

Legal Aid Committee

Selected Highlights 2012

Legal Aid Committee, February 14, 2013

Litigation Highlights

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LAF: Hospital's Charity Care Obligation

In November, LAF filed suit against Swedish Covenant Hospital for routinely evading its legal obligations to provide charity care to low-income, uninsured patients.

The lawsuit charges that low-income, uninsured patients who enter the hospital due to medical emergencies are being illegally billed and threatened with collection suits, placing their financial stability at risk due to medical debt. Hospitals in

Illinois are required to provide charity care; in return they are given tax-exempt status. Swedish Covenant is spared about \$8 million in taxes annually under these laws, but the suite alleges that the hospital still leaves uninsured patients footing the bill. This lawsuit was filed as Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan is proposing new charity care regulations set to be published in early 2013. Nearly 2 million Illinois residents are uninsured, or

about 15 percent. The lawsuit is the culmination of many months of advocacy with Swedish Covenant by the Albany Park Neighborhood Council, one of LAF's community partners, which sought without success to get the hospital to improve its charity-care process and procedures

Citation: *De La Cruz, et al. v Swedish Covenant Hospital*, 2012-CH-42647

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National Immigration Justice Center: *Chaidez v. United States*

The U.S. Supreme Court is considering retroactive application of the Court's decision requiring criminal defense attorneys to advise noncitizens regarding the immigration consequences of plea agreements.

NIJC, as lead counsel along with several pro bono partners, argued *Chaidez v. United States* before the U.S. Supreme

Court. *Chaidez* asks the Court to retroactively apply its decision in *Padilla v. Kentucky*. The 2010 *Padilla* decision holds that noncitizens who were misadvised by their defense attorneys about the likelihood of deportation should have an avenue to redress their constitutional right to effective assistance of counsel and possibly avoid permanent exile from their

communities and families in the United States. Retroactive application of *Padilla* would enable immigrants who were misadvised prior to 2010 to benefit from the *Padilla* ruling.

Citation: *Chaidez v. United States*, Case No. 11-820 (S. Ct.) (pending)

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This is a compilation of highlights submitted by some of the legal aid organizations that participate in the CBA Legal Aid Committee. Not all organizations were able to submit highlights, but this compilation provides an overview of some of the great work happening in our community. Thanks to everyone who submitted highlights.

Equip for Equality Achieves Systemic Change for Student Athletes with Disabilities

Equip for Equality represents Mary Kate Callahan, a student athlete at Oak Park Fenwick High School who uses a wheelchair. The Illinois High School Association (IHSA) would not allow her to compete in certain swimming competitions, including the State Finals. Equip for Equality and the Illinois Attorney General filed suit against the IHSA to ensure that the client and all other

student athletes with disabilities would have equal access. After successfully defending a Motion to Dismiss and engaging in extensive discovery, a settlement was reached with respect to swimming competitions. IHSA agreed to change its policies so that Mary Kate and other student athletes with disabilities could participate in integrated swimming meets beginning with the current

school year. As a result, Mary Kate participated in the State Finals, where she set four personal bests and was champion in the 100 meter Breaststroke. This case garnered extensive media attention including articles in the New York Times and the Chicago Tribune. Here's a link to the most recent Tribune story:

[http://newsblogs.chicagotribune.com/shooting-from-the-](http://newsblogs.chicagotribune.com/shooting-from-the-hip/2012/11/mary-kate-goes-to-state.html)

[hip/2012/11/mary-kate-goes-to-state.html](http://2012/11/mary-kate-goes-to-state.html)

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Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless: Unlawful School Transfers

The Law Project successfully stopped the illegal forced transfer of scores of students from the Chicago Public Schools' Guggenheim Elementary during January 2012, and secured CPS compliance with School Code and the Salazar v. Edwards consent decree.

In December of 2011, the Chicago Board of Education announced its intention to recommend closure of Guggenheim Elementary

School in Chicago's impoverished Englewood neighborhood. Shortly thereafter, the Law Project learned that a new principal was forcing existing students to transfer immediately out of the school against the parents' wishes and prior to any hearing or determination on whether the school would be closed. More than 60 students in the school were homeless at the time, but both homeless and non-homeless students were targeted.

Forced mid-term transfers harm student learning and are illegal under the Illinois School Code, the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and the express terms of the *Salazar v. Edwards* case. The Law Project demanded that the Chicago Public Schools cease the force-outs, secured re-enrollment of all students, and continued to secure services and assistance for needy students.

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Lawndale Christian Legal Center: Not Guilty Verdict

Lawndale
Christian
Legal Center



Put Someone
Who Cares
In Your Corner

After a jury trial in September 2012, a 15-year-old North Lawndale youth with no criminal background was found not guilty. He had been

charged with attempt murder in adult court, facing a minimum of 31 years in prison and maximum of 55. He came home the same day, and shortly after came on staff at LCLC as a student-leader in the afterschool programming where he has thrived. He is on course to be the first member of his family to graduate high school and go to college.

The jury trial involved three eyewitness identifications with no physical evidence to support the identifications.

While the judge denied the request to appoint an eyewitness identification expert in light of the absence of any corroborating physical evidence, the expert consulted with LCLC on a pro bono basis to help prepare the defense based on the numerous scientific studies completed in the field of eyewitness identification. After the jury returned a not guilty verdict, LCLC attorneys polled the jury and learned that the panel of jurors was moved by the arguments counsel made with respect to misidentification. Although not

necessarily indicative of any jury in Cook County, it gives hope that even without an expert explaining the way memory works and the factors that influence reliability of memory, a jury can grasp some of these concepts if articulated clearly by the defense.

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Domestic Violence Legal Clinic

An example of DVLC's work to protect and empower survivors of domestic violence.

Gloria came to DVLC in November of 2011. After her marriage, Gloria moved in with her husband's family, who demanded that she convert to and abide by their fundamentalist religious beliefs. Over the course of her seven year marriage, Gloria was isolated from her former life as her husband and in-laws controlled all aspects of her behavior, including her clothing. After repeated death threats from her husband and

his family and escalating violence often committed in front of her children, including a blow to her ear that caused hearing loss, Gloria came to DVLC. With DVLC's help, she petitioned for and received a Plenary Order of Protection through 2014, limiting the contact that her husband has with her and giving her sole custody of their three young children.

Since then, Gloria, through DVLC's Family Law team, has filed for divorce. She moved back in with her family, enrolled her children in neighborhood schools and

activities, and found employment – the family is thriving. Recently, Gloria's husband filed a motion to vacate the Plenary Order of Protection and allow him liberal visitation with their children. Based solely on the evidence in Gloria's original petition for an Order of Protection, the judge refused to vacate the order. The judge further protected the children by limiting Gloria's husband's visitation to a supervised visitation center.

Every time we see Gloria she looks happier, healthier, and more self-confident. With

continued representation by DVLC, Gloria will not only get a divorce and child support, but be able to move on with her life to become a true success story.

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Through the collaboration of Chicago Legal Clinic, CGLA, the judiciary, Cook County Clerk's Office, and The Chicago Bar Foundation, petitioners filing to expunge or seal their criminal record no longer have to wait a year to have their day in court. With the dedication of significant resources over the course of 2012, the waiting time to appear in court on a petition to expunge or seal has decreased to just 75 days, allowing relief to be afforded to individuals in a reasonable time frame.

Last year, Chicago Legal Clinic and CGLA made a commitment to tackle the backlog of expungement and sealing petitions in the First

Chicago Legal Clinic/CGLA: Reduced Expungement Wait Time

District by dedicating resources, without funding, to staff a live court call at 26th and California. Chicago Legal Clinic and CGLA were uniquely positioned to see the adverse effects that the then year-long delay was having on individuals seeking employment, housing, and educational opportunities because of the volume of their representation and insight into the system. After approaching Presiding Judge Paul Biebel, a solution was proposed and a large promise was made – to decrease the wait from one year to 75 days over the course of a year.



The organizations are happy to report that the intended results have been realized. Beginning in December of 2012, petitioners began receiving court dates upon filing a petition to expunge or seal, with the hearing scheduled for approximately 75 days after the filing (something that has never occurred before in a district where over 5,000 petitions are filed a year). Chicago Legal Clinic and CGLA were awarded a Special Project grant by The Chicago Bar Foundation to support these efforts, allowing the agencies to continue providing representation to pro se petitioners before the court.

This truly collaborative effort between the CBF, two legal aid organizations, the judiciary, and Cook County Clerk's Office exemplifies the impact these partnerships can have in the lives of pro se petitioners seeking to obtain relief from a past record.

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Equip for Equality's Advocacy Stops Ongoing Abuse and Financial Exploitation

EFE's advocacy resulted in a protective placement for a client who was four days shy of his 18th birthday and an emergency Order of Protection in response to evidence of neglect and verbal abuse by his father and a caregiver. These

actions thwarted the father's efforts to take control of the client's \$250,000 special needs trust. EFE obtained a permanent injunction barring the father and the caregiver from having any contact with the client and prevented them from seeking adult

guardianship of the client when he turned 18 years old. The client has since moved out of state to be near his maternal relatives.

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CLAIM worked with an incarcerated mother to return her six children to their maternal grandmother. Through CLAIM's representation, a court order was vacated and the children were placed in a safe home with opportunities to build a strong relationship with their mother while she is incarcerated.

This past year, CLAIM and the volunteers it partners with had many successful outcomes pertaining to family law

cases. In one specific case, CLAIM represented the maternal grandmother of six children whose mother is incarcerated. The children lived together with their maternal grandmother for the majority of their lives, and upon the mother's incarceration, she requested that her mother take care of the children. Without notice, the alleged paternal grandmother of some of the children went to court and obtained a temporary order giving her the children. The alleged paternal grandmother sent

the police to the maternal grandmother's home, and the children were forcibly removed and further traumatized. To make matters worse, the alleged paternal grandmother ceased all contact between the children and their mother.

The maternal grandmother attempted to represent herself in court, but she was unsure of what to file, and she had difficulty even obtaining a court date. She contacted CLAIM, and a CLAIM attorney visited the incarcerated mother to

discuss her wishes. CLAIM successfully vacated the previous order and received an order returning all six children to the maternal grandmother. Currently, the maternal grandmother and the children are all doing well and are anxiously awaiting their mother's return home. This is just one of the many success stories CLAIM has accomplished over the past year.

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Chicago Sexual Exploitation: Civil No Contact Order

CAASE demonstrates the effectiveness of using sexual assault and employment discrimination laws together to protect workers from sexual abuse and harassment.

Alice, who worked at a Chicago hospital, was groped and harassed by her co-worker. She reported the groping, made a police report, and obtained an emergency Civil No Contact Order against the co-worker. Instead of disciplining the co-worker, Alice's employer told her she couldn't return to work because she had obtained a court order that prohibited contact between her and her co-worker. CAASE intervened and notified the hospital that it was in violation of the Victims

Economic Security and Safety Act, and that it was prohibited from discriminating against Alice on the basis of her status as a survivor of sexual violence. Due to CAASE's advocacy, Alice immediately was able to return to work. CAASE also settled the Civil No Contact Order case with a contract that prohibited Alice's co-worker from coming near her outside of work and from coming within three feet of her at work.

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"Equip for Equality represented the family at a five-day due process hearing and obtained an order that will allow the child to become a full member of the kindergarten class at her town's elementary school."



Equip for Equality Victory Allows Kindergartner to Remain at Home School

Equip for Equality recently achieved a due process victory on behalf of a six-year-old girl with Autism, allowing her to remain in her neighborhood kindergarten classroom in Lanark, Illinois, located in Northwestern Illinois. Eastland school district wanted to transfer the child to a segregated school 30 miles away from her home. Concerned that she would be

forever segregated from her community peers, the mother wanted her daughter to learn alongside other children from her town, to make friends with children who could be communication role models, to play with classmates who did not share her socialization difficulties, and, most importantly, to continue to be a part of her school community. Equip for Equality

represented the family at a five-day due process hearing and obtained an order that will allow the child to become a full member of the kindergarten class at her town's elementary school. In addition, the child will receive needed supports and services to foster her success in the general education setting.



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The Illinois Supreme Court upheld the due process rights of a crime victim and held that a hearing would need to be held, to which the crime victim was a party with standing, in order to determine whether and how her personal diary would be produced.

During the course of representing a sexual

assault crime victim in the criminal prosecution of the rapist, a criminal court judge ordered that the victim's personal diary be turned over to him in two business days for an in camera review. The request was made by the Public Defender, and the Cook County State's Attorney's Office filed no objections. Upon learning of the order, CAASE immediately filed an Emergency Motion to Intervene to Delay the Production, however, the judge refused to rule on this motion and issued a written order stating that the client's original diary be turned over to him in two weeks. Within days, CAASE filed both an Illinois Supreme Court Rule

305(b) Emergency Motion for State of Judgments Pending Appeal Under Illinois Supreme Court Rule 383 and a Motion for Supervisory Order Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 383. The following day, the Illinois Supreme Court granted the Rule 305 Motion and stayed the criminal court's order. The State's Attorney's Office and the Public Defender filed responsive briefs to the Rule 383 Motion denying that the victim had any rights violated by the off-the-record determination by the criminal court judge that CAASE's client's diary be turned over. CAASE requested and was granted leave to file a reply brief, in which it focused on

the due process violation.

Two months later, the Illinois Supreme Court granted CAASE's request for a supervisory order and issued an order vacating the criminal court's order requiring CAASE's client to turn over her diary without process. The order directed the criminal court to issue a subpoena to the client and allow her to file a motion to quash, and then it could "accordingly" enter a decision.

Citation: *Faith Jones v. Hon. William G. Lacy, et al.* Illinois Supreme Court No. 114575
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Class Action Highlights

Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois: *R.J., et al. v. Bishop*

A consent decree approved in December 2012 will allow the Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois to dramatically improve conditions and services for young people confined at state-run juvenile justice facilities across Illinois.



In 2012 the ACLU prosecuted scores of administrative grievances by individual youths against the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ). These grievances, confirmed by independent experts, concerned inadequate services in a number of critical areas (such as mental health care and education) as well as allegations of excessive force by staff, youth-on-youth violence, and the unlawful use of solitary confinement as a method of discipline. Direct negotiations between the IDJJ and ACLU attorneys resulted in a settlement agreement designed to solve these

problems, and in December a consent decree was approved.

Under the agreement, a specific remedial plan to fix inadequate conditions and services for youth will be developed based on an investigation to be conducted by three independent court-appointed experts. Currently, the Department has custody of nearly 1,000 youth who have been adjudicated delinquent by juvenile courts, and a legal duty to provide conditions and services adequate to rehabilitate these youth. Improvement will be measured by an increase in

education and mental health services, a decrease in solitary confinement and violence, and a decrease in continued confinement solely for lack of a community placement. It is also hoped that the suit may influence policy makers to reduce the number of youth confined by IDJJ, and to increase the amount of community services provided to youth.

Citation: *R.J., et al. v. Bishop*, 12 C 7289 (N.D. Ill.)
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Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois: *B.H., et al. v. McEwen*

In early 2012, the caseloads of child protective services investigators of the Illinois Department of Children & Family Services (DCFS) had risen to levels that endangered the health and safety of the children of Illinois. In response the ACLU secured an order requiring DCFS to bring caseloads into compliance by 2013, while further mandating additional steps to reduce the likelihood that the problem will recur.

The Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU represents all children in the

Illinois foster care system as part of a longstanding consent decree, which has overseen significant reform at DCFS for more than 20 years. In early 2012 the ACLU discovered that DCFS investigators' caseload assignments had grown to crisis proportions, inhibiting DCFS' ability to respond to suspected cases of child abuse and neglect. Under the ACLU's consent decree, DCFS investigators should be assigned no more than 12 new child abuse or neglect investigations per month for nine months of a year, and no more than 15

cases for the other three months. This limit ensures that investigators are able to respond quickly and make timely assessments of threats to a child's safety. Recent budget pressure by the state, combined with other factors, had created a lack of staffing that threatened to wipe out important gains made in reforming the system over the previous two decades.

In response the ACLU secured an order requiring DCFS to bring caseloads into compliance with the consent decree by hiring and

reassigning more than 100 new investigators by the beginning of 2013. Additional changes have also been required to reduce the possibility that the problem could reoccur. The ACLU will continue to monitor the Department to ensure the proper protection and safety of all the children who fall under its care.

Citation: *B.H., et al. v. McEwen*, N.D. Ill. (No. 88 C 5599)
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Roger Baldwin Foundation of ACLU of Illinois: *Jimmy Doe, et al. v. Cook County, et al.*

Conditions at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center, once a statewide embarrassment due to the unsanitary and dangerous conditions in which it confined youth under its care, have been substantially improved due to monitoring by the ACLU following a successful federal court settlement.

In the 1990s, reports surfaced at the Cook County Juvenile Detention Center (JTDC) of a lack of appropriate medical and mental health care, unsanitary and dangerous

housing conditions, and of violence perpetrated on residents both by staff and by other residents. After years of contentious litigation, in 2002 attorneys from the Office of the Cook County State's Attorney and the Roger Baldwin Foundation of the ACLU of Illinois reached a settlement agreement that marked the beginning of a historic opportunity to fix some of the most severe, chronic problems in any juvenile justice system in the country.

Since then, the single, large facility has been broken down into smaller, more manageable units; an external cleaning service was hired to remedy sanitation problems; the budget and administrative structure of the facility have been restructured; hundreds of new employees and managers have been hired and trained; and investigators have been appointed to examine alleged cases of abuse. The ACLU continues to support Transitional Administrator

Earl Dunlap, appointed by the federal court at the ACLU's insistence in 2007, in ongoing efforts to complete his work preparing the facility for a transition to be managed by the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Citation: *Jimmy Doe, et al. v. Cook County, et al.*, 99 C 3945 (N.D. Ill.)
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"The ACLU secured an order requiring DCFS to bring caseloads into compliance with the consent decree by hiring and reassigning more than 100 new investigators by the beginning of 2013."

Advocacy Highlights



CLAIM and its allies succeeded in advocating for the passage of HB 1958, reinforcing and expanding protection against shackling incarcerated women during labor in Cook County Jail. CLAIM also worked on the State level to develop an administrative directive protecting pregnant women in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

CLAIM took action to address the policy of restraining incarcerated women while they are pregnant and in labor. This practice is an

unnecessary action that violates mothers' human rights. Due to this policy, committed mothers for non-violent crimes were subjected to hurtful shackling measures which impeded their labor and caused unnecessary duress. To make matters worse, they were also forced to endure the humiliation of having a correctional officer in the delivery room the entire time they were in labor.

CLAIM advocated at the County and State levels to protect mothers pretrial and while sentenced at Illinois Department of Corrections. HB 1958 expanded

protection against shackling women throughout their pregnancy and while in labor in Cook County Jail. More than 80 women worked with CLAIM to advocate for this legislation, which was successfully passed on January 13, 2012. Prior laws pertaining to protection against shackling had been consistently ignored, resulting in emotional and physical trauma for the pregnant women and their babies. Now, HB 1958 prevents harm to the mother and fetus from the chain belts and other restraints used during shackling. It also details concise guidelines for the correctional officers to follow when

interacting with an incarcerated woman while she is pregnant and in labor.

On the State level, a new administrative directive is in its final stages of implementation. This would provide similar protection to women in all state prisons. CLAIM continues to advocate for all women subject to shackling during their pregnancy and hopes to implement more preventative measures in the future.

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The Shriver Center was a leader in the difficult advocacy that reduced the amount of funding cuts to the state's Medicaid program by \$1.1 billion (from \$2.7 billion to \$1.6 billion). This avoided many disastrous cuts to health coverage for clients of legal services programs. It also kept the program in a ready condition for the expansion of eligibility under the federal Affordable Care Act.

Governor Quinn announced in spring 2012 that the state

had a \$2.7 billion shortfall in the Medicaid program that needed to be remedied by program cuts. This constituted a potential disaster for Medicaid beneficiaries, and it could also be done in a way to hinder both programmatically and politically the Affordable Care Act's Medicaid expansion in 2014. The Shriver Center and allies worked hard, in the public arena and in intense inside conversations, to steer the outcome toward a solution with minimized immediate damage and avoidance of longer-term

damage to the chance for the expansion. The result was the SMART Act. Most importantly, \$1.1 billion of the problem was fixed without program cuts (new revenues were found and dedicated to Medicaid). The Shriver Center also helped win permission for Cook County to proceed with a plan for early expansion to cover 100,000 uninsured in 2013. The \$1.6 billion in cuts contains plenty of painful measures (elimination of adult dental and drug subsidies for seniors, plus loss of eligibility of 26,000 families for

FamilyCare are the most substantial), yet all other eligibility was spared (including undocumented kids), the most sensitive providers did not get a rate cut (safety-net hospitals and doctors), most services were preserved, and in general the program was left in a condition to move on to the expansion in 2014. Public confidence in the state's ability to manage and control the program was not damaged and probably was improved.

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AIDS Legal Council of Chicago engaged in months of advocacy to persuade the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) to revise requirements that were making access to life-saving medicines difficult for low-income Illinoisans with HIV. As a result, done in conjunction with AIDS Foundation of Chicago, people with HIV who depend on ADAP will face a simpler process for maintaining their access to HIV drugs and will count on more support and follow-up from ADAP staff to ensure no interruption in their HIV treatment.

When ADAP announced new requirements to continue receiving life-saving medication, including a condition that all recipients reapply for the program every six months, ALCC and its partners at the AIDS Foundation sprang into action. The organizations argued that the reapplication process was onerous and complex, requiring individuals to submit large numbers of documents every six months, or risk losing their access to medicines. The ALCC heard from clients who were trying to complete the application but ran into problems repeatedly because they

didn't understand the questions or couldn't get all the attachments in on time. The rules also created havoc for case managers who were helping clients submit the same information over and over again. Recipients with mental illness fared even worse, missing deadlines and submitting incomplete applications. AIDS Legal Council of Chicago argued that the changes in the law that prompted the new rules from ADAP never intended to put so many people at risk of losing their medicines. Instead, it envisioned a process of "recertification"

that could be conducted with fewer questions and documents. ADAP finally agreed, stating that recipients would no longer have to fully reapply every six months and that many documents already on file would not have to be resubmitted. Furthermore, ADAP would follow up with individuals who had submitted incomplete applications and make other accommodations to ensure that people with special needs did not fall through the cracks.

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Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless: Dispute Resolution under the Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act

In future dispute resolution cases under the Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act, the process will be fairer to families in a significant respect. School districts are now required to provide families and students in contested administrative hearings all relevant documents, including any investigation conducted by the school, in advance of the dispute resolution hearing.

The dispute resolution process under the Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act is intended to be a "full and fair," impartial, family-friendly administrative

process to resolve disputes arising between students who are homeless and school districts. Such disputes typically involve the student's right to enrollment at a particular school, the right to transportation, and the eligibility of the student for educational and other services.

In recent years, this informal process has become more contentious, adversarial, and unfair to families. For example, in connection with these disputes, school districts often hire investigators to conduct surveillance on families and rely on such investigations at the dispute

resolution hearing to bolster the district's case. The investigations themselves are often intrusive, one-sided, and unfair and often do not even involve talking to the family about their living situation. The Law Project represents families and youth in these dispute resolution processes and requests, in advance of the hearing, documents on which the district will rely, including importantly, investigations of the family. While some districts have complied with these requests, the Law Project noted, increasingly, that districts refused to provide the investigation reports and materials, in the hopes of surprising the family with investigatory



material at the hearing. After advocating in individual cases with mixed results, CCH secured a policy change from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). ISBE now directs that those individuals who conduct dispute resolution processes in Illinois schools must ensure that investigation reports and materials are provided to families in advance of their dispute hearings.

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Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law: TANF Lifetime Limit

The Shriver Center served as an advocacy leader in the successful effort to defeat Governor Quinn's proposal to shorten the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) lifetime limit from five to three years. The coalition's

work also ensured that the General Revenue Fund appropriation for TANF more than doubled, increasing from \$95 million to \$196 million, to cover growth in the caseload over the past two years.

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Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

SHRIVER
CENTER

CEP's participation, in conjunction with other low-income taxpayer clinics, helped to save the IRS Certified Acceptance Agent (CAA) program, which enables many foreign nationals to obtain Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITIN). The IRS announced changes to the ITIN and CAA programs in June, 2012, requiring ITIN applicants to submit original identification documents and effectively ending the CAA program. CEP joined with other low-income taxpayer clinics to provide comments on the rule changes through the ABA, as a result of which, the IRS has retained the CAA program and has adopted several recommendations made by the work group.

In response to a June report by the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration (TIGTA) which criticized IRS administration and oversight of both the ITIN

and CAA programs, the IRS released new regulations for both programs. Under the new rules, ITIN applicants would be required to submit original identification documents (or copies certified by the issuing agency) to the IRS along with their application for an ITIN. The IRS would keep the documents for as long as 90 days. Under prior regulations, applicants for ITINs could submit original documents (passports, national ID cards, birth certificates) to a notary public for certification of authenticity and would not have to surrender those important documents. Additionally, CAAs could no longer be used to certify the authenticity of the taxpayer's identification. ITINs are required for foreign nationals who do not have and cannot apply for a Social Security number (SSN) and who also have an obligation to file a US tax return. Affected individuals include aliens who are regarded as residents of the US under the "substantial presence" test, spouses and children of lawful permanent



Center for Economic Progress Tax Clinic: Advocacy for CAA Program

residents, and non-residents who receive income from US sources. Thousands of taxpayers apply for ITINs every year and more than 1.7 million ITINs are used annually for purposes of filing tax returns. Demand for ITINs is anticipated to increase dramatically as Congress debates new immigration legislation that will likely require back-payment of taxes for all undocumented immigrants seeking to pursue a path to citizenship.

CEP joined with other low-income taxpayer clinics to comment on the new regulations. After noting that IRS standards for and oversight of the CAA program had been lax, CEP and other low-income taxpayer clinics stressed the important role played by ITINs in tax administration and the equally important role played by CAAs in helping immigrant taxpayers obtain ITINs. The group recommended that the IRS

develop new regulations to make the program work as intended, including regulation of CAAs by the IRS Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) and the development of due diligence requirements for CAAs. The group also pointed out the hardship imposed on taxpayers forced to surrender passports, national ID cards, and other important documents to the IRS for nearly 90 days.

On November 29, 2012, the IRS announced new regulations for CAAs which incorporate several of the recommendations made by CEP and other tax clinics including the regulation of CAAs by OPR, the addition of due diligence requirements for CAAs, and new standards for becoming a CAA. Unfortunately, the IRS has retained the requirement that ITIN applicants continue to surrender original documents to the IRS.

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LCLC has had great success in keeping its youth out of jail because of the number of community-based partnerships that have been created with LCLC. As of today's date, only 6 of LCLC's 86 clients have been sentenced to the IDJJ or IDOC.

The sentencing provision of the Juvenile Court Act (705 ILCS 405/5-750) was amended in 2012, requiring juvenile court judges to exhaust community-based alternatives to incarceration prior to committing a young person to the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice (IDJJ). The new law now requires the court to

find that a commitment to the IDJJ is the "least restrictive alternative," and identifies seven factors the court must consider in making that determination. Although LCLC was not a part of the lobbying efforts to amend this law, in response to these policy changes, LCLC has formed several collaborations in North Lawndale to create a "restorative justice hub" that will create a network of support for youth involved with the criminal justice system. Through these collaborations, LCLC is forming partnerships with

other Lawndale organizations to provide integrated mental health and substance abuse counseling to North Lawndale youth as an alternative to incarceration. In addition, in light of the new amendment to the Juvenile Court Act, LCLC attorneys have filed two appeals before the First District Appellate Court challenging the trial court's decision to commit two youths to the IDJJ when community-based alternatives to incarceration were offered to the court in lieu of a prison sentence.

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**Lawndale
Christian
Legal Center**



*Put Someone
Who Cares
In Your Corner*

Lawndale Christian Legal Center: Restorative Justice Hub

As advocates, CGLA not only aims to provide high quality legal representation to clients, but also to recognize and correct injustices in the law that impact the lives of those represented. SB 3433 exemplifies recognizing an injustice, finding a solution, and advocating for policy change that positively impacts the lives of clients.

No matter how long ago the mistake may have happened, no matter what the mistake was, certain convictions are

forever barred from relief through the courts and the only hope is for the Governor to extend mercy and forgiveness through a pardon. Individuals could wait up to four years to receive an answer on their clemency petition, but Governor Quinn has provided relief for hundreds of men and women by reviewing the backlog of clemency petitions and granting relief to hundreds in the last four years.

CGLA's clients represent 9%

of those granted pardons state-wide and this volume began to highlight the law's deficiencies. The law did not allow for true expungement, it only sealed the record, meaning it was released upon a background check to any employer regulated by state law. The list is large and the jobs significant: schools, park districts, health care organizations, banks, and public transportation, to name a few. Individuals who waited years for a second chance were still having their pardoned convictions

released to major employers.

CGLA and its partners in the criminal justice community advocated for a change in the law, and that legislation became effective January 1, 2013. Deserving individuals are now given what the law truly intended – the ability to find any employment after a pardon without their past mistake derailing their efforts toward a better future.

Citation: Public Act 97-1026
Contact: Beth Johnson/ 312-738-2452/

LAF: SNAP Benefits

LAF, in collaboration with the Shriver Center, has engaged in a multipronged advocacy initiative to require the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS) to comply with federally mandated processing deadlines for SNAP applications.

When clients do not receive their SNAP benefits on time, they go hungry. To

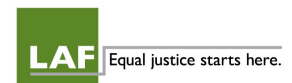
demonstrate the extent of the problem, LAF paralegals and attorneys documented hundreds of examples of cases where clients have not received their SNAP benefits within the time deadlines required by federal law. LAF staff have represented dozens of clients in administrative proceedings and advised hundreds of others on how to present their claims in administrative appeals. LAF has brought numerous examples of untimely processing to the

attention of DHS Local Office Administrators and the Associate Director of the DHS Division of Family & Community Services as part of its advocacy efforts to urge improvement in SNAP processing times.

LAF and Shriver's advocacy has had a significant impact: processing of initial SNAP applications has improved statewide from under 70% timely processed in January 2012 to over 90% timely processed in December 2012

according to DHS reports to the Food and Nutrition Service. Much more work needs to be done to ensure that clients get their SNAP benefits in a timely fashion, but LAF and Shriver's efforts have moved the ball forward significantly.

Contact: William Kolen/ 312-347-8303/



National Immigrant Justice Center—DACA Advocacy

This year, NIJC, immigrant youth, and other advocates successfully pressured the Obama Administration to provide temporary protection from deportation and work authorization for immigrants who arrived in the United States as youth. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative helped more than 100,000 un-documented individuals come out of the shadows and re-energized national momentum for comprehensive immigration reform in the 113th Congress.

NIJC set three goals going into this project and achieved the following:

1) Respond to the demand for legal services: An unprecedented number of potentially eligible individuals sought low or no-cost quality legal services. They were at risk of exploitation from individuals engaged in the unauthorized practice of law. In response, NIJC developed an online screening tool to allow individuals to assess their eligibility for DACA. If an individual's responses raised concerns, the tool provided a list of attorneys for follow-up consultations. Approximately 15 to 20 percent of the cases screened

by NIJC had the potential for more permanent forms of immigration relief.

2) Develop a replicable service model: NIJC drew from its nationally recognized pro bono project to engage and train new attorneys in the Chicago community to serve DACA-eligible individuals. Due to the success of NIJC's model, the Department of Justice has invited NIJC to lead a "Train the Trainers" event to expand access to legal counsel for immigrants within the private bar and non-profit organizations from across the country.

3) Build momentum for reform: NIJC's policy and communications teams

worked closely with the DACA project to identify advocacy issues to improve the process and ensure protection for individuals, while identifying spokespersons for broader immigration reform. The DACA initiative has shed light on the need for family unity, the consequences of overly harsh immigration enforcement, and the need for a fair and humane immigration system moving forward.

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Myriad challenges persist in Chicago and throughout the state to ensure very young children with special needs receive the services they need to live full, healthy, and integrated lives. For example, the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the nation's third largest school district, systematically fails to support timely transition of toddlers with disabilities to preschool or other appropriate services.

A newly amended law and state class complaint aim to establish access and seamless delivery of Early Intervention services which are vital to improving social, cognitive, communicative, physical, and adaptive abilities of children with developmental delays

during the first five years of life. Interruption of services can result in lost gains – in kindergarten readiness and in later life.

Passed in August 2012, SB 820 amended the Early Intervention Services System Act to establish key requirements for implementing the 2011 Federal Regulations for the Part C Early Intervention Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities, including standards for delivering quality services in the child's natural environment and codifying a

smooth transition to preschool.

Guided by the Mayor's Early Childhood Task force, stakeholders worked

collaboratively with CPS to eliminate gaps in essential services for developmentally disabled children. When progress stalled in summer 2012, Health & Disability Advocates filed a state class complaint with the Illinois State Board of Education on behalf of five named children and their families for failures to properly transition children turning three years old from Early Intervention services to early childhood special education, violating portions of Part B and Part C of IDEA, part 300 and 303 of 34 CFR, Article 14 of the Illinois Schools Code, the Illinois

Early Intervention Services System Act, and Titles 23 and 89 of the Illinois Administrative Code.

Annually, the named class members of the pending complaint represent the interests of approximately 2200 eligible children residing in Chicago who age out of Early Intervention services at age three each year.

Citation: SB 820 Early Intervention Services System Act, ISBE administrative complaint (no case number)

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Program Highlights



Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.

Chicago's Partnership for Equal Justice

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law: Initiative for Northwestern Indiana

In early 2012, the Chicago Lawyers' Committee, in partnership with member law firms and lawyers, launched the Initiative for Northwest Indiana (INWIN). INWIN is an economic development law project – the only transactional pro bono service in Northwest Indiana – providing free legal services to nonprofit organizations, regional development projects, entrepreneurs, and small businesses. To date, INWIN has serviced approximately 41 organizational clients in either workshops or one-on-one legal assistance.

The collapse of the manufacturing industry in Northwest Indiana has had a devastating effect on the region's population and economic stability. By helping to successfully establish and sustain small businesses, INWIN can help to increase the income tax base and generate quality employment opportunities for Northwest Indiana citizens. Unfortunately, many small entrepreneurs and nonprofits cannot afford the legal services needed to effectively structure and sustain their organizations. INWIN explicitly addresses this lack of parity, and helps level the legal playing field in

Indiana's most underserved communities. INWIN is comprised of a network of attorneys and community-based organizations that provide support to nonprofits, small businesses, and aspiring entrepreneurs. A key component of this collaboration is the legal help desk and legal seminars held in collaboration with organizations such as the Legacy Foundation, Hammond Innovation Center, the City of Gary, and the Northwest Indiana Urban League. Legal seminars cover such topics as Board Governance for Non-Profits, Corporate Structuring, and Managing Liability.

As a result of INWIN's work on the Gary/Chicago Airport Community Benefit Agreement, the City of Gary and Congressman Pete Visclosky's Office hosted a community forum on "Job Compliance" that included a representative from the Department of Labor and various city agencies. There has been a pledge by the City to increase compliance and tracking efforts on city contracts.

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After spending seven years partnering with local stakeholders to open legal self-help centers across the state, Illinois Legal Aid Online and the Illinois Coalition for Equal Justice are happy to announce that an access point for legal information exists in each of Illinois' 102 counties.

Following the opening of Randolph County's legal self-help center on January 23, 2013, there will be a public access point for legal information in each of Illinois' 102 counties. Legal self-help centers are critical to enhancing the availability of legal aid in Illinois because they provide free access to

and navigation assistance for IllinoisLegalAid.org and AyudaLegalILL.org. In addition, legal self-help centers were opened in Cook County at the 3rd district courthouse in Rolling Meadows in May 2012 and at the 6th district courthouse in Markham in January 2012.

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Center for Disability and Elder Law: Senior Legal Assistance Clinics

CDEL fully implemented its Senior Legal Assistance Clinics (SLAC) in 2012. CDEL now offers SLAC at four senior centers in suburban Cook County so that seniors may access CDEL services more conveniently and receive responses to requests for assistance more quickly. At the Clinics, low income seniors meet with CDEL staff and

volunteer attorneys who conduct intakes, conduct document review, and perform discreet legal services. Seniors who require further services enter CDEL's regular case management process. SLAC serves as "satellite" offices for CDEL in high need areas of Cook County.

This past year, CDEL received

over 400 requests for service, and CDEL staff and volunteers worked with over 140 clients. Through a two-year Equal Justice Works Fellowship, sponsored by The Chicago Bar Foundation, CDEL plans on opening four more clinics in high-need urban locations. CDEL is proud to provide access to its services in the community and



provide services to seniors who may have mobility concerns in an effective, efficient, and convenient manner.

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Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law: Educational Equity Project



Chicago Lawyers' Committee
for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.

Chicago's Partnership for Equal Justice

Volunteer lawyers from the Chicago Lawyers' Committee's Educational Equity Project represented CPS students in school expulsion hearings and challenged worsening trends in school discipline, which disproportionately impact children of color and students with disabilities. Chicago Lawyers' Committee staff wrote a 43-page training manual and trained over forty attorneys to handle expulsion hearings.

The Chicago Lawyers' Committee launched the Educational Equity Project in 2012, aimed at exploring alternative options to keep students in school, both by representing them at disciplinary hearings to ensure fair proceedings and by advocating for restorative rather than punitive justice. The Chicago Lawyers' Committee provides services to ensure schools do everything in their power to keep enrolled students in school. Male students of color are penalized at disproportionately frequent

and disproportionately severe rates. This trend is both fed by and feeds into the criminal justice system, which penalizes men of color with disproportionate frequency and severity.

The Educational Equity Project strives to prevent, reduce, and eliminate the known disparities in educational resources for minorities that burden low-income and minority communities in the Chicago area. Currently, there are very few sources of free legal representation for

general education students facing expulsion in Chicago. The Educational Equity Project seeks to craft impact litigation and collaborate with parent groups and other community based organizations to reduce educational disparities and identify solutions that promote educational opportunities for all Chicago Public School students. In 2012, the Project represented 10 families, and the attorneys have been successful in every case.

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"The Educational Equity Project seeks to craft impact litigation and collaborate with parent groups and other community based organizations to reduce educational disparities and identify solutions that promote educational opportunities for all Chicago Public School students."

Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Family Services: A.T.L.A.S.S.T.

There is a growing awareness in the legal community about the prevalence of sex trafficking in the country and in the community, the complexity of the legal issues involved, and the necessity to use a victim-centered approach in determining which remedies will be most helpful and the best legal approach to take.

LAS launched A.T.L.A.S.S.T.

(Attorneys Tendering Legal Aid to Survivors of Sex Trafficking) as a full-time initiative in September 2012. An Equal Justice Works Fellow with national and international experience working with survivors of sex trafficking is spearheading the effort. Training for pro bono partners began in January 2013 and will cover how to work with clients who have experienced severe trauma, how to use the Justice for Victims Act to

expunge criminal records for trafficking survivors, how to address immigration issues, and how to sue those who have profited from trafficking under the Illinois Predator Accountability Act. LAS has already received four cases from local and national social service providers. The cases are complex, often involving custody and immigration, bankruptcy protection after traffickers use their victims' names to run up huge unpaid bills,

guardianship and education issues for minor victims of trafficking, and criminal law related to arrest records. Law firms have partnered with LAS on some of these issues, particularly around finances.

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LEGAL AID SOCIETY

Metropolitan Family Services
150 years of amazing strength

Lawndale Christian Legal Center: Detention Reduction Project

Approximately 70 North Lawndale youths attended LCLC's afterschool program, benefiting from the variety of services offered instead of returning to the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center or the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. Another 100 youths are expected to be referred to LCLC's afterschool program in 2013.

In June 2012, LCLC developed a partnership with the Circuit Court of Cook County, Juvenile Division, and the Juvenile Probation Department to provide afterschool activities to North Lawndale youth on probation as an alternative to incarceration. Known as the "Detention Reduction Project" led by Cook County President Toni Preckwinkle, the program allows probation officers the opportunity to refer North Lawndale youth to LCLC's afterschool programs when

the youth are allegedly in technical violation of their probation (not new crimes) instead of going to court to face the judge on the alleged violation of probation. LCLC's afterschool programs include peace circles, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counseling, mentoring, group counseling, basketball programming, tutoring, resume workshops, community service projects, cooking classes, and computer classes. Because the pilot program was a success in 2012, it was renewed for a full-year in 2013.

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Lawndale
Christian
Legal Center



Put Someone
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Indo-American Center: DACA Outreach and Assistance

Increasing BIA-accreditation among the Indo-American Center's staff has increased the organization's capacity to take on more cases and provide full legal representation.

Soon after the introduction of DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), the Indo-American Center responded to the DACA-related questions from the community by organizing workshops and one-on-one consultations

about Deferred Action. The Indo-American Center made targeted efforts to reach out to people and inform them about the legal aspects of the DACA process. In addition to the Indo-American Center's existing legal services, in October 2012, the organization also began providing full representation to clients for DACA cases. Currently, the Indo-American Center is working towards expanding

outreach to other communities and increasing collaborations with other agencies for referrals to the organization's DACA-related services.

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Illinois Legal Aid Online: Statewide Online Access System

The Statewide Online Access System will significantly reduce the time it takes for a person to receive legal services and ensure that people find the appropriate level of available service required to resolve their problem.

ILAO's partnership with Prairie State Legal Services, Land of Lincoln Legal

Assistance Foundation, and LAF helped to create a Statewide Online Access System that began in January 2012. This virtual entryway to legal services is an online portal through which lower-income Illinois residents are directed to the appropriate level of available services and can apply for legal services at one of the three LSC funded

programs in Illinois. Following the pilot this system will be available for use by non-LSC funded programs, too.

ILAO has made significant progress on this truly collaborative project, working with the three LSC organizations to define protocols for priority areas of law including subsidized housing terminations, mortgage foreclosure, public

benefits (including SSI, SSDI, social security, TANF, Medicaid, Medicare, other medical assistance, food stamps, and veteran's benefits) and utility terminations which the system will use to triage users to the best available resource.

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The Law Project of the Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights: Nonprofit Boot Camp

The Law Project's nonprofit assistance strengthens the organizations that work to enrich communities and provide many legal aid clients with social services, enabling the nonprofits to provide much needed services more effectively and efficiently.

The Law Project launched a nonprofit boot camp for start-up nonprofits, providing emerging nonprofit leaders with the foundational knowledge and best practices they need to lead efficient and sustainable organizations. The participants attend five workshops: the roles of the nonprofit founder and initial board, fund development, business plan preparation, budget creation, and legal steps to obtaining tax exemption. At the end of the series, leaders are well educated about creating a nonprofit organization. A

founder who completes the program will have the ability to recruit skilled board members, as well as understand the documentation, business planning, and resources necessary to establish a successful organization.

Additionally, The Law Project developed staff expertise for assisting nonprofit organizations in financial turmoil, assessing options including dissolution, bankruptcy, or entering strategic alliances.

The Law Project also participated in and hosted over 40 workshops on topics of interest to low income entrepreneurs and nonprofit organizations that were attended by over 1300 people. In addition, The Law Project participated in 20 outreach events, resource fairs, and business expos.

The Law Project coordinated transactional legal assistance for over 450 nonprofit organizations, low income entrepreneurs, and first time home buyers, providing pro bono opportunities for more than 650 attorneys. Since June 2003, over 400 individuals have bought their first home with the assistance of volunteer attorneys provided through The Law Project's Homeownership Program. The Law Project also coordinated pro bono assistance from an accountant for six of its clients. The accountant assisted clients by reviewing past tax returns for accuracy, recommending better bookkeeping systems, preparing financials for business plans, and suggesting accounting software.

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"The Law Project launched a nonprofit boot camp for start-up nonprofits, providing emerging nonprofit leaders with the foundational knowledge and best practices they need to lead efficient and sustainable organizations."



Strengthening Nonprofits to Build Communities

LAF spearheaded a conference that brought together an interdisciplinary group of family attorneys, immigration attorneys, domestic violence advocates, and mental health professionals to address the issues facing immigrant survivors in the Chicago Metropolitan area. This was a unique opportunity for professionals who approached the issue from various perspectives to dialogue and learn from one another. The conference hosted national experts in the area of Cultural Relativism, International Family Law and Child Abduction, and Trauma Theory, as well as Immigration experts in U-visa petition and Consular Processing.

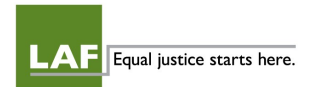
The two-day conference was held at DePaul School for New Learning on June 4th and 5th, 2012. The conference was a collaborative project of LAF, Chicago Metropolitan Battered Women's Network, Korean American Women in Need, and Life Span. Health providers, including social workers, counselors, and advocates, were trained on family and immigration law remedies. Attorneys, paralegals, and others were trained on the mental and physical impacts of trauma on survivors' quality of life, health, and behavioral responses. The agenda included renowned national experts such Sujata Warriar, Dr. Carole Warshaw, Dr. Mary Fabri, Pamela Brown,

LAF: Conference on Immigrant Survivors

and Sonia Parras-Konrad. The organizers were committed to assembling a diverse group of stakeholders as participants and speakers for the conference. One of the capacity gaps noted by the advocates and attorneys was the paucity of trained and accessible mental health providers. The issues of trauma and vicarious trauma were discussed and all participants received the book Trauma Stewardship by Laura Van Dernoot Lipsky. Language access was another pervasive issue in serving immigrant survivors addressed at the conference. LAF invited national expert Cannon Han of the Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence to develop

strategies to increase access to services. LAF and its partners will continue to work on addressing the needs of immigrant survivors, building upon the networking that the conference afforded.

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Chicago Lawyers' Committee
for Civil Rights Under Law, Inc.

Chicago's Partnership for Equal Justice

In partnership with Kirkland & Ellis, DLA Piper, and numerous other organizations and law firms, The Chicago Lawyers' Committee's Voting Rights Project led Chicago's Election Protection efforts. Project staff and volunteers fielded more than 3,000 calls during the Presidential election, connecting individuals to the information and resources enabling them to exercise their most basic and fundamental right – the right to vote.

In 2012, The Chicago Lawyers' Committee revived its Voting Rights Project.

Project staff worked closely with the National Lawyers' Committee, which runs the nation's largest non-partisan Election Protection Project dedicated to ensuring every eligible voter is able to cast a ballot that is counted. More than 100 lawyers volunteered in the field, helping to direct voters to polling places and find registration information. Election Protection volunteers covered Chicago, Cook County, Lake County, DuPage County, Kane County, McHenry County, and Aurora. Volunteers fielded calls through the nationwide 866-OUR-VOTE hotline from throughout the state as well

Chicago Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law: Voting Rights Project

as from Indiana. Amid a temporary outage of the City of Chicago's website on Election Day, Election Protection volunteers were a trusted safety net, helping voters to navigate issues with poll volunteers, find their polling place, and fully understand their rights.

Leading up to the election, Voting Rights Project staff attorney Marissa Liebling served as a panelist for the Chicago Bar Association Legal Aid Committee – Protecting Voters' Rights. During the 2012 Election, as well as numerous other public forums. Voting Rights staff trained dozens of attorneys

and legal volunteers in Election Protection training events throughout the region. The Voting Rights Project continues to monitor important litigation and policy issues concerning the right to vote. Voting Rights staff is currently writing a report, identifying challenges to voting during the election season, and organizing election protection efforts for the upcoming local elections. The Chicago Lawyers' Committee supports the same day registration bill and continues to monitor provisional ballots for litigation.

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"LAF spearheaded a conference that brought together an interdisciplinary group of family attorneys, immigration attorneys, domestic violence advocates, and mental health professionals to address the issues facing immigrant survivors in the Chicago Metropolitan area."

Petitioners filing to expunge or seal their records in the Sixth Municipal District no longer have to travel to the Daley Center to receive free legal assistance. At the request of Presiding Judge Marjorie Laws, CGLA launched its Markham Help Desk in September of 2012, providing access to legal help for hundreds of individuals.

The Sixth Municipal District has the second highest number of expungement and sealing petitions filed in Cook County, but CGLA used to offer services only at the

Expungement Help Desk in the Daley Center. Motivated individuals residing in the Sixth Municipal District who wanted to better their future had to travel fifty miles round trip or over an hour and a half one way on public transportation to Chicago to access free legal assistance. Further, due to the demand at CGLA's Daley Center Help Desk, individuals often have to arrive by 8:30 a.m. to get on the list to see an attorney who will research their criminal record, explain eligibility under the law, and prepare the correct paperwork to expunge or seal.

Presiding Judge Marjorie Laws was uniquely aware of the injustice of not having legal assistance for petitioners in her courthouse, as she alone rules on the nearly 2,000 petitions filed each year in the Sixth Municipal District. She was forced to deny relief to individuals who simply didn't understand the process or filled out incomplete or inaccurate paperwork. Judge Laws approached CGLA for help with the problem of unrepresented petitioners filing for relief, and requested that CGLA's criminal records assistance be

available in her district as well. Without specific funding to expand its services, CGLA worked over the course of a year to position itself to provide the requested and needed aid. The Markham Help Desk launched in September of 2012 and has provided legal assistance to over 300 individuals in its first few months of operation.

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CGLA Cabrini Green Legal Aid

Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers: Expanded Clinic

In 2012, CLAIM expanded the locations clients can access CLAIM's Jail Clinic program to include rehabilitation or parole centers. Increasing the locations led to an expansion of CLAIM's network of pro bono volunteers, resulting in more services provided to more clients. CLAIM is focused on expanding the network geographically to engage volunteers throughout Chicagoland.

This past year, CLAIM successfully expanded the amount, type, and geographic location of volunteers involved in its Jail Clinic Program. The Jail Clinic program trains pro bono attorneys to provide services to women in pretrial detention. CLAIM is working creatively to open up opportunities for inactive and retired attorneys, paralegals, and law students as well as active attorneys outside of Chicago.

Thanks to an expansion in CLAIM's Jail Clinic Program, clients in pretrial rehabilitation or parole centers without access to transportation have access to legal services. Many of the mothers in these programs live together with their children. Unlike Cook County Jail, these locations provide law students, paralegals, and inactive and retired attorneys with easy opportunities to visit clients. The legal services volunteers provide greatly

impact these vulnerable families. CLAIM is excited to work with this expanded volunteer pool to serve more vulnerable families.

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Center for Conflict Resolution: Flow Chart for Referring Agencies

Recognizing the rise in prominence of alternative dispute resolution, including mediation, to ease the strain in the court system, CCR is creating initiatives to inform the legal community and general public about the value and availability of mediation. While the large majority of CCR's mediation referrals come from the Circuit Court of Cook County, CCR also mediates cases referred from other agencies

and community organizations. As a helpful tool, CCR has developed a flow chart (next page) that can help referring agencies decide when a case might be most appropriate for mediation.

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Center for Conflict Resolution



Center for Conflict Resolution

Is this case appropriate for mediation?

