.

Yale Law School

Appellate Litigation Project¹⁹: Students represent pro se clients before the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Under the supervision of Yale faculty and attorneys from the appellate group at Wiggin and Dana, teams of students will work on cases referred through the Pro Bono Counsel Plan for the Second Circuit. This program provides legal

¹⁶ U. of Conn. Sch. of Law, Environmental Law Clinic, <https://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/environmental-law-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁷ U. of Conn. Sch. of Law, Intellectual Property and Entrepreneurship Clinic, <https://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/intellectual-property-entrepreneurship-law-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁸ U. of Conn. School of Law, Tax Clinic, <https://www.law.uconn.edu/academics/clinics-experiential-learning/tax-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁹ Yale Law School, Appellate Litigation Project, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/appellate-litigation-project> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

representation to pro se appellants with meritorious civil cases pending before the court. The issues raised in these cases may include immigration, employment discrimination, prisoners' civil rights, and other section 1983 claims. The Project will focus on prisoners' civil rights but may also include other types of cases.

Capital Punishment Clinic²⁰: Students gain firsthand experience in the representation of people facing the death penalty, working as part of a team representing indigent defendants in cases being handled by the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, the Equal Justice Initiative in Alabama, or Connecticut Public Defenders. Projects require legal research, analysis and writing. They may also include interviews with clients or witnesses, strategy meetings with team members, moot court sessions at which students argue the issues in which the clinic is involved and other preparation for appellate arguments.

Challenging Mass Incarceration Clinic²¹: In the field work, students represent clients in two types of cases: federal sentencing proceedings and Connecticut state parole hearings. Students will learn advocacy strategies aimed at mitigating or ameliorating their clients' punishment, both prospectively during sentencing and retrospectively during post-conviction proceedings. This work will include: building relationships with clients (some of whom will be incarcerated); interviewing witnesses; investigating case facts; developing case theories; working on interdisciplinary teams alongside expert witnesses; using narrative writing techniques to prepare persuasive pleadings; and developing reentry plans for clients leaving prison. Additionally, students will present oral arguments at their clients' federal hearings and will prepare state-sentenced clients to testify before the parole board.

Education Adequacy Project Clinic²²: The Education Adequacy Project's current work centers on ongoing litigation against the State of Connecticut. The clinic represents several parents and children who allege that the State is violating its state constitutional duty to provide "suitable and substantially equal educational opportunities." The parents and children are bringing the lawsuit to ensure that every child in Connecticut, regardless of the child's city of birth, or the wealth of the child's parents, is provided a suitable educational opportunity that is equal to the opportunities being provided to children in all areas of the state.

As the plaintiffs' lawyers, students in the clinic are involved in all aspects of the litigation, including appearing in court, conducting fact finding in local schools, drafting legal briefs, deposing witnesses, and analyzing expert testimony. Additionally, the clinic also represents the interests of the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding (CCJEF), which is an organization consisting of mayors, superintendents, boards of education, and other education advocates. CCJEF works to raise awareness about the current under-funding of the State's public schools.

²⁰ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 4 (2016)

²¹ Yale Law School, Challenging Mass Incarceration Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/clinics/mass-incarceration> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

²² Yale Law School, Education Advocacy Project Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/education-adequacy-project-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

Educational Opportunity and Juvenile Justice²³: The Educational Opportunity and Juvenile Justice Clinic (EOJJC) began taking clients in October 2013, and represents children in expulsion hearings and in general educational advocacy in the New Haven School District.

Environmental Justice Clinic²⁴: In the wake of a national conversation about the water crisis in Flint and lead poisoning across the country, students will be in on the ground floor as the Clinic takes on cases to address inequality in the distribution of health hazards as well as procedural inequities faced by community members seeking to assert their own vision for the future of their neighborhoods, towns, and cities. The clinic's work will include cases and advocacy projects to enforce civil rights in the environmental context, working with clients to develop legal and advocacy strategies to reform EPA's civil rights compliance and enforcement program, and to address issues of environmental injustice in particular communities.

In addition to civil rights compliance and enforcement in the environmental context, the Clinic will evaluate potential litigation and advocacy to address the sources and impacts of air and water contamination in disproportionately affected communities, with a focus on communities in New England.

Immigration Legal Services²⁵: The Immigration Legal Services clinic represents immigrants seeking asylum in the United States. Its clients are refugees from more than twenty different countries who fear that they will be persecuted on the basis of their race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or membership in a social group if they return to their countries of nationality.

Clients work closely with current students at Yale Law School who are supervised by professors who are experienced immigration attorneys. Other professionals associated with Yale University also assist with each client's case, as necessary. Students prepare affidavits and briefs on behalf of their clients. These documents explain the specific circumstances of each client's case and detail the political, economic, and social conditions in the countries from which the client has fled. In addition, students will represent clients in interviews with immigration officials and in oral arguments before judges in administrative proceedings and the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Juvenile Justice Clinic²⁶: Students represent children and youth in juvenile cases in the Superior Court for Juvenile Matters courthouse on Whalley Avenue in New Haven. Students handle all aspects of their clients' cases under the direct supervision of clinical faculty.

Landlord and Tenant Clinic²⁷: The LLT Clinic was established in 1985. Since then, it has helped resolve more than 500 landlord-tenant disputes. Students who take part in the LLT

²³ Yale Law School, Educational Opportunity and Juvenile Justice Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/educational-opportunity-and-juvenile-justice-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

²⁴ Yale Law School, Environmental Justice Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/clinics/environmental-justice> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

²⁵ Yale Law School, Immigration Legal Services Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/immigration-legal-services> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

²⁶ Yale Law School, Juvenile Justice Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/clinics/juvenile-justice> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

Clinic take the lead role in all aspects of these cases, including interviewing clients, researching and drafting legal briefs and pleadings, arguing cases before the Connecticut Housing Session, negotiating and mediating settlements, and presenting or cross-examining witnesses.

Legal Assistance: Immigrant Rights Clinic²⁸: Students in the New Haven Legal Assistance Immigrant Rights Clinic (IRC) will represent immigrants and their organizations in court, before administrative agencies, and in the legislature. IRC is based at New Haven Legal Assistance (LAA), a historic non-profit civil legal services office whose mission is to secure justice for and to protect the rights of those residents of New Haven County unable to engage legal counsel. The clinic will be a legal resource for immigrant communities and their organizations. Through their advocacy and coursework, students in the clinic will learn to practice as legal services lawyers representing immigrants and their organizations. Students can expect to work both on individual cases and on policy matters arising from needs in the community. Community partners will refer cases to the clinic, and there will be no substantive area of law excluded from consideration. Referring community organizations include Junta for Progressive Action, a non-profit service provider and advocacy organization (<http://juntainc.org/en/>); Unidad Latina en Acción, a grassroots membership-based community organization (<https://ulanewhaven.org/>); and Haven Health Clinic, a student-run primary care clinic in the Fair Haven neighborhood (<http://www.havenfreeclinic.org/hfc/>). At the beginning of the semester, students will interview potential clients and determine what type of representation, if any, is appropriate. Students may also have the opportunity to work on existing LAA cases and projects. Likely areas of advocacy include labor and employment law, immigration law, family law, and housing law. Because the substantive areas of law handled by the clinic will be wide-ranging and the advocacy approaches diverse, each student can expect to have a unique experience.

Legal Assistance: Re-Entry Clinic²⁹: The New Haven Legal Assistance Reentry Clinic is a new clinic that will provide civil legal representation to people with criminal convictions to help them challenge and navigate barriers to their successful reentry to society. Throughout the nation, people on all sides of the political spectrum have begun to re-examine the “tough on crime” policies of the past two decades that have led to the huge expansion of our prison population, at enormous economic, societal and personal cost. In Connecticut, Governor Malloy has championed the state as a “Second Chance Society” where people with criminal convictions receive an opportunity for a new beginning, to live positive, successful, law-abiding lives post incarceration. Yet the barriers to success continue for people who have criminal records, making it challenging for them to find employment and housing, access health and other services, and overcome the stigma attached to having criminal convictions on their record.

Students in the Reentry Clinic will have an opportunity to represent individual clients on

²⁷ Yale Law School, Landlord and Tenant Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/landlord-tenant-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

²⁸ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 28 (2016)

²⁹ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 30 (2016)

a variety of legal issues. Through this work, students will also identify and research challenges facing this population that invite litigation or legislative strategies for broader reforms. The clinic will accept cases referred from the Transitions Medical-Legal Partnership and existing Reentry support organizations, including Easter Seals Community Reentry Services (<http://www.eastersealsgoodwill.org>), Project More (<http://www.projectmore.org>), Project Fresh Start (<http://www.cityofnewhaven.com/mayor/prisonreentry.asp>), Family Reentry (<http://www.familyreentry.org>), the New Haven Reentry Roundtable and other agencies working with this population.

Examples of the direct representation cases students may work on include denials of housing subsidies based on an applicant's criminal record, applications for pardons, employment discrimination based on the disparate impact of criminal convictions on minorities, access to health care and other public benefits and modification of child support obligations. Cases that the clinic will accept from Transitions include those in which ex-offender status both is and is not expressly at issue, because both kinds of cases reflect the immediate needs of this particular population. Students will represent clients in a variety of forums, including administrative hearings before Housing Authorities, the CHRO or EEOC, and the Department of Social Services; hearings before the Connecticut Board of Pardons and Parole; and state court.

Lowenstein Human Rights Clinic³⁰: The Allard K. Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic has three main goals: to provide students with the opportunity to gain practical experience that reflects the range of activities in which lawyers engage to promote respect for human rights; to help students build the basic knowledge and skills necessary to be effective human rights lawyers and advocates; and to contribute to current efforts to protect human rights through valuable, high-quality assistance to appropriate partner organizations and, on occasion, to individual clients.

The Clinic purposely selects projects that range widely in terms of geography, subject, and methodology. Work often includes preparing amicus briefs on international and comparative law for domestic, regional and international courts, tribunals and other adjudicative bodies; providing nongovernmental organizations with legal and factual research and strategic advice; and investigating, drafting and publishing reports on human rights violations and on government, business, and international-organization practices affecting human rights. Recent examples include **a campaign against the criminalization of homelessness in Connecticut**; a legal analysis finding strong evidence of genocide against the Rohingya in Myanmar; an amicus brief to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights regarding forced sterilization; and a white paper to share with U.S. policy makers and legislators analyzing the legality of U.S. family immigration detention procedures under international law.

Ludwig Center for Community and Economic Development (CED)³¹: CED is a semester-long, in-house clinic offered in both fall and spring semesters, with a substantial number of continuing students who have completed the seminar but remain enrolled in the clinic

³⁰ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 34 (2016)

³¹ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 7 (2016)

to handle ongoing or new matters. Clients include non-profit and for-profit corporations, community development financial institutions, advocacy organizations, neighborhood associations, governmental entities, social enterprises and merchants' associations. Their missions range from building access to financial services among low-income people to bringing arts institutions and grocery stores to chronically under-resourced communities to breaking down barriers to affordable housing development in high-opportunity communities. All clients share an interest in promoting economic opportunity and socioeconomic mobility among low and moderate-income people.

On behalf of clients, students in the clinic negotiate and draft contracts; provide advice on the tax consequences of entity choices and deal structures; structure and carry out real estate deals; represent borrowers and lenders in financing transactions; draft and advocate for legislation; form for-profit and not-for-profit entities; and resolve land use and environmental issues. Each student is supervised by at least one supervising attorney with whom the student meets at least once a week.

Mortgage Foreclosure and Litigation Clinic³²: Students represent homeowners fighting foreclosure in Connecticut state courts. They conduct motion practice and discovery, including legal research and writing. Although this is primarily a litigation clinic, many of the clients are also participating in court-annexed mediation. In addition, students also provide brief advice and assistance to pro se homeowners at the courthouse.

New Haven Legal Assistance Clinic³³: This clinical program involves working at the New Haven Legal Assistance office, the community's local legal aid office, providing legal services to the indigent residents of the New Haven area. Students work under the direct supervision of staff attorneys at the office. The Legal Assistance Clinic is practice-oriented, moving from developing solutions for specific client problems to general discussions of landlord-tenant, consumer, domestic relations, welfare, and other legal subjects of special concern to the urban poor, as well as issues of broader social policy.

San Francisco Affirmative Litigation Project³⁴: SFALP pairs YLS students with attorneys from the San Francisco City Attorney's Office to litigate public-interest lawsuits. Imagine a public-interest law firm with significant resources, outstanding attorneys, and standing to bring suits that most public-interest groups simply cannot bring. In recent years, SFALP students have worked on a wide variety of issues, including consumer protection wage theft, reproductive rights, internet privacy, healthcare, housing, environmental protection, fairness in arbitration, childhood health and nutrition, payday lending, and access to legal services for immigrants. Students work with the deputy city attorneys through every stage of the process, from brainstorming possible suits and filing complaints, to motions practice and preparing for trials, to appellate briefing and preparing for Supreme Court merits arguments.

³² Yale Law School, Mortgage Foreclosure and Litigation Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/mortgage-foreclosure-litigation-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

³³ Yale Law School, New Haven Legal Assistance Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/new-haven-legal-assistance-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

³⁴ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 47 (2016)

Samuel Jacobs Criminal Justice Clinic³⁵: Students in the Samuel Jacobs Criminal Justice Clinic ("CJC") represent defendants in criminal cases in the Geographical Area #23 courthouse (the "GA") on Elm Street in New Haven. Students handle all aspects of their clients' cases under the direct supervision of clinical faculty.

Sol and Lillian Goldman Family Advocacy for Children and Youth Clinic³⁶: Students represent children in neglect or uncared-for proceedings in the New Haven Superior Court for Juvenile Matters. Students represent both children living in the home and children removed on an emergency basis at the time the proceedings commence. Students appear regularly in mediation meetings and court appearances in the Superior Court and engage in interdisciplinary meetings of all kinds.

Temporary Restraining Order Project³⁷: In conjunction with the Clerk's Office of the Connecticut Superior Court (New Haven County Family Division) and the Family Division of New Haven Legal Assistance, the Yale Law School Temporary Restraining Order Project (TRO) staffs an office at the courthouse to assist individuals seeking temporary restraining orders (TROs).

Veterans Legal Services Clinic³⁸: Established in 2010, students have represented Connecticut veterans in litigation before administrative agencies and courts, on benefits, discharge upgrade, immigration, and pardon matters. In addition, students represent local and national organizations in non-litigation matters relating to the legal needs of veterans, including regulatory and legislative reform efforts, media advocacy, strategic planning, and other matters.

Clinic students also provide advice and conduct some intake at the New Haven Vet Center, which offers a range of counseling and other services particularly to combat veterans. The clinic makes special efforts to assist vulnerable veteran populations and those least connected to existing service networks, such as women, recently returned, non-citizen, LGBT, and elderly veterans.

Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic³⁹: Students in the Worker & Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic (WIRAC) represent immigrants, low-wage workers, and their organizations in labor, immigration, criminal justice, civil rights, and other matters. The clinic docket includes cases at all stages of legal proceedings in Immigration Court, the Board of Immigration Appeals, U.S. District Court, the Second Circuit, and before Connecticut state agencies and courts. Its non-litigation work includes the representation of grassroots organizations, labor unions, and other groups in regulatory and legislative reform efforts, media

³⁵ Yale Law School, Samuel Jacobs Criminal Justice Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/samuel-jacobs-criminal-justice-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

³⁶ Yale Law School, Sol and Lillian Goldman Family Advocacy for Children and Youth Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/sol-and-lillian-goldman-family-advocacy-children-and-youth-clinic> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

³⁷ Yale Law School, Temporary Restraining Order Project, <https://www.law.yale.edu/studying-law-yale/clinical-and-experiential-learning/our-clinics/temporary-restraining-order-project> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

³⁸ Yale Law School, Veterans Legal Services Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/clinics/vlsc> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

³⁹ Yale Law School, Worker and Immigrant Rights Advocacy Clinic, <https://www.law.yale.edu/wirac> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

advocacy, strategic planning, and other matters. All students handle at least one litigation and one non-litigation matter, and have the opportunity to explore multiple practice areas.

Yale Law School Other Direct Services Initiatives:

Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project⁴⁰: The Asylum Seeker Advocacy Project (ASAP) was founded at YLS in 2015 and is now a national organization headquartered at the Urban Justice Center (UJC). ASAP represents refugee families crossing the U.S.-Mexico border to flee life-threatening conditions. ASAP uses innovative methods, including remote representation, case support, and resource development, to bring legal aid services to places where there are few or no legal aid lawyers, including border detention facilities and rural communities across the United States.

Since May 2015, ASAP has ensured universal representation for every family forced to go to trial in the nation's largest immigration detention center, winning every case; prevented the deportation of more than 200 refugees through emergency legal filings, and secured their release from detention; created a national case-tracking and triage system for more than 7,000 cases; and notified more than 1,500 families of their upcoming hearings in immigration court.

ASAP's work is divided into discrete tasks to assist families through each stage of an immigration case, including drafting merits briefs for use in asylum cases; drafting appellate filings before the Board of Immigration Appeals; helping place clients with attorneys around the country; coordinating psychological evaluations for clients with trauma-related conditions; and tracking cases around the country so families can be notified of their upcoming deadlines and hearings. Students can express interest in each of these tasks and will be notified as discrete projects arise, such as drafting legal arguments in an asylum brief, taking a declaration from a client in Spanish, organizing a psychological evaluation for a client across the country, or updating ASAP's client database.

Capital Assistance Project (CAP)⁴¹: The Capital Assistance Project (CAP) matches YLS students with capital and indigent defense lawyers from around the country to provide substantive legal research and writing support on active capital cases. CAP also raises public awareness about death penalty and indigent criminal defense issues, and provides training and mentorship resources for students interested in pursuing careers in public defense.

International Refugee Assistance Project⁴²: IRAP was founded at YLS in September 2008 and is now a national organization with chapters at law schools around the country. IRAP assists refugees applying for resettlement in life or death situations in the Middle East. Most of IRAP's clients are Iraqi, but the organization has expanded its casework in recent years to

⁴⁰ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 56 (2016)

⁴¹ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 58 (2016)

⁴² Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 59 (2016)

include Somali, Afghan and (potentially) Syrian refugees. IRAP also does important policy work, including legislative advocacy in DC, research into issues like access to counsel, and litigation related to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

In IRAP's legal work, teams of two students are assigned to a case. Students work with two supervising attorneys to help a client through the resettlement process to the U.S. Our clients include children with medical emergencies, families who have experienced severe persecution or torture, women who suffer domestic abuse or forced prostitution, and other urgent cases referred by NGOs and IRAP staff on the ground in the Middle East. The chapter also has a small policy team that works together doing research and advocacy work on broad-scale issues related to immigration and refugee law.

Medical-Legal Partnership⁴³: The medical-legal partnership (MLP) model combines health and legal services at a single site of care. YLS students participating in an MLP meet with patients at local health clinics and help address legal needs like access to government programs, housing problems, and custody disputes. After completing the one-time training, shift hours are comprised completely of direct client interaction in the clinic.

The Yale Health Law & Policy Society (YHeLPS) currently manages five MLP opportunities: the HAVEN Free Clinic MLP, the Center for Children's Advocacy MLP, the Transitions Clinic MLP, the Palliative Care MLP, and the Veterans Clinic MLP. Several of these MLP clinics—Transitions and HAVEN—work closely with the New Haven Legal Assistance Association (NHLAA), while other MLPs partner with other area legal services organizations.

Yale Arbitration Project⁴⁴: The Yale Arbitration Project allows YLS students to preside as arbitrators in real cases involving defective automobiles, liquor licenses, and deceptive business practices (mainly by contractors). Decisions become binding on the litigants and their representatives with an appeal directly to the District Court of Connecticut (where the standard of review is manifest disregard of the facts or the law).

Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs⁴⁵

Services⁴⁶: The CT Department of Veterans' Affairs Office of Advocacy and Assistance is responsible for providing assistance to any veteran who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as their eligible dependents. Assistance will be provided in obtaining veterans' benefits available under federal, state and local laws. The state has accredited benefits counselors known as Veterans' Service Officers (VSO's) to aid in the process. In addition, the following services are provided by this program: Collecting and preparing data relating to benefits and services for

⁴³ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 61 (2016)

⁴⁴ Clinical Student Board, The Student Guide to Clinics and Direct Services Opportunities at Yale Law School 65 (2016)

⁴⁵ Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, <http://www.ct.gov/ctva/site/default.asp> (last visited Oct. 3, 2016).

⁴⁶ Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Advocacy and Assistance, http://www.ct.gov/ctva/lib/ctva/OAA_TriFold_Revised_5.pdf (last visited Oct. 3, 2016).

veterans; Assisting veterans and/or spouses residing in Connecticut nursing homes with VA benefit applications; Assisting in the establishment, preparation and presentation of claims pursuant to rights, benefits or privileges accruing to veterans; Cooperating with service organizations in disseminating information; Furnishing counsel to veterans concerning educational training, health, medical and rehabilitation; Representing veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs concerning claims and benefits; Assisting veterans appeal to the VA for upgrades in disability ratings.

Contact info: Administration Building
287 West Street
Rocky Hill, CT 06067
(860) 616-3683

Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services (DPDS)⁴⁷

Mission: DPDS serves the statewide indigent children and adult population involved in criminal justice and child welfare matters. DPDS also is responsible for guardian ad-litem in family and child welfare cases as well as representation for indigent contemnors in support enforcement matters before CT magistrates.

Services: DPDS has the obligation to represent 100% of the population to whom we are appointed by the court and who are charged with crimes that carry a sentence of incarceration or a suspended sentence with a risk of incarceration, all indigent juveniles charged with crimes, and all indigent children and adults involved in child welfare matters, all indigent persons who are in danger of being held in contempt for failure to pay child support.

DPDS has 43 field offices and specialized units throughout the state of Connecticut. Service priorities are evaluated and based on the individual needs of each client. This may be due to the seriousness of the charges, the clients' mental and physical health, family issues, limited English proficiency, and other collateral consequences of court involvement such as immigration, military involvement, homelessness, disruption of education.

The demographics of client communities vary from urban to rural. Some child welfare clients are out of state and a few out of the country. Priorities may differ depending on what types of cases office personnel are seeing. All communities in CT are dealing with substance abuse and mental health issues. The availability or lack of community resources for these 2 problems alone can have a significant impact on the ability to effectively fashion a diversionary program or an alternative sentence to incarceration for a client.

Evaluation is constantly being performed to ensure that DPDS is providing the best services in the most cost effective manner, DPDS collects extensive data through FileMaker and JustWare which makes this possible.

Funding: DPDS is state funded, but is currently running a considerable deficiency in our assigned counsel account due to the dramatic increase in habeas corpus cases. DPDS also collaborates with other state agencies to leverage federal and private grants and most recently was part of the successful state team working with the Center for Court Innovation to obtain

⁴⁷ E-mail from Susan Storey, Chief Public Defender, to Brian Austin, Jr., Executive Assistant, Off. of the State's Att'y (Oct. 17, 2016, 12:18 EST) (on file with author).

significant grant funding from the McArthur Foundation. Additionally, DPDS also receive Court Improvement Grant funding from the Judicial Department which is used for child welfare training.

The budget cuts over the past decade, and especially this past year, have resulted in the reduction of the workforce. This has caused some social workers to have to split their time between offices which is not ideal. Many of the case dispositions are dependent on solving the social, mental health and substance abuse issues that our clients have as well as the myriad of other collateral consequences caused by even short periods on incarceration.

Contact info: 30 Trinity Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06106
(860) 509-6400

Connecticut Judicial Branch Volunteer Attorney Program⁴⁸

About: The economic turndown has created a new class of indigent self-represented parties, many of whom have some means to support their families, but have little or no access to discretionary funds. The Volunteer Attorney Program does not income qualify the participants, these parties do not have access to competent legal counsel. Many have lost their jobs or are under-employed and are forced to make the choice between paying their mortgage or hiring an attorney.

Services: The Volunteer Attorney Programs are available in the areas of family or foreclosure law, clients may be facing a range of problems including but not limited to divorce, custody, child support, contempt, civil unions, grand-parent rights, loan modifications, foreclosure, foreclosure mediation.

Contact info: Krista Hess
Program Manager
Krista.Hess@jud.ct.gov
(860) 263-2734, ext. 3043

Connecticut Child Justice Foundation (CCJF)⁴⁹

Mission: The CCJF is committed to providing a force of caring legal professionals who will champion the cause of children with educational needs who fall under the protection of the DCF and who otherwise lack the financial resources and/or parental support to fulfill this role.

Services: The CCJF is a team of volunteer lawyers and judges will intervene on each child's behalf to obtain the educational services to which these children are legally entitled. These legal professionals actively advocate for these children at the School District

⁴⁸ CTLawHelp.org Probono Catalog, Connecticut Judicial Branch Volunteer Attorney Program, <http://probono.ctlawhelp.org/catalog/volunteer-attorney-program> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁴⁹ Department of Children and Families, Connecticut Child Justice Foundation, <http://www.ct.gov/dcf/cwp/view.asp?a=2866&Q=513940> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

level and in the Courts, if necessary, in order to protect our young clients' full educational rights. CCJF will provide this service pro-bono.

Funding: Funding is provided by probono volunteers from the CT Trial Lawyers Association

Contact info: Ernest F. Teitell
eteitell@sgtlaw.com
(203) 325-4491

Natalia Sieira Millan,
NATALIA.SIEIRAMILLAN@ct.gov
(860) 550-6404

Connecticut Legal Services Inc.⁵⁰

Mission⁵¹: Connecticut Legal Services (CLS) is a law firm, a social services agency, and a community resource that solves urgent problems affecting low-income people. It is the largest legal aid agency in Connecticut. CLS' service area includes 58% of Connecticut's poverty population living in 122 communities—every place that isn't part of greater Hartford or New Haven. CLS also collaborates with New Haven Legal Assistance Association and Greater Hartford Legal Aid to provide seamless services to every community throughout Connecticut. Applicants are within CLS' income guidelines if the household income is below 125% of the federal poverty level (or, under some circumstances, below 187.5% of the federal poverty level).

Services: There are 47 lawyers, with the help of paralegals, legal assistants, and volunteers work on about 5,500 cases per year (carrying about 2,000 ongoing cases into every year, and open another 3,500 during the year). CLS currently assigns staff to the following areas of legal issue:

- Children at Risk (education, child protection): 22%
- Developmental/Intellectual Disability 3%
- Elder law (health, consumer, benefits, housing) 14%
- Family/Domestic Violence 16%
- Housing/Homelessness 21 %
- Immigration 3%
- SSI (low-income disability) 7%
- Health, other government benefits 14%

In determining service priority, CLS runs a periodic priority-setting service as part of strategic planning resets (about every five years). And at this time, there is no other organization that provides in-person comprehensive legal advocacy to the full range of low-income population, across a broad range of issues faced by the poor. Many of CLS' clients are referred by Statewide

⁵⁰ E-mail from Steve Eppler-Epstein, Executive Director, Conn. Legal Services, to James T. Shearin, President, Conn. Bar Found. (Oct. 18, 2016 10:28 EST) (on file with author).

⁵¹ Conn. Legal Services, <http://ctlegal.org/about> (last visited Sep. 13, 2016).

Legal Services and by local social service agencies with whom CLS partners. Many are referred by former clients. Some clients find the services provided via CLS website or CTLawHelp.org.

In measuring effectiveness, CLS achieves financial outcomes for their clients. Some legal work, however, is less measurable, e.g. the value of safety and stability for victims of domestic violence, the value to a family of avoiding homelessness, or the value of an appropriate school education to a child's future. But of the types of outcomes that can be quantified (impact on rental expenses, receipt of government benefits, etc.) CLS' outcomes system found over \$5 million in financial outcomes for clients in the past year. Additionally, virtually all of CLS' work relies on collaborations with others in the legal services network, other service providers, government agencies, and community groups.

Funding: CLS has a budget of just under \$11 million for the current year: 80% of that funding is from 30 different State, Federal and Local Government grants (including over 60% of our budget from court fees and 7% of our budget from the Judicial Branch funding that come through the Connecticut Bar Foundation); 10% from IOLTA (through the Connecticut Bar Foundation); 2% from attorney fees; 1% is from United Ways (which have declined steadily over time); 4% from private foundation grants; 3% from donors.

Contact info: Steve Eppler-Epstein
Executive Director
62 Washington Street,
Middletown, CT 06457
Seppler-Epstein@ConnLegalServices.org
(860) 344-0447

Connecticut Probate Court⁵²

Mission⁵³: Provides legal services to individuals petitioning the Probate Courts with assistance for family members who are unable to care for themselves, the elderly and persons with intellectual and psychiatric disabilities. The mission of the Probate Courts is twofold: first, to protect and support individuals who are unable to care for themselves; and second, to help families resolve highly sensitive disputes in a fair, economical and prompt manner.

Services: The Probate Court provides legal services in matters such as conservatorship, removal of guardian and termination of parental rights, guardian of an adult with intellectual disabilities, decedent's estates, and appeals. The income basis that the Probate Court reviews is via the standard for waiver of court fees which is set forth in Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-529b, establishing a rebuttable presumption that a petitioner is entitled to a fee waiver if his or her household income is 125% or less of the federal poverty level or the petitioner is a recipient of public assistance. Parties to probate proceedings reside throughout the state and beyond. The primary areas of jurisdiction are the following: Children's matters (custody, guardianship,

⁵² E-mail from Vincent Russo, Conn. Prob. Ct., to Brian Austin Jr., Executive Assistant, Off. of the Chief State's Att'y (Oct. 14, 2016 16:37 EST) (on file with author).

⁵³ CTLawHelp.org Probono Catalog, Connecticut Probate Courts, <http://probono.ctlawhelp.org/catalog/connecticut's-probate-courts> (last visited Sept. 25, 2016).

visitation, termination of parental rights, adoption, emancipation and paternity) 11%; Conservatorship 20%; Guardianship of adults with intellectual disability 9%; Commitment for treatment of mental illness 2%; Decedents' estates 43%; Trusts 5%; Other 10%.

The needs that are not addressed completely are conservator training, stronger oversight of conservators and guardians, and court security improvements. Clients become aware of the services through attorneys; referrals from state, municipal and non-profit agencies; Probate Court website (ctprobate.gov); User Guides published by the Office of the Probate Court Administrator; and Community outreach by judges.

The Probate Courts interact extensively with multiple state agencies, including Children and Families, Mental Health and Addiction Services, Developmental Services, Social Services, Protective Services for the Elderly, and Aging. The courts also work with municipal social service departments and non-profit agencies. In addition, the Probate Courts also work with agencies, as well as the bar and legal aid groups, on public policy issues and proposed legislation to improve the effectiveness of services for the vulnerable populations

Funding: For FY 17, the Budgeted expenses are \$44.5 million, \$6 million for general fund appropriation, and \$38.5 million Probate fee revenue. 86.5% of the revenue comes from Probate fee and 13.5% from general fund appropriation. The cost effectiveness of the Probate Court system is illustrated by comparing the budget to operate the system with its caseload. For a budget of \$44.5 million, only \$6 million of which comes from the state's general fund, Probate Courts handle over 95,000 matters per year - a cost of less than \$500 per matter.

The Probate Courts rely heavily on attorneys to take on appointments as court-appointed counsel for indigent individuals. Compensation is extremely low in comparison to prevailing market rates for legal services and has not changed in many years. Due to budget constraints, compensation is limited to \$50 per hour (except the first hour of court time, which is paid at \$75). The maximum compensation per case is \$500, which can be exceeded only with court approval.

Contact info: Bonnie Bennet

Legal Counsel, Office of the Probate Court Administrator
bbennet@ctprobate.gov
(860) 231-2442

Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC)⁵⁴

Mission: To help veterans recovering from homelessness and mental illness overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare and income.

Services: CVLC's core program helps veterans recovering from homelessness and mental illness overcome legal barriers to recovery. Common issues include evictions, foreclosures, consumer debt collections, divorce and child support, VA and Social Security income, criminal pardons, and tax issues. The CVLC is staffed by 1 executive director, 3 attorneys, and 1 paralegal.

⁵⁴ Connecticut Veterans Legal Center, <http://ctveteranslegal.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

Funding: For FY 2014-2015 the total revenue was \$750,520: Corporations and law firms \$15,556; individuals \$21,007, saluting service annual event \$130,717, the ride for our veterans \$161,403, Bristol-Myers Squibb foundation \$185,740, other grants \$236,095.

Contact info: Margaret Middleton
Executive Director
114 Boston Post Road
West Haven, CT 06516
mmiddleton@ctveteranslegal.org
(203) 903-2852

CT Alliance for Basic Human Needs⁵⁵

Mission: The Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs (CABHN) is a statewide network of social service providers, advocates, faith based organizations, and individuals that care about issues affecting very low-income families and communities throughout Connecticut. CABHN provides community education, supports advocacy efforts, promotes legislative policies, and elevates the voices of people in poverty.

Purpose: Formed in 1992, CABHN is a network of over 2,300 people and organizations that share a common goal of improving the lives of people in poverty by strengthening public benefits programs, educating people about their legal rights and the community resources available to them, and improving policies to help families transition out of poverty and become economically secure.

Services⁵⁶: With 2 FTE's CABHN serves over 2,000 people annually. In addition, there is also one volunteer or intern. 90% of the people served are from the Hartford area and 80% are from the City of Hartford. CABHN provides legal information on civil issues and do not represent people; CABHN provides information for people to do self- help. CABHN gives issue specific workshops- these are targeted to a population. For example, talking to Hartford parents about special education processes and legal requirements; talking to homeless shelter residents about what public benefits might be available to them and how to apply for those benefits. In addition, CABHN occasionally help people apply for benefits, and provides a big role in legislative advocacy and community organizing.

People become aware of CABHN services through word of mouth, referrals from social service organizations, case workers, teachers, city employees, and others. In addition, phone calls us and in-person during tabling events. CABHN is able to help about 25% of people solve their legal problem. The other 75% are problems that aren't solvable – such as lack of employment due to a criminal record; eviction based on non-payment; homeless people who need a place to live and don't have the income or security deposit to secure housing.

CABHN finds that housing, the need for affordable, safe places to live are in short supply. The second most requested service is help finding employment with a criminal record.

⁵⁵ Connecticut Alliance for Basic Human Needs, <http://www.cabhn.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁵⁶ E-mail from Perry Zinn-Rowthorn, Conn. Deputy Att'y Gen., to James T. Shearin, President Conn. Bar Found. (Oct. 18, 2016, 10:31 EST) (on file with author).

Re-entry services are in short supply. Both housing and re-entry services are priorities that are not being served by CABHN.

Effectiveness: In order for CABHN to be more effective additional money, more staff, and a better office space that was inviting to members of the community would be helpful. Further, CABHN finds that they could benefit from a staffed hotline and would love to expand their partnership at the courts to other locations. Outcomes are not measured by the people talked to, but by people actually helped.

Funding: CABHN budget is about \$140,000 per year and is primarily funded through grants and private donations.

Contact info: Nancy Boone
(860) 904-5534
nboone@cabhn.org

CT Fair Housing Center⁵⁷

Mission⁵⁸: The mission of the Connecticut Fair Housing Center since 1994 is to ensure that all people have equal access to housing opportunities in Connecticut.

Services: The Center has a staff of 14: an executive director, fair housing specialists, attorneys, paralegal, communications and development coordinator.

More than 70% of the clients served by the Center's fair housing advocates have income at or below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level. The other 30% have income that is below 200% of the federal poverty level. The majority of people served by the fair housing unit are people who live at or below the federal poverty level. The Center does extensive outreach and education of service providers and people who need services. And the Center is the only organization that provides comprehensive fair housing services throughout the state. During the last 12 months the Center provided information on our services, the fair housing laws, and foreclosure prevention to more than 500 social service agencies and people working with the Center's client base. This resulted in the Center reaching more than 3,500 Connecticut residents.

The Center serves the entire State of Connecticut. The approximate percentage of clients by county is: 46% Hartford County; 27% New Haven County; 17% Fairfield County; 5% Middlesex County; 2% New London County; 2% Litchfield County; 1% Windham County. Additionally, the following is the breakdown of services provided: 44% of budget spent on fair housing complaint intake, investigation and representation; 40% of budget spent on foreclosure prevention and fair lending intake, investigation and representation; 11 % of budget spent on education and outreach for fair housing and fair lending issues; 4% of budget spent on administrative costs; 62% of clients have fair housing complaints; 38% of clients have foreclosure prevention or fair lending complaints

⁵⁷ E-mail from Erin Kemple, Conn. Fair Housing Ctr., to James T. Shearin, President, Conn. Bar Found. (Oct. 6, 2016 13:52 EST) (on file with author).

⁵⁸ Connecticut Fair Housing Center, <http://www.ctfairhousing.org/history-and-mission/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

Some of the measures used in determining effectiveness of the services is to determine the number of clients served by each staff member. In addition, increase in funding and increase in awareness of the program would make the organization more effective in providing its services. Additionally, during the past 12 months, the Center has worked with more than 500 community members, agencies, advocates, local government officials, state agencies, and legislators to inform them of the fair housing laws and how these laws apply to their work.

Funding: The Center receives funding from the state of Connecticut, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Hartford, and several private foundations. The Center's total budget for 2016 is \$1,910,499.

In 2014, the total revenue⁵⁹ (990 form) was \$1,673,454: Hartford Foundation for Public Giving (\$65,911), Department of Housing (\$400,248), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (\$575,272), Connecticut Bar Foundation Inc. (\$167,694), Department of Banking State of Connecticut (\$137,509), Capital Region Council of Government (\$37,867), Norflet Progress Fund (\$68,156), other contributions and grants (\$193,293) program service revenue (\$187,859), other revenue (\$12,020)

Contact info: info@ctfairhousing.org
(860) 247-4400

CTLawHelp.org⁶⁰

Mission⁶¹: Connecticut's Legal Aid programs created this website to help people with very low income find help for their legal problems. This website provides legal information and tools to help with individual representation.

Services: CTLawHelp.org is free for everyone to use but its intended audience is people with very low income. Self help materials are written on topics that typically affect people with low income. So one might find information for clients trying to represent themselves in an eviction case, but one would not find information about how a landlord would evict a tenant. The website is intended for people with legal problems in Connecticut, but there is some federal information on the site that could be used by anyone in the United States.

The website provides self-help materials on a variety of legal topics in the strongest areas of need. The materials are written by legal aid attorneys and then edited for a 5th to 8th grade reading level. The Judicial Branch and the State of Connecticut also provide some self-help information for self represented parties. Clients become aware of the website via Google searches, Judicial Branch Court Service centers carry our booklets, and legal aid offices carry booklets. In addition, the Judicial website links to CTLawHelp and SLS and legal aid advocates mail out self-help booklets.

Effectiveness of the program is measured by an advisory board that meets quarterly to review usage data and make recommendations regarding content of the website. Examples of

⁵⁹ Connecticut Fair Housing Center, <http://www.ctfairhousing.org/history-and-mission/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁶⁰ E-mail from Jamey Bell, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, to James T. Shearin, President, Conn. Bar Found. (Oct. 15, 2016 15:53 EST) (on file with author).

⁶¹ CTLawHelp.org, <http://ctlawhelp.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

self help portals: Elder law self help portal⁶²; Pro bono portal⁶³; Connecticut Veterans Legal Center.⁶⁴

Funding: The program is housed at New Haven Legal Assistance and the program is not a freestanding organization, which keeps costs low. The total project budget for 2016 was \$122,332, and was funded by grants and contracts (including federal funding from LSC's Technology Initiative Grants program) and in-kind donations of space, overhead and administration from New Haven Legal Assistance. Additional funding comes from the CT Bar Foundation, LSC SLS sub grants, and occasional Judicial grants.

Contact info: Kate Frank
Publications Manager
(203) 946-4811
kfrank@nhlegal.org

CT Legal Rights Project⁶⁵

Mission⁶⁶: Connecticut Legal Rights Project, Inc., (CLRP) is a statewide non-profit agency which provides legal services to low income individuals with mental health conditions, who reside in hospitals or the community, on matters related to their treatment, recovery, and civil rights.

Services: CLRP serves clients from across Connecticut. CLRP represents solely individuals with the most serious mental health conditions. It is staffed by an executive director, 5 staff attorneys, 2 operations assistant/screener, 6 paralegals, 1 legal advocate, and 1 operations coordinator.

CLRP handles legal issues that are directly related to the client's mental health treatment and recovery, including opportunities for self-determination, self-sufficiency and full community integration. The main office is located in Middletown and has satellite office locations staffed at least twice a week in New Haven, Norwich, Bridgeport and Hartford, and hosts office hours at facilities in Torrington, Danbury and Waterbury once a week. From 1/1/16-9/30/16 CLRP served 1,473 individuals. (31.29% Housing; 39.69% Community; 29.05% Inpatient). CLRP currently represents clients statewide in both housing matters (funded by a separate grant from DMHAS) and non-housing matters (funded by the Connecticut Bar Foundation).

Clients learn about the availability of CLRP's services through outreach presentations by CLRP paralegal advocates and staff attorneys, through referrals from mental health providers and other community partners, through the CT legal aid network (CLRP receives referrals from

⁶² Ctlawhelp.org, Self Help Guides, Elder Law, <http://ctlawhelp.org/self-help-guides/elder-law> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁶³ Ctlawhelp.org, Probono Portal, <http://probono.ctlawhelp.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁶⁴ Ctlawhelp.org, Connecticut Veterans Legal Center, <http://probono.ctlawhelp.org/catalog/veteran-assistance> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁶⁵ E-mail from Kathleen M. Flaherty, Executive Director, Conn. Legal Rts. Project, to James T. Shearin, President Conn. Bar Found. (Oct. 14, 2016 12:54 EST) (on file with author).

⁶⁶ Conn. Legal Rts. Project, <http://www.clrp.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

Statewide Legal Services, and any person who indicates that they have a disability when completing the online "triage" on www.ctlawhelp.org will see a pop-up box with information about CLRP. Potential clients can complete the intake process over the phone with central office staff, or by contacting staff at CLRP's satellite offices (in-person or on the phone). The staff attorneys, legal director, and executive director hold weekly intake meetings.

Funding: CLRP's operation is funded by The State of Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, The Connecticut Bar Foundation, Attorney Fees and Donations CLRP's 2016-2017 Current Fiscal Budget is funded at the following levels: 58% DMHAS (split 34% In-Patient (Consent decree) \$579,861 and 24% Housing \$410,861); 26% CT Bar Foundation (split 5% IOLTA \$82,712 and 21% CFGIA \$368,788); 3% JBGIA \$56,816; 13% Other (projected) Donations/Misc. \$3,000; Attorney Fees \$205,000 Training \$1,200-Reserve (as needed)

Contact info: Kathy Flaherty
Executive Director
kflaherty@clrp.org
(860) 262-5033

Greater Hartford Legal Aid (GHLA)⁶⁷

Mission⁶⁸: Incorporated on May 1, 1958. To achieve equal justice for poor people, to work with clients to promote social justice, and to address the effects and root causes of poverty.

Services: Generally GHLA clients' incomes are below 125% of the poverty level. 58% of clients are from Hartford; 29% are from Bloomfield, Bristol, East Hartford, Enfield, Manchester, and West Hartford; and 13% are from Avon, Berlin, Canton, Cromwell, East Granby, East Windsor, Ellington, Farmington, Glastonbury, Granby, Newington, Rocky Hill, Simsbury, Somers, South Windsor, Suffield, Vernon, Wethersfield, Windsor, and Windsor Locks.

GHLA is staffed by an executive director, 21 attorneys, 1 finance director, 5 legal secretaries, 1 bookkeeper, 1 executive administrative assistant, 1 health equity fellow, 1 information technology administrator, 1 deputy director, law student volunteers. In addition, GHLA provides legal advocacy, using a broad array of strategies, with these 7 substantive priorities:

- a. Preserve government benefits to help low income families and individuals who cannot meet basic human needs through wages.
- b. Help clients avoid homelessness by maintaining their homes and preserving options for decent and affordable housing.
- c. Help low-income workers maintain employment and employment-related income and increase access to employment opportunities.
- d. Enhance the safety and economic security of adult and child victims of family

⁶⁷ E-Mail from Jamey Bell, Executive Director, Greater Hartford Legal Aid, Inc., to James T. Shearin, President, Conn. Bar Found. (Oct. 14, 2016) (on file with author)

⁶⁸ Greater Hartford Legal Aid, <http://www.ghla.org/mission-history> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

- violence.
- e. Increase access of low income immigrants to information and representation in our core services and represent battered immigrants seeking protection under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and the Victims of Trafficking and Violence Prevention Act.
- f. Increase opportunities for low income children to receive an adequate education in the public schools.
- g. Protect the health, safety and self-determination of seniors who need supportive services because of significant physical and/or mental health issues.

Cost effectiveness is measured by using multiple strategies which include: case outcome measurements for every case, e.g. protection from violence, preserving housing, achieving appropriate educational placement, preserving employment or wages, attaining income, food or health benefits; supervision and evaluation of staff performance; and client satisfaction surveys, 97% of which reported satisfaction and positive outcomes.

Funding: Connecticut Bar Foundation (IOLTA), Connecticut Health Foundation, U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Greater Hartford Legal Aid Foundation, Inc., Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, North Central Area Agency on Aging, State of Connecticut, Court Fees Grant-in-Aid, State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development, State of Connecticut, Department of Housing, State of Connecticut, Department of Social Services, State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch Grant-in-Aid, Town of West Hartford, United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. The breakdown of GHLA funding is as follows: Federal Grants 9.09%; State Grants 69.77%; Private Grants 10.38%; Attorney Fees 0.17%; Contributions 10.18%; Interest 0.31%; Other 0.10%

GHLA Justice in our Community Fellows Program⁶⁹: In September 2015, a new project came to Hartford, The Justice in Our Community Fellowship. Intended to help people living in Connecticut's lowest-income neighborhood, the program involved several key players: Greater Hartford Legal Aid (GHLA), UConn School of Law, anonymous donors, and Community Health Services, a federally-qualified health center located in Hartford's North End. Funding came from private donors who wanted to find a way to help people struggling to make ends meet in the severely depressed North End of Hartford. Three fellows were chosen for the 2015–2016 year, and each fellow had committed to spending 12–15 hours per week working for GHLA. As law student fellows, and therefore were prohibited from advising clients, legal information were given to clients, not legal advice. The fellows participated in significant direct client interaction with a very diverse population. Community members commonly faced legal issues or needs in the areas of housing, domestic abuse, divorce, and pardons. And most frequently mentioned difficulties stemmed from the community member's criminal history.

The effectiveness of the program was measured by community member feedback. Clients knew they could come to the outreach table at the Community Health Services if they needed assistance but couldn't make it to GHLA's office, or if they were having a hard time reaching the office by phone. GHLA benefited from the program, as well. They were able to

⁶⁹ E-mail from Timothy Fisher, Dean U. of Conn. Sch. of Law, to James Shearin, President Conn. Bar Found. (Oct. 9, 2016, 15:20 EST) (on file with author).

launch the Community Inquiry project and learn more about the community they serve, which helped the organization identify common legal issues that weren't always making it through GHLA's front door.

Contact info: Jamey Bell
Executive Director
ghla@ghla.org
(860) 541-5000

Homeless Experience Legal Protection (H.E.L.P.)⁷⁰

Mission: Since 2004, H.E.L.P. brings legal services directly to the homeless population, and makes those services available in a non-threatening setting – the place that provides the clients with food and shelter. H.E.L.P. also partners with other pro bono service providers in some cities, exchanging and sharing services to benefit both organizations.

Services: H.E.L.P. volunteers are presented with a wide variety of legal issues, from employment law to income tax to estate matters. There are certain types of issues, such as minor criminal matters, that tend to come up at H.E.L.P. clinics more frequently than others. Problems with driver licenses are also common and can have a huge impact in the clients' lives, since the inability to drive may stand in the way of employment. Social security and disability benefits also come up frequently.

Contact info: jay_zainey@laed.uscourts.gov

International Institute of Connecticut⁷¹

Mission: The International Institute, founded in 1918, is a statewide nonprofit organization that assists refugees and immigrants resolve legal, economic, linguistic and social barriers so that they become self-sufficient, integrated and contributing members of the community. The Institute achieves this mission by providing a compassionate array of high-quality legal, social and educational programming and by promoting cross-cultural understanding and decent treatment for all.

Services: The program provides a full array of legal immigration services, including court representation, victim assistance and asylum application assistance; refugee resettlement services and specialized case management for refugees and asylees; comprehensive services to combat human trafficking in the state, including assistance in identifying and assisting victims of all forms of sex and labor trafficking. The program is staffed by 42 full and part-time employees who speak more than twelve different languages.

Funding: Funding for the program comes from federal, state, and local grants, private foundation and corporate grants, individual donations, and program fees earned from direct

⁷⁰ Homeless Legal Protection, <http://homelesslegalprotection.com/history/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁷¹ International Institute of Connecticut, <http://iiconn.org/about/our-vision-and-mission/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

service delivery to clients, government agencies, local and regional businesses and nonprofit organizations. In addition, the organization has remained financially solvent and currently has an operating budget of approximately \$1.9 million.

Contact info: Ellen Messali, Esq.
Immigration Attorney Survivors of Torture Program
670 Clinton Avenue
Bridgeport, CT 06605
(203) 336-0141 ext. 201
emessali@iiconn.org

Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS)⁷²

Mission: Founded in 1982, IRIS has undergone dramatic growth and transformation over the past 34 years, but its goal has remained constant: to provide a new haven to refugees and other immigrants from around the world.

Services: IRIS's Immigration Legal Services (ILS) program provides important legal services to immigrants and refugees including assistance with (1) legal permanent residency, (2) U.S. citizenship and (3) family reunification. IRIS's legal services assist refugees with the legal steps necessary to become fully integrated. IRIS's ILS also engages in the crucial work of family reunification, reuniting families torn apart by war and violence.

Funding: FY 2014 total revenue of \$1,377,679 comes from foundation and corporation contributions \$553,274; state government contributions \$269,648; unspecified government contributions \$532,417; investment income \$252; other income \$22,088.

Contact info: Barbara O'Brien
IRIS Legal Services Director
immigration@irisct.org
(203) 562-2769

LawyerCorps Connecticut⁷³

What is LawyerCorps Connecticut? LawyerCorps Connecticut is an innovative partnership between Connecticut legal aid providers and major corporations with significant business operations in Connecticut intended to fund three Attorney Fellows for two to three years each to provide legal services to income-qualified people with civil legal needs.

LawyerCorps Connecticut attorney Fellows provide comprehensive legal services to clients in civil cases, in accordance with the participating legal aid programs' missions and

⁷² Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, <http://www.irisct.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁷³ Connecticut General Assembly, https://www.cga.ct.gov/jud/tfs/20160729_Task%20Force%20to%20Improve%20Access%20to%20Legal%20Counsel%20in%20Civil%20Matters/Reference%20Materials/CT%20Report%20on%20Lawyer%20Corps.pdf (last visited Sep. 13, 2016).

standards. These attorneys are trained and mentored by more experienced lawyers within each office, and share experiences within the LawyerCorps Connecticut community of legal aid service providers and the program's financial supporters.

Funding: The Advisory Work Group developed a tentative budget of \$338,000 per year for three years for an overall budget of \$1,090,450. The annual budget was determined on salaries of up to \$60,000 per Fellow; each of the receiving legal aid programs will make their own salary offers.

As of July 2014, \$194,000 has been donated for the project's first year, and firm commitments of \$133,000 for the programs' second and third years are in place. UTC has been the single largest donor, committing to contributing \$100,000 in the first year, and \$50,000 for each of the next two years of the program. General Electric has committed to \$100,000 to be spread over three years.

Contact info: Charlsa Broadus
Executive Director
charlsa.broadus@utc.com
(860) 728-7827

Lawyers for Children America⁷⁴

Mission: Since 1995, as a pilot, Lawyers for Children America is a lead child advocacy organization protecting the rights of children who are victims of abuse; abandonment and neglect by providing quality pro bono legal representation and collaborating for systematic change to improve the lives of children.

Services: The program has the following objectives: to implement services that will help children and youth who are victims of abuse and neglect; to encourage the courts to utilize our network of volunteer attorneys and staff to receive abuse and neglect cases; to increase the number of volunteer attorneys who provide free legal services to abused and neglected children by establishing institutional commitment on the part of major law firms; corporate legal departments; government agencies; national, state and local bar associations and universities; and by establishing local affiliates of Lawyers for Children America across the United States to support that commitment; to improve the child welfare system in coordination with other national and local organizations; and to increase public awareness of issues related to youth and violence.

Contact info Priscilla Pappadia
Executive Director
151 Farmington Avenue, RW61
Hartford, CT 06156
(860) 273-0441

⁷⁴ Lawyers for Children America,
<http://www.lawyersforchildrenamerica.org/matriarch/MultiPiecePagead15.html?pageid=6> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

pappadiap@aetna.com

New Haven County Bar Association Modest Means Program⁷⁵

Services: The NHCBA sponsors a low-income referral program for certain types of family law, landlord/tenant, unemployment compensation, small claims, and minor criminal cases.

Funding: In order to access the program, there is a \$25 referral fee to use this service. If the individual qualifies under our Financial Guidelines (assets no more than 250% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines), they would be referred to an attorney who has agreed to consult with clients and possibly take the case for a \$60 an hour fee, which is lower than the usual hourly rate in this area. That fee includes a \$500 retainer, which the client would need to provide up front, and which would pay for the first 8 hours or so of legal assistance.

Contact info: Kiernan Michau
(203) 562-5750
kmichau@newhavenbar.org

New Haven Legal Assistance⁷⁶

Mission⁷⁷: New Haven Legal Assistance Association, Inc. (LAA) is a nonprofit organization that was incorporated on April 7, 1964 to "secure justice for and to protect the rights of those residents of New Haven County unable to engage legal counsel." LAA was one of the first legal services programs established and the federal government used it as a model for similar programs throughout the country.

Service: LAA primarily serves people who are at or below 125% of the federal poverty level by providing high-quality legal services to individuals and groups unable to obtain legal services because of limited income, age, disability, discrimination and other barriers. LAA provides services in the following areas: child protection; education law; family law; housing law (including fair housing); immigration; public benefits; disability rights; workers' rights. Programs that provide similar services are the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center provides legal services to veterans statewide, the Center for Children's Advocacy, and the area law school clinics.

LAA is unable to satisfy the legal needs of its client population and have to regularly reject applications for legal assistance because a practice unit is at capacity and its attorneys cannot accept every application they receive. In addition, there are many more potential clients that do not reach out to legal aid because they are unaware of this service.

⁷⁵ New Haven Bar Association, Modest Means Program, <http://www.newhavenbar.org/default.asp?page=MMP&DGPCrPg=1&DGPCrSrt=13D> (last visited Oct. 5, 2016).

⁷⁶ E-mail from Susan Garcia Nofi, New Haven Legal Assistance Ass'n. to James T. Shearin, President Conn. Bar Found., (Oct. 18, 2016 10:28 EST) (on file with author).

⁷⁷ New Haven Legal Assistance, <http://www.nhlegal.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

In evaluating effectiveness, the program looks at outcome measures. Of the 1,057 cases closed from 01/01/15 to 12/31/15, positives outcomes were recorded in 99.5% of the cases. A client satisfaction survey is sent out with all closing letters to all clients with a return envelope addressed to the Executive Director, who follows up on any negative feedback. Typically, the responses are overwhelmingly positive. Although the assistance of in-office interns and volunteers enhances the LAA's ability to provide services, in order for the program to be more effective, more resources to hire more staff would be needed to meet the needs.

Funding⁷⁸: Total 2014 funding of \$4,096,477 from IOLTA/legislative appropriations (\$645,779); court filing fees (\$1,795,328); Community Foundation of Greater New Haven (\$53,335); United Ways (\$9,442); contribution cash/in-kind (\$289,501); federal/state grants (\$755,472); other grants (\$68,309); other income (\$479,311).

Contact info: Alexis Smith
Deputy Director
asmith@NHLegal.org
(203) 946-4811

Pro Bono Partnership Inc.⁷⁹

Mission: Pro Bono Partnership provides business and transactional legal services to nonprofit organizations serving the disadvantaged or enhancing the quality of life in neighborhoods in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.

Services: Since 1997, the Partnership has assisted more than 2,350 nonprofits in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut on more than 10,500 legal matters, enabling them to more effectively feed the hungry, house the homeless, promote the arts, protect the environment, and provide essential programs to children, the elderly, immigrants, the disabled, and the unemployed.

In addition, the program provides legal advice beginning with the process of filing for incorporation and obtaining tax exemption, continues through the establishment of governance and management policies, and persists because of subsequent business needs which give rise to questions related, for example, to compliance and filings; contracts; real estate, employment and privacy issues; environmental issues; fundraising regulations; intellectual property issues; lobbying; and mergers and other formal collaborations.

Contact info: Priya Morganstern
Director, Hartford Program
pmorganstern@probonopartner.org
(860) 541-4951

Katherine Peden
Kpeden@Probonopartner.org

⁷⁸ New Haven Legal Assistance Annual Report 1, 5 (2014), http://www.nhlegal.org/files/NHLAA_14.pdf.

⁷⁹ Probono Partnership Inc., <https://www.probonopartner.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

Robinson and Cole Domestic Violence Restraining Order Program⁸⁰

Mission: Since 2012, Robinson & Cole’s Domestic Violence Restraining Order Program (“DVRO”) has provided pro bono representation to victims of domestic violence seeking relief from abuse in Hartford and Middletown family courts.

Services⁸¹: Clients served are from the greater Hartford area, Litchfield and Middletown, and referrals are received through the interval house (part of the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence with shelters throughout the state). In addition, clients represented are applying for ex-parte restraining orders and hearings on those applications. Attorneys assist victims who would otherwise face the system alone by drafting of petitions and representing clients at the hearings on those petitions.

The focus in servicing these clients are based on the need. If Interval House claims they have a client they take the name, run a conflict, and the firm will take the case if there is a lawyer available on that date. There are 4 partners and 8 associates that are well trained. The firm also did training for CBA Young Lawyer section, in addition to training lawyers at other firms. Other firms such as Updike, Carmody and Torrance provide similar services.

It is estimated that there is a 75% success rate in satisfying the legal needs of the client population within the service area, although there is not much data on this subject. The firm does not provide divorce services and other related matters, and clients become aware of the services through the Connecticut Coalition for Domestic Violence and their subsidiaries. In order to be more effective, the firm suggests that they could do more training or help with metrics to track the success of the program.

Funding⁸²: The program is funded by the firm. In addition, probono hours count towards billable hours with no cap.

Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut⁸³

Mission: A non-profit organization that empowers low-income people in Connecticut to obtain justice by providing tools to address their civil legal needs.

Services: Services are provided for household income at or below 125% of poverty level. In addition, advocates provide help with legal questions about family, public benefits, housing, unemployment and other problems; provides free legal advice, answers questions, and help with understanding legal rights and responsibilities so as to be able to make the right choices; provides self help library with information about legal problems on CTLawhelp.org; and provides resources such as videos, slideshows and self help classes. Further, some cases

⁸⁰ Robinson and Cole Domestic Violence Restraining Order Program, <http://www.rc.com/news/upload/Robinson-Cole-CLS-DVRO-Program-Award-Oct2013.pdf>.

⁸¹ Interview by Anthony Shannon with Nuala Droney, Partner, Robinson and Cole, in Hartford, Conn. (Oct. 19, 2016).

⁸² Id.

⁸³ Statewide Legal Services of Connecticut, <http://slsct.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

may be referred to other legal aid programs or a volunteer attorney. The program, however, does not provide help with criminal or immigration problems.

Funding: From the Legal Services Corporation and the Connecticut Bar Foundation

Contact info: John Bozzi
Pro Bono Coordinator
jbozzi@slsct.org
(860) 334-8096 ext. 3040

Victim Rights Center of Connecticut⁸⁴

Mission: Victim Rights Center of CT (VRCCT) provides quality no-fee legal services to victims of adult sexual assault, child physical & sexual abuse, violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual or Transgender (LGBT) people, elder abuse, and homicide. VRCCT provides victim-focused services that are outside the reach or contemplation of the traditional criminal justice system but which are critical to protecting a survivor's rights, privacy and dignity.

Services: Protects victim privacy & Constitutional rights if the offender is arrested. Help victims decide whether to report to the police, and go with them to do so. Help with housing, employment, education and benefits that are disrupted following the crime.

Contact info: Victim Rights Center of Connecticut, Inc.
8 Research Parkway
Wallingford, CT 06492
(203) 350-3515

⁸⁴ Victims Right Center of Connecticut, <http://www.victimrightscenter.com> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

STATUTES: CIVIL RIGHTS TO COUNSEL

Social and Human Services:

Conn. Gen. Stat. §17a-274(d): Right to counsel for ward in involuntary placements with the Department of Developmental Services.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §17a-275: Provides that if placement is with Department, state pays attorney fees; otherwise, petitioner pays.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §17a-498: Right to counsel for mental health commitment, and "[t]he reasonable compensation of appointed counsel shall be established by, and paid from funds appropriated to, the Judicial Department, however, if funds have not been included in the budget of the Judicial Department for such purposes, such compensation shall be established by the Probate Court Administrator and paid from the Probate Court Administration Fund."⁸⁵

Public Health:

Conn. Gen. Stat. §19a-685(c): Right to counsel for commitment for drug/alcohol treatment. "If funds have not been included in the budget of the Judicial Department for such purposes, such compensation shall be established by the Probate Court Administrator and paid from the Probate Court Administration Fund."

Conn. Gen. Stat. §19a-131b(g): Right to counsel for quarantine matters. "The reasonable compensation of appointed counsel shall be established by, and paid from funds appropriated to, the Judicial Department, but, if funds have not been included in the budget of the Judicial Department for such purposes, such compensation shall be established by the Probate Court Administrator and paid from the Probate Court Administration Fund."

Conn. Gen. Stat. §19a-221(f): Right to counsel for subject of municipal quarantine order.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §19a-265(h)(2): Right to counsel for subject of emergency commitment due to with active tuberculosis.

Probate Courts:

Conn. Gen. Stat. §45a-77: Powers and duties of Probate Court Administrator re appointment of counsel under Probate Court Regulations, sections 13, 138, 13C and 14.

⁸⁵ Conn. Gen. Stat. §17a-498(b)(1).

Conn. Gen. Stat. §45a-620: Discretionary appointment of counsel for child in guardianship proceeding, but right to counsel for child where abuse/neglect alleged or suspected by court. Right to counsel for respondent.

"The cost of such counsel shall be paid by the person whom he or she represents, except that if such person is unable to pay for such counsel and files an affidavit with the court demonstrating his or her inability to pay, the reasonable compensation of appointed counsel shall be established by, and paid from funds appropriated to, the Judicial Department, however, if funds have not been included in the budget of the Judicial Department for such purposes, such compensation shall be established by the Probate Court Administrator and paid from the Probate Court Administration Fund. In the case of a minor, such affidavit may be filed by a suitable person having knowledge of the financial status of such minor."

Conn. Gen. Stat. §45a-649a(a): Right to counsel for respondents in conservatorship cases. If the respondent or conserved person is indigent, an attorney appointed under this section shall be paid a reasonable rate of compensation. Rates of compensation for such appointed attorneys shall be established by the Office of the Probate Court Administrator. Such compensation shall be paid from funds appropriated to the Judicial Department. If funds have not been included in the budget of the Judicial Department for such purposes, such compensation shall be paid from the Probate Court Administration Fund."

Conn. Gen. Stat. §45a-673: Right to counsel for respondent in guardianship cases involving adults with intellectual disabilities. "If the respondent is indigent or otherwise unable to pay for counsel, the cost for such counsel shall be established by, and paid from funds appropriated to, the Judicial Department, however, if funds have not been included in the budget of the Judicial Department for such purposes, such compensation shall be established by the Probate Court Administrator and paid from the Probate Court Administration Fund." Conn. Gen. Stat. §45a-681 extends RTC to review proceedings and has same provision about payment.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §45a-681(a)(6): Right to counsel for respondent in review of guardianship or limited guardianship of adults with intellectual disabilities.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §45a-694: Right to counsel for respondent re consent to sterilization. Paid by court, however, if unable to pay, compensation from Probate Administrator.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §45a-717(b): Right to counsel for parents and children *in* termination of parental rights matters.

Family Law:

Conn. Gen. Stat. §46b-12: Orders re appointment of counsel or guardian ad litem for minor child in a family relations matter. See 46b-54.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §46b-54: Discretionary appointment of counsel for child in dissolution cases or any case where the "custody, care, education, visitation or support of a minor child is in actual controversy."

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§46b-129(b), 46b-135(b): Right to counsel for parents in neglect cases.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§46b-129(c)(2), 46b-129a(2): Right to counsel for children in neglect cases. Conn. Gen. Stat. §46b-129a(2) specifies that the office of Chief Public Defender must assign an attorney knowledgeable about representing children, or court can assign if there is "immediate need for the appointment of counsel during a court proceeding." Counsel fees paid by PD's office unless parents or estate of child are able to pay, "in which case the court shall assess the rate the parent or guardian is able to pay and the office of Chief Public Defender may seek reimbursement for the costs of representation from the parents, guardian or estate of the child."

Conn. Gen. Stat. §46b-136: Right to counsel for children in all juvenile matters. Also authorizes discretionary appointment of counsel for children, parents, or any person having control of the child or youth in any juvenile proceeding "if such judge determines that the interests of justice so require."

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§46b-160(e)(2), 51-296(c)(1)(A): Right to counsel for respondent in paternity cases

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§46b-231(m)(7), 51-296(c)(1)(A): Right to counsel for defendant in family law civil contempt cases, PB Section 25-63.

Courts:

Conn. Gen. Stat. §51-296(a): Right to counsel in habeas hearings and appeals.

Conn. Gen. Stat. §51-296(c)(1)(A): Governs "Legal services and guardians ad litem to children, youths and indigent respondents in family relations matters in which the state has been ordered to pay the cost of such legal services ..."

Conn. Gen. Stat. §51-297: Determination of indigence; definition, investigation, reimbursement for services, appeal

OUT-OF-STATE PLENARY PROGRAMS

MARYLAND

Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service (MVLS)⁸⁶

Mission: MVLS is a private, non-profit legal services provider established in 1981 to help meet the need for civil legal services in Maryland, and to provide quality civil legal assistance to Marylanders with limited income at low or no cost.

Services: MVLS focuses on pro bono assistance—matching one client and one volunteer attorney. A panel of over 1,000 volunteers help clients with custody disputes, tax issues, child and adult guardianship, landlord/tenant conflicts, foreclosure defense, consumer cases and a broad range of other civil legal problems.

Over the years, MVLS has developed special projects that supplement its core pro bono efforts. These include assistance to self-represented litigants and self-help bankruptcy classes. And since 2008, MVLS has participated in the statewide Foreclosure Prevention Pro Bono Project. MVLS volunteers represent homeowners in foreclosure cases in the courts and mediations before administrative law judges. Additionally, a foreclosure clinic is currently held once a month at the MVLS office in downtown Baltimore and at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County. The drop-in clinics provide brief advice to any homeowner facing foreclosure or preparing for foreclosure mediation.

In 2014, MVLS expanded its consumer law services to include a weekly clinic at Baltimore City District Court where volunteer lawyers and MVLS staff attorneys advise debtors on consumer debt, repossession, and debt buyer cases. MVLS operates a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic that provides services to taxpayers with IRS disputes statewide. We also help community based nonprofits with civil legal issues through our Community Development Project.

MASSACHUSETTS

Community Legal Aid⁸⁷

Mission: Community Legal Aid, Inc. (“CLA”) provides free civil legal services to low-income and elderly residents of central and western Massachusetts. CLA serves residents of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, and Worcester counties in central and western Massachusetts. The mission of CLA is to improve the lives of low-income and elderly people through legal assistance that protects fundamental rights, secures access to basic needs, and challenges policies and practices that harm CLA’s client base. CLA envisions a community where all low-income and elderly people have ready access to legal services to meet their basic needs and where everyone can vindicate their rights and be treated fairly in their pursuit of justice.

⁸⁶ Maryland Volunteer Lawyer Service, <http://mvlslaw.org/history-and-mission/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁸⁷ Interview by Robert Hinton with Jonathan Mannina, Executive Director, Community Legal Aid, in Hartford, Conn. (Oct. 18, 2016).

Services: Subject to certain exceptions, CLA serves clients who are residents of central or western Massachusetts; have incomes under 125% of the federal poverty guidelines, or are age 60 and older; and have civil legal issues aligned with CLA's social justice priorities.

CLA's representative clients include, but are not limited to tenants facing wrongful eviction; homeowners facing foreclosure; survivors of domestic violence; workers cheated out of wages or denied lawful benefits; children in need of a stable home or special education; elders whose economic security or health care is in jeopardy; and disabled people denied opportunities.

CLA has six general practice areas:

Benefits and Employment: CLA's Benefits and Employment Unit represents people with cases before the Social Security Administration, Department of Transitional Assistance, and Division of Unemployment Assistance concerning benefits such as SSI, TAFDC, EAEDC, food stamps, MassHealth, and unemployment benefits. The unit also represents people who have wage or employment discrimination claims.

Elder Law: CLA's Elder Unit provides legal services in all cases handled for persons 60 years old and older, including housing cases; SSI and Social Security disability cases and other Social Security issues; issues involving access to healthcare benefits including Medicare; nursing home rights; Food Stamps and other benefits; family law, including physical abuse; financial exploitation and consumer rights issues.

Family Law: CLA's Family Law Unit provides legal assistance to domestic violence victims and other vulnerable clients in cases involving restraining orders, divorce, paternity, custody and visitation, child support, health insurance, and name change petitions in appropriate situations.

Housing and Homelessness: CLA's Housing and Homelessness Unit provides legal services to help tenants facing eviction, homeowners who are threatened with foreclosure, homeless families who need to access the state's Emergency Assistance shelter program, and people trying to get into affordable housing. The Unit also runs a housing discrimination testing and enforcement program.

Immigration: CLA's Immigration Unit represents clients seeking various forms of humanitarian immigration relief. We help immigrant survivors of domestic violence and other crimes to secure legal status through self-petitions under the Violence Against Women Act and applications for U and T visas. We provide referrals to other non-profit agencies for those we cannot represent.

Education: CLA's Education Law Project aims to keep children out of the "school-to-prison-pipeline" by helping students obtain services that can mean the difference between graduation and incarceration. These services, required by federal and state law, are crucial, especially for students with disabilities, who are more likely to display the types of behavioral problems that can land them in repeated suspensions, out of school, and into juvenile detention facilities.

Staff: Community Legal Aid and its subsidiary Central West Justice Center employ over 60 full-time advocates (attorneys and paralegals) to assist clients with their legal issues. Staff work out of four offices and also operates a number of satellite offices.

Funding⁸⁸: CLA receives generous annual support from the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, which distributes legislative appropriations in addition to revenue from Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA). In addition, CLA receives support from numerous foundations and charitable organizations, including the Massachusetts Bar Foundation, several United Ways, and private and family foundations. Additional funding come from grants from municipal, state and federal government agencies and contributions from individual donors to support its work. In 2013, CLA opined that legal aid services generated an estimated \$28 million in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through new federal revenue, other benefits and cost savings⁸⁹. In 2014, CLA's revenue was \$7,645,749.

Contact info: Administrative Office
405 Main Street, 4th Floor
Worcester, MA 01608
(800) 649-3718

Massachusetts Attorney General HomeCorp Program⁹⁰

Mission: The goal of the Attorney General's HomeCorps is to mitigate future impacts of the foreclosure crisis by providing advocacy to distressed borrowers in Massachusetts facing foreclosure. The HomeCorps includes a comprehensive three-part borrower support and referral initiative.

Services⁹¹: The HomeCorp loan modification program used approximately 30 attorney and non-attorney staff employed by the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to assist homeowners seeking to modify their mortgages. The HomeCorp also established satellite offices in surrounding communities. The client population served are any person who could receive loan modification assistance. Income levels may have been applied by the borrower representation legal service providers in accordance with their normal policies. Generally, clients seek assistance through the HomeCorp hotline and are then referred to the appropriate service, which informs the priorities and services provided.

At this time, there is no data as to whether this program is satisfying the legal needs of the client population, however, it is assumed that less than 100% of the needs was served. Clients become aware of the services through a dedicated HomeCorp website, as well as a dedicated Twitter account. Word of mouth and provider referral is also a source.

⁸⁸ Community Legal Aid, <http://www.communitylegal.org> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁸⁹ Interview by Robert Hinton with Jonathan Mannina, Executive Director, Community Legal Aid, in Hartford, Conn. (Oct. 18, 2016).

⁹⁰ The Attorney General HomeCorp Program, <http://www.mass.gov/ago/news-and-updates/initiatives/addressing-the-foreclosure-crisis/homecorps/> (last visited Sept. 20, 2016).

⁹¹ E-mail from Perry Zinn Rowthorn, Conn. Deputy Att'y Gen., to James T. Shearin, President Conn. Bar Foundation (Oct. 19, 2016 07:52 EST) (on file with author).

Funding⁹²: The program has three components – a loan modification initiative, a borrower representation initiative, and a community grant initiative. The borrower representation initiative is the component that involves providing counsel to individuals facing residential mortgage foreclosures. The initiative was funded with moneys received by Massachusetts through the national mortgage foreclosure settlement achieved by a multi-state group of Attorneys General. Massachusetts received a total of \$44.5 million (excluding mortgage relief direct to borrowers), of which \$ 6 m was devoted to funding loan modification assistance and \$6 m was provided to legal services organizations as grants to provide services as part of the borrower representation initiative. In particular, the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corp. and the National Consumer Law Center were awarded two year grants used to fund 14 locations statewide staffed by 19 attorneys. Legal services provided they provided included direct representation in foreclosure matters and post-foreclosure proceedings.

The Home Core direct representation project has largely wound down at this point as a result of the expiration of the grant funding and time periods, although the HomeCorp loan modification effort continues as individuals continue to call the HomeCorp hotline established in the AGO.

Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation (MLAC)⁹³

Mission: To provide leadership and support to improve civil legal services to low-income people in Massachusetts through collaboration with the legal services community, the public, the bar, and the legislature.

Services: The Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation supports the following initiatives to help legal aid programs expand funding, develop best practices and more effectively serve low-income people:

- a. The Equal Justice Coalition was created by the Massachusetts Bar Association, Boston Bar Association and MLAC to protect the state appropriation for civil legal aid.
- b. The Diversity Coalition improves services to low-income clients by building cultural competence among legal aid staff and addressing other diversity-related issues within Massachusetts legal aid community.
- c. The Bart Gordon Fellowship helps legal aid programs overcome barriers to service by providing funding to hire recent law school graduates equipped to reach out to underserved communities.
- d. The Racial Justice Fellowship addresses pervasive problems of racial injustice through systemic advocacy and other strategies.
- e. The Central Technology Project seeks to standardize technology for MLAC- and LSC-funded legal aid programs in Massachusetts.

Funding: State budget 2014 appropriation of \$13M; MLAC also receives 67 percent of the revenue generated by the IOLTA program.

⁹² E-mail from Perry Zinn Rowthorn, Conn. Deputy Att’y Gen., to James T. Shearin, President Conn. Bar Foundation (Oct. 19, 2016 07:52 EST) (on file with author).

⁹³ Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corporation, <http://mlac.org/mission-vision/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

Contact info: Catherine Rizos
crizos@mlac.org
(617) 391-5627

NEW YORK

Immigrant Justice Corps (IJC)⁹⁴

Services: IJC is a two-year fellowship program for law graduates and college graduates with a passion for justice for immigrants. The goal is to increase both the quality and quantity of legal services available for immigrants. IJC trains fellows and places them with host organizations in the greater New York area. A broad range of services are provided, such as immigration assistance including naturalization, deportation defense, and affirmative applications for asylum seekers, juveniles, and victims of crime, domestic violence or human trafficking. The program has a staff of 4: 2 attorneys, 1 executive director, and 1 operations director.

Funding: In 2015 IJC Revenue was \$3,912,038 and comes from the following sources: Robin Hood Foundation, The JBP Foundation, Federal Bar Council, Fragomen, J.M Kaplan Fund, Robert Kaufman Fund No. 2 at the New York Community Trust, The New York Community Trust, The Pinkerton Foundation, Tali and Boaz Weinstein Philanthropic Fund, Anonymous donor.

The Legal Aid Society⁹⁵

Mission: The Legal Aid Society is a private, not-for-profit legal services organization, the oldest and largest in the nation, dedicated since 1876 to providing quality legal representation to low-income New Yorkers. It is dedicated to one simple but powerful belief: that no New Yorker should be denied access to justice because of poverty.

Services: The Society handles 300,000 individual cases and matters annually and provides a comprehensive range of legal services in three areas: the Civil, Criminal and Juvenile Rights Practices.

The Civil Practice operates out of a network of 16 neighborhood and courthouse-based offices in all five boroughs and 22 specialized units and projects. These are the following projects provided:

- a. The Community Development Project supports clients pursuing grassroots community economic development throughout New York City.
- b. The Consumer Law Project provides representation, legal assistance and education to clients who are vulnerable to the emerging practices of unscrupulous lenders and creditors.

⁹⁴ Immigrant Justice Corps, <http://justicecorps.org> (last visited Oct. 5, 2016).

⁹⁵ The Legal Aid Society, <http://www.legal-aid.org/en/las/aboutus.aspx> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

- c. The Disability Advocacy Project assists adults and children in obtaining benefits under the Supplemental Security Income or Social Security programs.
- d. The Education Law Project provides essential legal advocacy to families of children with disabilities in need of special education support and services.
- e. Elder Law Project/Brooklyn Office for the Aging: Serves the senior community by preventing unlawful evictions, assisting with health care, and securing government benefits.
- f. Employment Law Unit: Serves workers who have been denied unemployment insurance, whose back wages have been withheld, or who were unjustly fired.
- g. Family/Domestic Violence Practice: Helps clients achieve stability, autonomy, and economic self-sufficiency in a safe environment.
- h. The Foreclosure Prevention and Home Equity Preservation Project: Serves homeowners facing the loss of their homes as well as renters in buildings subject to foreclosure.
- i. Government Benefits Practice: Assists clients in obtaining and maintaining the government benefits to which they are entitled.
- j. Health Law Unit: Helps clients navigate the health care system, reduce medical debt, and access health insurance.
- k. HIV/AIDS Representation Project: Responds to the specific needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS by providing comprehensive legal services.
- l. Homeless Rights Project: Works continually to establish and maintain the right to shelter, assistance, and services for homeless families and individuals in New York City.
- m. Housing Practice: Prevents evictions and homelessness, corrects housing violations, obtains rent subsidies, and fights illegal overcharges.
- n. Housing Development Unit: Helps tenants and tenant organizations preserve and expand the stock of affordable housing throughout New York City.
- o. The Housing Help Program: A courthouse-based project in three of the lowest income boroughs, this innovative program allows for the provision of early intervention and comprehensive services to New Yorkers in imminent risk of eviction.
- p. Immigration Law Unit: Increases family stability and safety through comprehensive citywide immigration legal services.
- q. Law Reform Unit: Represents clients to effect systemic changes through law reform and class action litigation and advocacy.
- r. Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic: Advises clients on tax disputes and educating client communities about tax compliance and the Earned Income Tax Credit.
- s. Prisoners Rights Project: Protects the legal rights of prisoners through law reform and class action litigation and individual advice and representation.
- t. Project FAIR: Serves low-income and homeless New Yorkers through its Legal Help Desk at the State's central fair hearing site in New York City.
- u. The Reentry Project: Provides advice and legal representation to clients on Rikers Island who are scheduled to be released shortly and have civil legal problems involving housing, public benefits and family law.
- v. The Single Stop Program: Provides intake to 10 sites throughout New York City. The sites are specifically chosen to reach out to families within their own neighborhoods and at locations where they already receive other social or child care services.

With a staff of some 1,400 - including nearly 850 lawyers and 600 social workers, investigators, paralegals, and support and administrative staff - the Society handled 295,00 legal matters for clients with civil, criminal, or juvenile rights legal problems. The Society provides legal services through a network of borough, neighborhood, and courthouse offices in 25 locations in all five counties of New York City.

Funding: Aside from some targeted government funding for special Civil programs, the Civil Practice is largely dependent on private funding for client services.

Contact info: Pat Bath
Public Information Office
(212) 577-3346.

Legal Services NYC⁹⁶

Mission: For nearly 50 years, Legal Services NYC (LSNYC) fights poverty and seeks racial, social, and economic justice for low-income New Yorkers.

Services: LSNYC prevents evictions, saves homes from foreclosure, and preserves thousands of subsidized and rent-regulated housing units. Tackles consumer scams and help those in need to obtain critical state and federal benefits. Protects the rights of low-income students and ensure that children with special needs have access to meaningful education. Helps vulnerable New Yorkers, including people who are elderly or disabled and those with HIV, gain and keep public health insurance and other benefits. Secures safety and financial stability for survivors of domestic violence, including adjusting immigration status to put these survivors and their families on the path to citizenship. Fights for the rights of veterans and those who are LGBTQ. LSNYC addresses the underlying causes of our clients' problems through all forms of advocacy, including litigation and legislative reform. LSNYC partners with scores of community based organizations, elected officials, public agencies and the courts to maximize effectiveness.

Funding: In 2013 the revenue total was \$47,852,998 and comes from contributions, grants, gifts \$9,876,980; program services \$35,170,749; special events \$748,310; and other revenue \$2,056,960

Contact info: Kate Whalen
Communications Specialist
(646) 442-3654
kwhalen@ls-nyc.org

New York Immigrant Family Unit Project⁹⁷

⁹⁶ Legal Services NYC, <http://www.legalservicesnyc.org/about-us> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

⁹⁷ The New York City Council, <http://council.nyc.gov/html/pr/071913nyifup.shtml> (last visited Oct. 5, 2016).

Services: Public defender system for all detained indigent immigrants; representation in removal defense and bond hearings

Funding: \$500,000 from council funded pilot program.

Contact info: The Council of the City of New York
Office of Communications
City Hall
New York, NY 10007
(212) 788-7116

New York Immigrant Representation Study Report⁹⁸

The New York Immigrant Representation Study (“NYIR Study”) is a two-year project of the Study Group on Immigrant Representation to analyze and ameliorate the immigrant representation crisis—the acute shortage of qualified attorneys willing and able to represent indigent immigrants facing deportation.

In its year-one report (issued in the fall of 2011), the NYIR Study analyzed the empirical evidence regarding the nature and scope of the immigrant representation crisis. That report documented how many New Yorkers—27 percent of those not detained and 60 percent of those who were detained—face deportation, and the prospect of permanent exile from families, homes and livelihoods, without any legal representation whatsoever.

The study confirmed that the impact of having counsel cannot be overstated: people facing deportation in New York immigration courts with a lawyer are 500 percent as likely to win their cases as those without representation. Non detained immigrants with lawyers have successful outcomes 74 percent of the time, those on the other end, without counsel and who were detained, prevailed a mere 3 percent of the time.

Proposed System:

- a. Function through a universal-representation, institutional-provider model with screening only for income eligibility.
- b. Operate through contracts with a small group of institutional immigration legal service providers who are in a position to handle the full range of removal cases and who can capture efficiencies of scale and minimize administrative complexities.
- c. Work in cooperation with other key institutional actors, such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Executive Office for Immigration Review, to ensure efficient attorney-client communication, timely access to critical documents, and coordination of court calendars.
- d. Provide basic legal support services, such as access to necessary experts, and translation/ interpretation, social work, mental health assessment, and investigative services.

⁹⁸ New York Immigrant Representation Study (2012),
http://www.cardozolawreview.com/content/denovo/NYIRS_ReportII.pdf.

- e. Derive funds primarily, or significantly, through a reliable public funding stream of new resources that does not divert existing resources.
- f. Be overseen by a coordinating organization that provides centralized oversight and project management.

Funding: In 2013, New York City gave \$500,000 towards the establishment of the pilot project.

New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)⁹⁹

About NYLAG: Founded in 1990, the New York Legal Assistance Group provides high quality, free civil legal services to low-income New Yorkers who cannot afford attorneys.

Services: NYLAG provides a comprehensive range of services that includes direct representation, case consultation, advocacy, community education, training, financial counseling, and impact litigation.

- a. Consumer Protection¹⁰⁰: Providing vulnerable New Yorkers with the legal services and tools they need to fight back against fraud, predatory lending, and illegal debt collection practices.
- b. Employment Law¹⁰¹: Asserting the employment rights of low-wage workers by providing advice, consultation and legal representation
- c. Evelyn Frank Legal Resources¹⁰²: Helping elderly clients access health care and home care while providing education to professionals serving this population as well.
- d. Financial Counseling¹⁰³: Advising and educating individuals on budgets and debt management as well as credit analysis and gaining access to banking products
- e. Foreclosure Prevention¹⁰⁴: Preserving homes and stabilizing families by advocating on behalf of New Yorkers who are facing, or are at risk of, foreclosure.
- f. Holocaust Compensation¹⁰⁵: Serving the survivor community by providing accurate information and legal assistance regarding compensation and restitution programs.
- g. Immigrant Protection¹⁰⁶: Helping immigrants with citizenship, legal residency, work authorizations, visas, removal defense, public benefits and community outreach.
- h. Legal Health¹⁰⁷: Uniting legal and medical professionals by providing legal services to patients in the medical setting. Educating healthcare professionals on the legal issues affecting patients.
- i. LGBTQ Law¹⁰⁸: Serving the unique legal needs of the low-income Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer communities.

⁹⁹ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/about-us> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁰⁰ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/consumer-protection> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁰¹ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/employment-law> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁰² New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/evelyn-frank-legal-resources> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁰³ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/financial-counseling> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁰⁴ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/foreclosure-prevention> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁰⁵ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/holocaust-compensation> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁰⁶ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/immigrant-protection> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁰⁷ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/legalhealth> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

- j. Public Benefits¹⁰⁹: Providing legal services to ensure that people of all ages have access to the public benefits to which they are entitled.
- k. Matrimonial and Family Law¹¹⁰: Advocating on behalf of domestic violence victims. Providing holistic representation in cases of divorce, custody, adoption, visitation, and spousal and child support.
- l. Mediation¹¹¹: Providing free mediation in divorces, child and spousal support, custody/visitation, housing and workplace disputes.
- m. Mobile Legal Help¹¹²: Expanding access to justice by traveling to low-income neighborhoods and providing advice, legal counseling, and direct representation as well as video conferencing with the courts.
- n. Special Education¹¹³: Helping parents of disabled children secure fair and appropriate educational placements and services.
- o. Special Litigation¹¹⁴: Serving as a watchdog to ensure that NYLAG's clients' rights are protected through class action and other impact lawsuits.
- p. Storm Response¹¹⁵: Serving as a first-responder and a long term provider of legal assistance to victims of Storm Sandy, including FEMA claims, housing, consumer, employment and other benefits.
- q. Tenants' Rights¹¹⁶: Defending the rights of tenants throughout New York City by preventing eviction, keeping housing affordable, fighting for repairs, and enabling longtime residents to stay in their neighborhoods.
- r. Total Life Choices¹¹⁷: Assisting individuals with all their advance planning needs, including Wills, health care proxies and Powers of Attorney.

Funding: NYLAG's \$23 million budget is supplemented by partnerships with law firms and volunteers that donate over 100,000 hours in pro bono services, valued at over \$17 million. NYLAG's overhead expenses are just 9%, dramatically less than other similar nonprofits. And NYLAG is able to provide services for the low cost of only \$200 per client.

Contact info: 7 Hanover Square, 18th Floor
New York, New York 10004
(212) 613-5000

¹⁰⁸ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/lgbt-law> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹⁰⁹ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/public-benefits> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹¹⁰ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/matrimonial-and-family-law> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹¹¹ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/mediation> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹¹² New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/mobile-legal-help-center> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹¹³ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/special-education> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹¹⁴ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/special-litigation> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹¹⁵ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/storm-response> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹¹⁶ New York Legal Assistance Group, <http://nylag.org/units/tenants-rights> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹¹⁷ <http://nylag.org/units/total-life-choices> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

OUT-OF-STATE
APPELLATE PROGRAMS¹¹⁸

Arizona Court of Appeals¹¹⁹

Mission¹²⁰: The mission of the program is to provide pro bono counsel to pro se parties in civil and juvenile cases identified by the Court in which briefing and argument by counsel would benefit the Court's consideration of the matter.

Services: Cases selected for the program typically present issues of first impression or some considerable complexity or for some other reason warrant additional briefing. (An unrepresented party cannot apply to participate in the program; only cases identified on the Court's own initiative will be placed in the program). After the Court places a case in the program, it may order re-briefing or supplemental briefing by the volunteer lawyer. Except for appointments for purposes of settlement conferences, the Court usually will hear oral argument in cases selected for the program.

Contact info: Kimberly A. Demarchi, Esq.
Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP
201 East Washington Street, Suite 1200
Phoenix, Arizona 85004
(602) 262-5728
Email: kdemarchi@lrrclaw.com

Andrew M. Jacobs, Esq.
Snell & Wilmer, L.L.P.
One South Church Avenue, Suite 1500
Tucson, Arizona 85701-1630
(520) 882-1207
ajacobs@swlaw.com

California: Los Angeles County¹²¹

When was the program created? 2006.

¹¹⁸ ABA Manual on Pro Bono Appeals Program for State Court Appeals, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/judicial_division/cal_probonomanual_abridgedversion.athcheckdam.pdf.

¹¹⁹ Arizona Court of Appeals Pro Bono Representation Program Manual, <http://www.azcourts.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=VIZLeKghWEc%3d&portalid=89> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹²⁰ State of Arizona Court of Appeals, <http://www.azcourts.gov/coa1/Pro-Bono-Representation-Program> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹²¹ ABA Manual on Pro Bono Appeals Program for State Court Appeals, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/judicial_division/cal_probonomanual_abridgedversion.athcheckdam.pdf.

How was it started? The program started after Justice Laurie Zelon of the Second District Court of Appeal decided that her court needed to do something to help the unrepresented civil litigants who were having a difficult time navigating the system. She contacted Public Counsel, a public interest nonprofit law firm, the Appellate Court Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and a few prominent appellate lawyers in L.A. Then a series of meetings was held to brainstorm and design a program. In the meantime, Public Counsel created an appellate law program and received a five-year grant through the State Bar to get the program started. An appellate self-help clinic was established in a partnership of the court and Public Counsel. It is now held in a small office at the courthouse two days a week.

How are cases and volunteers chosen? Lisa Jaskol of Public Counsel identifies meritorious cases and places them with pro bono lawyers. Cases are typically snapped up quickly. The L.A. County Bar Association set up a special listserv for Public Counsel to use. The volunteer lawyer decides if the appeal presents non-frivolous issues and if he wants to keep it or give it back to Public Counsel to find another lawyer to handle it. When respondents come to the clinic, their appeals are immediately placed with pro bono lawyers.

Do volunteers need to have appellate experience? Appellate Court Section members typically possess appellate expertise. If the volunteer lacks experience, a mentorship arrangement is created with a more experienced appellate lawyer.

On average, how many appeals are handled each year? Several thousand pro se litigants have been helped at the clinic, and in six years, about 30 appeals have been placed, several of which have resulted in published decisions.

Does California have a pro se appeals guide? Yes, go to <http://www.courts.ca.gov/8676.htm>.

Contact info: Lisa Jaskol, Esq.
Public Counsel
(213) 385-2977, ext. 151
ljaskol@publiccounsel.org

Colorado¹²²

Program creation: The state's pro bono program was inspired by two Court of Appeals judges, one of whom started his career in Legal Aid. The culture in the state helps to explain the deep judiciary support. The state has a "Self-Represented Litigant" program in the trial courts, with help available in person for pro se litigants in civil cases. There is a national program headquartered at the University of Denver-the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, headed by a former Colorado Supreme Court judge which seeks to improve accessibility to courts. The Colorado Bar Association formed a five-person committee to develop a pro bono program. That committee looked at model programs in Austin and Houston, Texas. It took seven or eight months to get going and craft language. Before posting information about the

¹²² Id. at 8.

program on its website, the Bar Association received numerous requests for help. Members of the committee took pro bono appeals while the process was being developed.

Appeal sources: Information about the program is available from many sources. The Colorado Court of Appeals provides an information sheet to appellants and appellees. Litigants also find out about the program online, from district court clerks and appellate clerks or other pro bono programs. The application may be revised to have applicants indicate who referred them in order to gain a better understanding of how litigants are learning about the program. Another source of referrals is Metro Volunteer Lawyers (MVL) in the Denver area. Volunteer attorneys are covered under MVL's malpractice insurance.

Types of cases: Since its launch in summer 2010, the program has received approximately 140 applications and has agreed to representation in more than 30 appeals. About half are domestic relations cases. The cases come from all over the state. The volunteers may represent parties on either side of an appeal. The volunteer attorney, not the program, is the attorney of record for the appeal.

Process: Attorney Jane Ebisch is the voluntary administrator, and applications flow to her after they are submitted by applicants to the Colorado Bar Association. She is a member of the Appellate Subcommittee of the Litigation Committee of the State Bar. A small screening committee decides on what cases to accept, usually meeting via conference calls. There are mentor-mentee relationships between experienced attorneys and newer attorneys. The Litigation Committee has a small war chest to absorb costs. Ms. Ebisch often calls applicants to discuss procedural issues. The program does not require the notice of appeal to be done before an application is submitted; and if the case is accepted, sometimes the volunteer attorney prepares the notice of appeal for the applicant. Full information about the process is available on the Colorado Bar Association website: <http://www.cobar.org/index.cfm?ID=20004/dpwpf/For-the-Public/>.

Unique element: There have been several court orders from the Court of Appeals, with copies to the program, giving pro se litigants who filed a brief an extension of time to apply for pro bono representation from the program. However, it is up to the litigants to follow up and apply to the program, which they do not always do.

Contact info: Jane Ebisch, Esq.
The Ebisch Law Firm
Lakewood, CO
(303) 233-1232
jebisch@ebischlaw.com

Florida¹²³

¹²³ Id. at 10.

How was the program started? The program was created several years ago at the impetus of the Pro Bono Committee of the Appellate Practice Section of the Florida Bar (Committee). The Committee's website is found at <http://www.flabarappeUate.org/aboutcommitteePROB.asp>."

What entities are involved with this program? The Committee, the Florida Supreme Court, and legal aid organizations.

On average, how many appeals are handled each year? Around 15.

How does it work? Cases generally are referred to the Committee from legal aid organizations or the Florida Supreme Court. The Committee maintains a roster of volunteer lawyers who have expressed interest in serving as pro bono appellate counsel. When the Committee receives word of a potential pro bono appeal, it distributes an email to the roster to ask who is interested in handling the appeal. With this inquiry, the Committee will forward basic information about the case. The Committee generally forwards any request for pro bono assistance in a civil or family law matter. Criminal or post-conviction appeals are not handled unless the Florida Supreme Court seeks to appoint counsel in such cases.

How do referrals from legal aid organizations work? A legal aid organization may refer a party to the Committee for pro bono representation after the organization ensures that he or she qualifies financially for assistance. If a party contacts the Committee directly seeking appellate representation, the Committee tries to route the applicant to a legal aid organization for financial screening. Such organizations do the financial screening because the Committee lacks the resources to do it. Rarely do parties contact the Committee directly seeking pro bono appellate counsel.

After the Committee notifies the roster of volunteer lawyers about a referral from a legal aid organization, interested attorneys contact such organization directly. If multiple lawyers volunteer, the legal aid program (or the client) may make the selection. Typically, the volunteer who expresses interest first is selected. Screening as to the merits of an appeal is done by the volunteer attorney after he or she connects with the referring organization or client.

How do court-originated appointments work? When the Florida Supreme Court grants review in a case involving a pro se party, the court alerts the Committee, which notifies the roster of attorneys to determine who is interested. The Committee then forwards to the Supreme Court the names of interested persons, along with recommendations about attorney selections. The court then chooses appellate counsel. For this type of appointment, it helps if a lawyer is certified in appellate practice or is working with a certified attorney, whether from his or her' firm or from the Committee. The Committee has contacted Florida's intermediate appellate courts to find ways to work with those courts in providing pro bono representation. However, for various reasons-including the absence of a process to screen cases worthy of appointment before the cases are sent to merits panels- those intermediate appellate courts have not been a consistent source of pro bono appointments.

Must volunteers have appellate experience? Lack of appellate experience may be a factor when the Florida Supreme Court appoints appellate counsel. Otherwise, appellate

experience is not required for cases referred from legal aid organizations. Members of the Florida Bar's Appellate Practice Section may sign up for the roster, but they need not have appellate experience to do so.

Is there any oversight after cases are assigned? If a case is assigned to a lawyer lacking appellate experience, the Committee assigns a mentor to that attorney. Mentors are selected from among certified appellate specialists in the Appellate Practice Section. A mentor may review a brief before it is filed.

Are there length-of-engagement guidelines or rules? Length of engagement is governed by the arrangements reached between the client and volunteer attorney.

How is the program funded? The program has no funding. The referring legal aid organization generally pays any costs necessarily incurred in handling the appeal. At the volunteer attorney's option, any costs not covered by a legal aid organization may be paid by the volunteer attorney's law firm (however, volunteers and their law firms are not required nor expected to incur costs). Any costs not paid by a legal aid organization or the volunteer's law firm remain the client's responsibility.

Does Florida have a pro se appeals guide? Yes, go to <http://prose.fiabarappellate.org>. Also, "Ensuring Meaningful Access to Appellate Review in Non-Criminal Cases and Involving Self-Represented Litigants," a paper by Jacinda Haynes Suhr of the Second District Court of Appeal, Florida State Courts System, examines self-representation in non-criminal cases filed in Florida's intermediate appellate courts.¹²⁴

Contact info: Sarah LaWou-Amine, Esq.
Fowler White Boggs P.A.
Tampa, FL
(813) 769-7849
sarah.amine@fowlerwhite.com

Hawaii Appellate Pro Bono Project¹²⁵

The Access to Justice Commission's Committee on Increasing Pro Bono Legal Services is currently working on the creation of a pilot project to match eligible individuals in need of pro bono appellate assistance with Hawaii appellate attorneys willing to provide help.

Services¹²⁶: This pilot project is currently limited to civil cases involving foreclosures, summary possessions, employment discrimination, worker's compensation, wrongful termination, denial of unemployment benefits, state tax appeals, probate matters, and paternity

¹²⁴ See <http://www.ncsc.org/~media/files/pdf/education%20and%20careers/cedp%20papers/2009/suhraccesstoappellatereview.ashx>.

¹²⁵ HSBS Appellate Section, <http://www.hawaiiappellatesection.org/probono/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹²⁶ Press Release, Appellate Pro Bono Pilot Project Launched (Jan. 6, 2016) http://www.courts.state.hi.us/news_and_reports/press_releases/2016/01/pro_bono-2 (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

and non-married custody cases. When an individual files a notice of appeal at the Hawaii State Supreme Court Clerk's Office and is not represented by an attorney, the pro se litigant will be provided information about the Hawaii Appellate Pro Bono Pilot Project.

Participants in the Hawaii Appellate Pro Bono Pilot Project are required to meet certain income-need requirements and, if qualified, to pay an administration fee of \$50.00 to Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii. In addition, litigants will be responsible for any costs associated with the appeal, including filing, transcript, or other costs related to the preparation of the record on appeal and presentation of arguments in the appellate courts.

Contact info: Ms. Rebecca A. Copeland
chair@hawaiiappellatesection.org.

Indiana Pro Bono Appellate Project¹²⁷

The Project is a collaboration of the Indiana Pro Bono Commission and the Indiana State Bar Association Appellate Practice Section's Pro Bono Subcommittee. The Project helps low-income people find a pro bono lawyer to represent them on appeal in civil cases.

Services: After sending the individual's application to the Indiana Pro Bono Commission, it is reviewed for income eligibility. If eligible, the ISBA Appellate Practice Section's pro bono committee will review the application and attempt to find a lawyer able to take the case. The Project cannot guarantee that it can find a pro bono attorney to take the case.

Funding: The program costs are absorbed by the Commission, which promotes access to legal services for Indiana's low-income residents. The Commission and the Indiana Bar are the primary promoters of the program.

Contact info: Matthew T. Albaugh, Esq.
Faegre Baker Daniels LLP
Indianapolis, IN
(317) 237-1359
matthew.albaugh@faegrebd.com

¹²⁷ Indiana Pro Bono Commission, <http://www.in.gov/judiciary/probono/2335.htm> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

Minnesota¹²⁸

Program creation: The Minnesota Appellate Pro Bono Program was established in 2002 by the Minnesota Bar Association Appellate Practice Section (Minnesota Bar APS), with encouragement and input from the Minnesota Court of Appeals. The program's primary purposes are to give Minnesota attorneys an opportunity to gain appellate experience and to serve a particular pro bono need that was identified by the appellate court in the area of pro se unemployment compensation appeals.

The program is officially administered by the Minnesota Bar APS, but Thomas Boyd serves as the program coordinator from his office at Winthrop & Weinstine and has done so since the program's inception.

Case selection and eligibility: The program accepts only unemployment compensation appeals by pro se litigants whose fees have been waived pursuant to state law. The program focuses on these appeals because the court receives a significant number of such cases each year. These appeals involve limited legal standards that are manageable and easily grasped by volunteer attorneys who do not have previous experience in such matters. There was also a concern that a more expansive program could sweep in cases that would otherwise have gone to paid attorneys.

The program's narrow focus benefits volunteer attorneys by limiting cases to a predetermined area of the law governed primarily by statute and well-defined legal principles. In addition, all appeals are from an administrative agency and are based on an easy-to-compile record. Generally, eligible cases are screened by Mr. Boyd and the volunteer attorneys, who weed out meritless appeals before a volunteer attorney agrees to provide pro bono representation.

Selection, service, and oversight: Attorneys volunteer for the program by expressing their interest in an email to Mr. Boyd or the Minnesota Bar APS or signing up for the program at various State Bar Association events. All licensed attorneys are eligible to volunteer; prior appellate experience is not required. Mr. Boyd maintains a list of volunteers and assigns cases to attorneys according to their availability. Generally, there is no oversight of the attorney after he or she has accepted an eligible case. Mr. Boyd, however, makes himself available to answer basic questions about administrative issues and court procedure. Attorneys are expected to represent the party for the duration of the appeal.

Funding: The program has no funding source and thus cannot defray costs associated with the pro bono representation, and it is voluntarily administered by Mr. Boyd. The lack of independent funding presents an issue for sole practitioners and small law firms. Generally, volunteer attorneys come from larger firms in Minnesota that can absorb the costs associated with pro bono representation. All court fees are waived, pursuant to unemployment compensation laws. '

Program statistics: On average, the program accepts 10 to 15 appeals each year.

¹²⁸ ABA Manual on Pro Bono Appeals Program for State Court Appeals, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/judicial_division/cal_probonomanual_abridgedversion.athcheckdam.pdf.

Contact info: Thomas H. Boyd, Esq.
Winthrop & Weinstine P.A.
Minneapolis, MN
(612) 604-6505
tboyd@winthrop.com

Montana Appellate Pro Bono Program¹²⁹

By Order dated May 22, 2012, the Montana Supreme Court established an Appellate Pro Bono Program (APBP or Program), which became effective July 1, 2012. The APBP is coordinated by the Montana Supreme Court's Pro Bono Coordinator (Coordinator) and the Court's Pro Se Law Clerk (PSLC).

Services: The Program is designed to offer the assistance of appellate counsel to 'qualified litigants.' A 'qualified litigant' is a self-represented litigant: (1) who meets the financial criteria established by the Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA), and (2) whose case, while under review by the Supreme Court, requires supplemental briefing or oral argument.

Once the Court requests supplemental briefing or oral argument, the PSLC and the Coordinator begin the process of matching a qualified pro bono attorney with a participating self-represented litigant.

The parties to the appeal are notified of the Court's request and if the self-represented party wishes to participate in the Program, the MLSA determines if he or she meets the necessary financial criteria. Upon satisfaction of the financial criteria, the qualified litigant is provided a volunteer attorney to assist him or her in continuing the appeal before the Supreme Court.

If there are multiple parties to the appeal that are qualified litigants, the Coordinator will offer each of them an opportunity to participate in the Program and be assigned pro bono counsel. Additionally, except for court fees waived in accordance with existing rules, transcripts and other costs associated with the appeal will continue to be the responsibility of the parties.

Program funding and promotion: The costs of the APBP are absorbed by the Montana Supreme Court. Court employees, led by the Coordinator and the Pro Se Law Clerk, manage the program. Some program costs are defrayed by the Montana LSA's agreement to screen pro se litigants for financial eligibility.

There are no fee-waivers associated with program eligibility. Though a pro bono attorney is appointed, the party is responsible for all costs associated with the appeal, unless those costs are waived in accordance with existing court rules (unrelated to the pro bono program). The Coordinator may, however, facilitate the volunteer attorney's access to an electronic record from the trial court (when available), at no cost to the attorney or party.

The APBP is promoted primarily by the Montana Bar Association, which absorbs any costs associated with program promotion. The Montana Supreme Court and the Montana LSA also promote the program on their websites.

¹²⁹ The Montana Appellate Pro Bono Program,
http://courts.mt.gov/Portals/113/cao/ct_services/probono/docs/APBPOverview.pdf.

Program statistics: Because the program has only operated for one year, the Court has not published any reports and has not yet compiled statistics on the APBP.

Contact info: Statewide Pro Bono Coordinator
Montana Supreme Court - Office of the Court Administrator
(406) 794-7824
pfain@mt.gov

Nevada Pro Bono Civil Appellate Program¹³⁰

The Nevada Pro Bono Appellate Program assigns counsel on a pro bono basis to represent pro se litigants in select cases before the Nevada Supreme Court or Nevada Court of Appeals. The Program's goal is to provide pro bono counsel to pro se parties in civil appeals in which briefing and argument by counsel would benefit appellate review, and assist with the fair and efficient administration of justice.

Program procedure/organization:

- a. Case Selection. The court has designated a staff attorney to screen cases for the Program.
- b. Appointment Procedure. Once the court identifies a potential case for the Program, it enters an order directed to the Appellate Litigation Section's Pro Bono Committee, which has partnered with Legal Aid Center to administer the Program. The order is served on all parties to the case. Legal Aid Center contacts the client, assigns a volunteer attorney, and provides legal malpractice insurance. This process involves at least two, and sometimes three, key steps: client eligibility, client consent, and assignment to a volunteer attorney.
- c. Notice of appearance, scheduling, record. Once the volunteer has accepted the case, the attorney must enter a notice of appearance with the supreme court or court of appeals and file the "Statement of Legal Aid Eligibility," if applicable.

Contact info: Melanie Kushnir
Pro Bono Project Director at Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada
probono@lacsnsn.org

New Jersey Appellate Division Pro Bono Civil Pilot Program¹³¹

The Supreme Court has authorized the establishment of a pilot program designed to permit greater access to the appellate courts by litigants unable to afford representation and who

¹³⁰ Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Appeals, <http://www.lacsnsnprobono.org/resources-and-training/appeals/#collapseZero> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹³¹ New Jersey Courts, Appellate Division Pro Bono Civil Pilot Program, <http://www.judiciary.state.nj.us/appdiv/probono.html> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

are unable to retain counsel or the assistance of legal services or entities established to represent low income individuals.

As a pilot, the program is limited at first to domestic violence, child custody and visitation, and small claims and Special Civil Part cases, including landlord/tenant cases. The program will not create a right to counsel in civil appeals, and provides a mechanism to bring together eligible litigants and participating law firms.

Access: Once the litigant is deemed eligible for the program, his or her notice of appeal and case information statement will be made available to participating law firms on a PIN restricted section of the judiciary's website. The only exception to this procedure involves domestic violence and child custody/ visitation cases. Because of the confidential nature of these cases, law firms wishing to represent these litigants will be required to contact the Appellate Division Clerk's Office, who in turn will fax the notice of appeal and case information statement to the inquiring firm. Participating law firms will be responsible for contacting the litigant.

Contact info: AppellateProBono.mailbox@nycourts.gov

New York State Bar Association Pro Bono Civil Appeals Program¹³²

The New York State Bar Association has established a Pro Bono Appeals Program that provides pro bono representation for selected appeals to the Appellate Division, Third and Fourth Judicial Departments.

This unique program is designed to help persons of modest means (applicants who make 250% or less of Federal Poverty Guidelines) who are taking, or responding to, appeals regarding fundamental civil legal issues, such as family stability, personal safety or subsistence income. The Program is not administered by the court system, and gives preference to applicants who do not qualify for assigned counsel and cases that could have a broad impact.

Program procedure/organization: Cases that meet the threshold criteria will then be referred to the NYSBA Committee on Courts of Appellate Jurisdiction, which will examine cases and determine which ones should be accepted, based on several discretionary factors. These factors include the issues presented, the merits of the appeal, the likelihood that the appeal could establish valuable precedent, the number of appeals currently being handled in the Program, and the number of available volunteer lawyers.

Appeals identified as eligible for representation will be described in a case summary sent to the pool of volunteer attorneys. An appeal will be placed with an appropriate attorney, based on experience or interest.

If a case is accepted and a volunteer attorney is found, the attorney will contact the client directly. The client will be asked to sign a retainer agreement outlining what free legal services will be provided for the appeal and the process that will be followed.

Funding: Funding comes from the State Bar's philanthropic arm, The New York Bar Foundation; the State Office of Court Administration; Interest on Lawyer Account grants; and

¹³² New York State Bar Association, Pro Bono Appeals Program, <http://www.nysba.org/probonoappeals/> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

attorney's fees awards in divorce and family law cases where fee-shifting based on a disparity in income is permitted. The private bar has enthusiastically embraced the program.

Contact info: Cynthia Feathers, Esq.

Co-chair, New York State Bar Association Committee on Courts of
Appellate Jurisdiction and Chair, Pro Bono Appeals Program
Albany, NY
(518) 727-8564
cfeathers@appealsny.org

Pennsylvania Appellate Pro Bono Pilot Program¹³³

By order dated March 5, 2015, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court established a pilot program to provide *pro bono* appellate representation to indigent criminal defendants and civil litigants who have a right to appointed counsel (such as an individual facing involuntary termination of parental rights).

North Carolina¹³⁴

What is the scope and nature of the program? The North Carolina Guardian ad Litem program (GAL) advocates on behalf of juveniles. The state legislature created the program in 1983 to provide legal representation to children who allegedly have been abused, neglected, or are dependent. The program relies heavily on a partnership between volunteer child advocates and attorney advocates. Program staff recruit, train, and supervise volunteers.

The program has offices in each county. Staff and contract attorneys employed by the state focus on trial-level representation. At the appellate level, the caseload is too large for state attorneys to handle alone, so the program relies heavily on volunteer appellate attorneys. The greatest need for volunteers is at the appellate level because the program has only one state-employed attorney dedicated to appeals; and state-paid attorneys are typically consumed with work at the trial-court level. Volunteer attorneys handle more than 30% of all guardian ad litem appeals. About 200 appeals are currently open.

Appeals from the district court go to the state's intermediate appellate court, the North Carolina Court of Appeals; are filed under an expedited timeline; and typically do not include oral arguments, but instead are decided on the briefs.

Must volunteer attorneys have appellate experience? No. Though appellate experience is preferred, it is not required. Appropriate training or experience is mandatory to handle appeals, including a two-hour CLE program. The program provides a number of

¹³³ Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Supreme Court Launches Pilot Program for Pro Bono Appellate Representation, <http://www.pbi.org/now/supreme-court-launches-pilot-program-for-pro-bono-appellate-representation> (last visited Sept. 26, 2016).

¹³⁴ ABA Manual on Pro Bono Appeals Program for State Court Appeals, https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/publications/judicial_division/cal_probonomanual_abridgedversion.athcheckdam.pdf.

resources for volunteer attorneys. After a volunteer enters an appearance, the GAL program's appellate counsel may discuss the specifics of the cases with the volunteer.

Does the program offer an opportunity for attorneys to gain appellate experience?

Yes. The program is advertised as providing such an opportunity.

Is a volunteer attorney supervised after a case is assigned? Yes, particularly for attorneys new to the program. A state-employed attorney coordinates appellate representation for this program and supervises volunteers. '

Does the program provide resources for volunteer attorneys? Yes. In addition to CLE training, the program has a number of resources available, including an attorney manual, a brief bank containing briefs from past cases, and a DVD on appellate advocacy tips.

How is the program funded? The program is funded by the state of North Carolina. The state pays for transcripts. Juveniles are considered indigent, so they do not have to pay for records. A volunteer attorney may have to cover the cost of printing the brief he or she files, but these costs may be recovered. Costs of printing a brief are usually nominal.

How is the program promoted? Through the Internet, social media, and contact with attorneys.

Are there length-of-engagement guidelines or rules? Attorneys represent juveniles in the North Carolina Court of Appeals and may also continue with the case in Supreme Court, but if an attorney is not comfortable doing so, the program's counsel will take the case back or sign on as co-counsel.

Contact info: Tawanda Foster

Appellate Counsel and Pro Bono Program Manager
Raleigh, NC
tawanda.n.foster@nccourts.org
(919) 890-1255

Oregon¹³⁵

How was the program started? The Oregon Pro Bono Program started with inspiration from the Pro Bono Program in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. The Oregon Supreme Court and Court of Appeals select cases. The Program Committee consists of the program managers, the Appellate Commissioner, designees of the Chief Justice and Chief Judge, a member of the State Bar Appellate Practice Section's Executive Committee, and other individuals that named members invite. They meet yearly to review the program and propose changes as deemed necessary.

¹³⁵ Id. at 26.

How are cases chosen? A case may be appropriate for acceptance in the program if the court believes that referral of the case to a volunteer counsel would be helpful to the court. Selection of a case for the program does not reflect a determination of the merits of a party's position, but rather indicates that pro bono counsel is considered to be potentially beneficial to the court.

How are volunteers chosen? Program managers distribute information about the program to all active members of the Oregon State Bar through a yearly email. Attorneys interested in volunteering for the program respond by registering with the program manager. In certain cases, the appellate courts may request participation of counsel from the program as "amicus to the court," rather than as a representative of a party.

Do volunteers need to have appellate experience? Not necessarily. One of the purposes of the program is to provide less experienced attorneys with appellate opportunities. Law school clinical programs may participate, but are subject to terms and regulations imposed by the program.

Are there reimbursement programs for attorneys volunteering? No, neither the court nor bar managers reimburse volunteer attorneys for expenses.

Contact info: Professor Jeffrey C. Dobbins
Willamette University College of Law
Salem, OR
(503) 370-6652
jdobbins@willamette.edu

Tennessee¹³⁶

When was the program created? 2011.

How was it started? A pilot initiative was established by the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA) and the statewide Tennessee Alliance Legal Services.

How are cases chosen? Cases are mainly referred from legal services programs or attorneys who have represented clients in the lower courts and are not able to continue with those cases upon appeal.

What criteria are used? Of particular interest are cases involving matters of first impression or complex legal issues, vindication of substantial constitutional rights, and unsettled questions of law. Judges may refer cases, but that has not happened yet.

How are volunteers chosen? The TBA keeps a list of volunteer attorneys. Usually the first attorney to respond is selected. Currently, TBA has an active appellate group.

¹³⁶ Id. at 28.

Do volunteers need to have appellate experience? No. Both young and experienced appellate attorneys are welcome. The program provides an opportunity for senior attorneys with appellate expertise to mentor younger attorneys seeking such experience.

On average, how many appeals are handled each year? About five cases. The program is being re-launched and promoted this year (2013) and is looking to include areas such as administrative appeals and to increase the number of referrals and cases handled.

Are there reimbursement programs for attorneys volunteering? No, however, sometimes TBA is able to find financial assistance for transcripts for the attorneys.

Contact info: Elizabeth Todaro, JD,
Access to Justice Coordinator
Tennessee Bar Association
Nashville, TN
(615) 383-7421
ltodaro@tnbar.org

Texas¹³⁷

When was the program created? The current version of the program went live beginning in 2007.

How was it started? The appellate courts in Texas have been a driving force behind advancing the mission of fair and efficient administration of justice. State and local bar associations have assisted in that mission through pro bono appellate programs serving qualified applicants throughout the state. The latest iteration of the Texas State Bar Appellate Program and excellent stand-alone programs are the embodiment of efforts of both the appellate bench and bar.

What entities are involved in the program? The following appellate courts have programs administered through the Texas State Bar Appellate Pro Bono Program: the Texas Supreme Court; the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals; and the First, Second, Third, and Fourteenth Courts of Appeals. The Dallas Court of Appeals, the state's busiest intermediate appellate court, has its own program, administered through the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program. Through an ad hoc program administered by the State Bar Appellate Section, volunteer pro bono appellate lawyers can also be placed with any case pending anywhere in the state (whether or not an official pro bono program exists for that particular appellate court).

How are cases chosen? When a pro se party initiates a civil appeal, the required docketing statement includes a brief description of the pro bono programs and asks whether the party wishes to participate. When a party elects to do so, the Clerk of the Court forwards the docketing statement to the applicable screening committee working with that court. The

¹³⁷ Id. at 30.

committee screens referred cases based on a number of discretionary criteria, including financial means, with 200% of Federal Poverty Guidelines as a benchmark. Other factors include the number of appeals pending, the number of available volunteer lawyers, and the issues presented. The committee sends to a database of volunteers an email providing a very brief overview of the case.

When a volunteer indicates an interest in a case, the committee serves as a liaison to match the pro se party with the lawyer. In the vast majority of cases, volunteers are found. However, there is no guarantee that a match will be found. As a general rule, certain committees will presumptively solicit volunteers without substantial screening of the merits, recognizing that non-meritorious cases likely will not generate any responses from the volunteer pool. The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program utilizes a similar approach in screening for financial need.

The Supreme Court of Texas has its own Pro Bono Pilot Program. Review in that court proceeds in multiple phases. First, parties file petitions for review, identifying issues to be raised. If the court wants additional information, it will request briefing on the merits from the parties, and if a pro se party is involved, the court will refer the case to its Pro Bono Pilot Program. The program liaison will then seek volunteer lawyers to work with the pro se parties.

How are volunteers chosen? Attorneys interested in volunteering must submit an application to be considered for the State Bar Appellate Pro Bono Program. The committee then asks volunteer attorneys what their particular areas of interest or experience are so that appropriate matches can be made. The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program utilizes a similar approach. Many pro bono appellate lawyers are on multiple program lists.

Do volunteers need to have appellate experience? No. Attorneys do not have to have previous appellate experience. As part of the recruiting effort, there is a tiered program to attract a wide variety of appellate practitioners. One goal is to include as many highly experienced appellate attorneys as possible. Another goal is to include new appellate practitioners who can handle a case with assistance from more experienced practitioners. Appellate lawyers have the option of either taking on a case as lead counselor mentoring less experienced practitioners. Junior lawyers can gain valuable experience by taking a lead role in representing pro bono clients on appeal, with opportunities to present oral argument.

How is the program funded? The State Bar Appellate Pro Bono Program is funded by the Appellate Section. In practice, volunteers and/or their firms also cover some of the costs associated with representing pro bono clients. The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program is a nonprofit entity funded via grants.

On average, how many appeals are handled each year? Anywhere from 24 to 36 through all channels.

Have there been any particularly noteworthy cases you would like to highlight? Pro bono appellate volunteers have won appellate reversals in difficult cases, including one case for an indigent civil rights claimant and another for an asylum-seeking immigrant.

How do you promote the program? The program is promoted via appellate court web sites, docketing statements of participating state appellate courts, brochures, emails, state and local appellate bar association meetings, and one-on-one attorney recruiting.

Do you recognize volunteers for their service, such as by certificates or awards or articles in bar association publications? Volunteers are recognized in meetings, and pro bono hours count towards the State Bar of Texas Pro Bono College, which lauds attorneys who have far exceeded the State Bar's aspirational pro bono goal.

What obstacles had to be overcome to establish the program? Qualifying applicants and gathering their paperwork and information can be time consuming. The committee has two co-chairs and several city-specific screening teams to tackle the load. The Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program uses its in-house screening personnel and systems.

What lessons have been learned in implementing the program? (1) The courts of appeals, their judges, lawyers, clerks, and staff know best what will work with their systems, (2) they are always willing to help, (3) applicants need to be able to speak with someone on the program committee at the very early stages of seeking representation, (4) forms, pamphlets, and communications need to be standardized and available both in hard copy and electronically, and (5) the qualification phase should be centralized, so that once an applicant is cleared, the request can go to volunteers via email.

What advice do you have for other states that wish to start a program? Start a dialogue with the court(s) from the outset and study what has worked in other jurisdictions. The Fifth Court of Appeals Dallas Volunteer Appellate Program is an excellent stand-alone program that could provide a framework for an initial pilot program.

Is there any oversight after cases are assigned? Volunteer attorneys report at case conclusion.

Are there length-of-engagement guidelines or rules? Length of engagement is governed by the arrangements reached between the client and volunteer attorney.

Are there reimbursement programs for attorneys volunteering? No, the volunteer lawyers agree to serve without expectation of compensation for their service or expenses.

Does Texas have a pro se appeals guide? Yes, go to http://www.tex-app.org/sct_pro_bono_practice_guide.pdf

Contact info: Heidi Bloch, Esq.
Immediate Past Chair
Texas Bar Association Appellate Section
Austin, TX
(512) 703-5733
heidi.bloch@huschblackwell.com

David Mizgala, Esq.
Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair
Dallas, TX
(214) 855-7556
dmizgala@munsch.com

O. Rey Rodriguez, Esq.
Pro Bono Committee Co-Chair
Dallas, TX
(214) 855-7119
orodriguez@nortonrosefulbright.com

Virginia¹³⁸

The Virginia Supreme Court has a volunteer appellate attorney program under which counsel is assigned by the court for certain cases. Through the program, attorneys fall into two groups: experienced appellate advocates and lawyers looking for appellate experience. When cases are chosen, the court assigns one attorney from each group, thus providing a mentoring relationship.

This structure has various advantages. The clients benefit because they receive capable appellate representation. The less experienced lawyers do not have to take the sole responsibility for learning and complying with the nuances of the appellate system, while the experienced lawyers participate in an appeal, but do not have to do all the heavy lifting themselves. The court benefits because it receives a case with both sides professionally briefed, thus making sure that there is not an imbalance in the presentation of those cases, which can skew the results and make bad case law.

Unfortunately, because most civil appeals in Virginia are by petition, most indigent litigants do not get counsel at the petition stage. As a result, only three or four pairs of attorneys per year are invited by the court to represent indigent clients on appeal.

Contact info: Clerk
Virginia Supreme Court
Richmond, VA
(804) 786-2251

Wisconsin¹³⁹

The Wisconsin State Bar's Appellate Practice Section coordinates a pro bono appeals program for cases in the state's Court of Appeals and Supreme Court and, occasionally, federal appellate courts.

The program does not take requests for pro bono counsel directly from potential clients, because it lacks the resources to screen for indigence or merit. The courts and various public interest firms identify cases involving important legal issues and screen for indigence. Then they

¹³⁸ Id. at 34.

¹³⁹ Id. at 35.

call the pro bono program coordinator for a volunteer willing to represent the indigent party. Sometimes organizations like Legal Action of Wisconsin, the Legal Aid Society, and the ACLU seek a volunteer to write an amicus brief. Historically, most of the appeals have involved civil or quasi-criminal law matters, such as due process rights in prison disciplinary proceedings, family law issues, and collateral attacks on criminal convictions.

Recently, the State Public Defender has begun to refer some direct criminal appeals to the program. It also refers cases for which it lacks authority to appoint counsel. For example, after losing a search-and-seizure case in the Wisconsin Supreme Court, the State Public Defender determined that its client was no longer eligible for representation. The pro bono program then provided counsel to prepare a petition for a writ of certiorari to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The program handles about 10 to 15 appeals per year. Since its inception in 1998, it has provided counsel in more than 200 appeals. In 2009, the program began tracking the hours and expenses donated by volunteer lawyers. From March 2009 through July 2013, lawyers donated more than 7,000 hours of time and more than \$2 million in fees and costs.

The program coordinator has developed a sense of which issues or types of litigation will be attractive to firms. Some large firms seek training opportunities for their associates. Smaller firm lawyers may want an opportunity for their first argument before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Some attorneys have a passion for certain kinds of issues, such as constitutional law, family law, or ineffective assistance of counsel. Others just want to donate their appellate expertise. The coordinator considers such factors when contacting a lawyer about a case.

The program tries to offer volunteers the resources they need to do a good job. It will connect the volunteer lawyer with an attorney who is knowledgeable in the area of law at issue, provide sample motions or briefs, and organize rehearsal arguments before a panel of retired judges and/or practitioners.

Contact info: Colleen D. Ball, Esq.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
(414) 227-3110
ballc@opd.wi.gov