



December 3, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

President

Helaine M. Barnett

Board of Directors

Frank B. Strickland
Atlanta, GA
Chairman

Michael D. McKay
Seattle, WA
Vice Chairman

Jonann C. Chiles
Little Rock, AR

Thomas A. Fuentes
Lake Forest, CA

Herbert S. Garten
Baltimore, MD

David Hall
Boston, MA

Thomas R. Meites
Chicago, IL

Laurie Mikva
Evanston, IL

Bernice Phillips-Jackson
Buffalo, NY

Sarah M. Singleton
Santa Fe, NM

As many of you will recall, in connection with the March 2009 Yale Law School Colloquium on legal services and law schools, we asked programs to provide LSC with information about existing partnerships between LSC-funded programs and law schools. While we did not receive responses from all programs in every state, we did receive a substantial amount of material. We now want to share this information throughout the LSC community. We hope that this wide array of examples of successful and creative collaborations with law schools will encourage you to enhance and expand your relationships with the law schools in your communities.

The material you provided demonstrates that many legal aid programs have developed ongoing, strong collaborations with law schools in their areas. Law school professors serve on the boards of directors, as co-counsel on cases, as editors of legal handbooks and manuals and as scouts for talent so that our programs can hire the right people at the right time. Students, as you might expect, also are a vital resource for our programs. They participate through work/study placements, clinics and as volunteers. They compete for internships, externships and summer clerkships.

As this material shows, our programs recognize that an essential way to instill equal justice as an underlying value in the legal profession is to embed it in legal education. That is why our involvement with law schools is so important to the future of civil legal aid and access to justice.

The LSC staff has compiled this information and posted it on the LSC Resource Information (LRI) website, at this link:
http://www.lsc.gov/pdfs/law_school_partnerships.pdf.

We hope you find this compilation of diverse, successful and creative collaborations with law schools to be a valuable resource.

Sincerely,

Law School Partnerships with LSC-Funded Programs

State	Client Representation	Clinical Collaborations	Education & Training	Joint Grant Projects ¹	Shared Expertise ²	Legal Research	Internships & Externships
Arizona	X						
Arkansas	X						X
California		X	X				X
District of Columbia	X		X				X
Florida	X		X				X
Georgia	X	X	X		X	X	X
Illinois	X						X
Indiana	X		X	X	X	X	X
Iowa	X	X			X		X
Kansas			X				X
Kentucky	X					X	X
Maine	X						X
Massachusetts			X		X	X	X
Minnesota	X		X			X	X
Missouri	X		X	X	X	X	X
Nebraska	X			X		X	X
New Mexico							X
New York	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
North Carolina	X		X		X	X	X
North Dakota							X
Ohio	X						X
Pennsylvania	X		X				X
South Dakota							X
Vermont		X		X	X		
Washington	X	X	X		X	X	X
Wisconsin							X

¹ Legal aid programs and law schools join together to obtain a grant or other funding.

² Personnel are shared among legal aid programs and law schools, e.g., a law professor serving on the board of a legal aid program or a legal aid attorney teaching a law school course.

Arizona

Anthony L. Young, Executive Director Southern Arizona Legal Aid

Southern Arizona Legal Aid (SALA) has a program with the University of Arizona, James E. Rogers College of Law, using law students and volunteer lawyers to assist pro se clients in guardianship cases and in community outreach activities. Below is a link to SALA's VLP website which provides information on SALA's work with the law school. <http://www.vlparizona.org/LawStudents.htm>

From Website:

A Partnership Linking Students and Legal Professionals through Volunteer Opportunities: In the fall of 1999, the Volunteer Lawyers Program (VLP) and the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law formed a partnership, VLP Advocates, to help deliver legal services to those Pima County residents most in need of civil legal help. The idea behind the partnership began to take shape when law students who serve on the University's Community Service Board began to discuss ways in which law students could get involved in law-related community service

Arkansas

Jean Turner Carter, Executive Director Center for Arkansas Legal Services

Our program collaborates with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock (UALR) Bowen School of Law in several ways:

1. Referrals to the Civil Litigation Legal Clinic—about 30 case referrals per year (primarily family law cases). Students work on cases and represent low-income clients under the supervision of the law school's clinical director.
2. Participation in the Externship Program—two externs per semester work 100 hours per semester at our Little Rock office. The law students receive 2 hours course credit.
3. Participation in the IOLTA Fellowship Intern Program—work/study intern program. One law student per semester, who is financing their own legal education, is selected for a paid internship position at our Little Rock office. The Arkansas IOLTA Foundation provides the funding. (The Arkansas IOLTA Foundation also funds a similar paid law intern position for the Fayetteville office of Legal Aid of Arkansas for law students at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville School of Law.)
4. Participation in the Dean's Certificate for Public Service program by recruiting and hosting volunteer law clerks. (A student who completes 100 hours of public service during a 12-month period in which the student is in good standing at UALR School of Law will be awarded a Dean's Certificate of Service, with the award noted on the

student's transcript. A student who completes 300 hours of public service during the period the student is in good standing at UALR School of Law will be awarded a Dean's Certificate of Distinguished Service, which will also be noted on the student's transcript.)

5. Participation in several programs sponsored by the Career Services department of the law school: Public Interest Job Fair and Mock Job Interview Skills.

As a legal services intern or extern, law students gain critical experience, including:

- Courtroom and Trial Skills
- Drafting Pleadings
- Legal Research
- Client Interviews
- Case Investigation

California

Robert J. Cohen, Executive Director Legal Aid Society of Orange County (LASOC)

LASOC has long-standing relationships with law schools, including formal partnerships, informal networking, special projects and other ventures.

Formal Partnerships. Law students from Chapman University School of Law, Whittier Law School and Western State University College of Law volunteer or intern at LASOC year-round and provide much-needed support to staff attorneys. They assist with legal research and writing, conduct intake, perform client interviews, staff LASOC's Hotline, participate in attorney-led workshops and clinics, and attend outreach events. LASOC's Senior Citizens Legal Advocacy Program participates in the Alona Cortezi Elder Law Clinic at Chapman University School of Law, where trained and certified law students work on court cases under the supervision of staff attorneys. LASOC's Litigation Unit and special projects such as the Health Consumer Action Center and MedLaw Project (its Medical-Legal Partnership with the University of California, Irvine Medical Center) actively engage law students in these tasks. LASOC also provides volunteer and internship opportunities to out-of-state law students who return to Orange County during the summer, at which time the program has as many as 30 law student volunteers or interns. LASOC also offers Work Study opportunities to students of Western State University College of Law.

LASOC also has a relationship with Harvard Law School, and particularly with Professor Jeanne Charn, the Director of the Bellow Sacks Access to Civil Legal Services Project. LASOC's long-standing relationship with Professor Charn has led LASOC to become involved with and support the establishment of Community Lawyers, Inc. in Compton, California. Community Lawyers, Inc. is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization which aims to increase legal service delivery in underserved areas by mentoring and training lawyers and paralegals to serve low- and moderate- income clients and their communities.

Informal Networking and Special Projects. LASOC regularly presents information about the program to administrative staff, faculty and students of area law schools. In 2008, LASOC met with the Dean of Chapman University School of Law and with the Dean of the University of California (UCI), Irvine School of Law, to discuss future partnership opportunities. LASOC is working with the newly-established UCI School of Law (which opened its first class of students in August 2009) on developing various clinical opportunities.

District of Columbia

Brenda Ford Harding, Executive Director Neighborhood Legal Services Program

The Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP) believes that enabling law students to see firsthand what it is like to do *pro bono* work in cooperation with legal services attorneys and community-based organizations is a valuable and rewarding experience, which could lead to increasing numbers of attorneys working within the Public Interest Law field. In furtherance of this goal, NLSP attends and recruits legal interns from Public Interest/Public Service Career Fairs held bi-annually at several law schools in the Washington, D.C., area, including George Washington University, Catholic University, Georgetown University, University of the District of Columbia, American University and the William & Mary School of Law. On these occasions, NLSP staff attorneys who are alumni from many of the law schools, volunteer to attend the events in an effort to put a “personal face” on the opportunities public interest law provides.

Legal interns selected by managing attorneys volunteer to work on cases at NLSP offices including, if necessary, those with *pro bono* volunteers. In turn, the legal interns work a minimum eight hours weekly during the semester and at least 40 hours weekly in the summer on a variety of cases and issues for NLSP staff attorneys and volunteer lawyers. Several legal interns receive stipends from Equal Justice Works for their legal employment at NLSP and many earn applicable college credits. In addition, Georgetown University Law School collaborates with NLSP to make available law students who speak foreign languages or are trained in American Sign Language to assist our clients. On behalf of the clients, the law students help staff attorneys with legal interpretation, hearings and other functions, which enhance the representation.

On occasion, American University’s College of Law refers to NLSP visiting scholars from its Humphreys Fellows Program, who are international students with specific legal research issues. For spring semester 2009, a law student from Morogoro, Tanzania is observing NLSP’s free legal clinics in an effort to gain an understanding of what is required to replicate similar programs in her home village. Furthermore, NLSP collaborates with Catholic University School of Law and the District of Columbia Bar Pro Bono Program in the Small Claims Resource Center at the District of Columbia Superior Court. The partnership was created to offer legal information and referrals to *pro se*

litigants so that they can successfully (or at least knowledgeably) proceed through Small Claims Court.

Throughout our endeavors with law schools, NLSP has learned that positive legal internships with law students equate into good will and enthusiasm on behalf of the organization. The students reciprocate by recommending NLSP to peers as a viable workplace. This increases the number of law students who seek internships with NLSP and then venture to find employment in the public interest sector.

Florida

Dick Woltmann, Executive Director Bay Area Legal Services

Bay Area Legal Services (Bay Area) in Tampa, Florida, has had a long-term relationship with Stetson Law School. Stetson has campuses in St. Petersburg and Tampa. Throughout the year, student interns from Stetson are assigned to teams at Bay Area for their internship experience.

Barbara J. Prager, Executive Director Coast to Coast Legal Aid of South Florida

Our program has a professional working relationship, although somewhat informal, with Nova Southeastern University's Shepard Broad Law School. On an annual basis, we attend the law school's Public Interest Law Day. This is an opportunity that the law school extends to its students. Representatives from our program visit the law school campus and meet with law students individually to educate them about our program. As part of the discussion, we often have the opportunity to recruit law students for summer internships. We may also discuss future employment opportunities. Every summer, and occasionally during the school year, we have several law students who volunteer with our program.

Our program also has an informal relationship with St. Thomas University Law School and their law students also volunteer with our program, although on a less frequent basis.

Georgia

Steve Gottlieb, Executive Director Atlanta Legal Aid Society

We have many of the same arrangements with our local law schools (Emory and Georgia State) that many other legal aid programs have. We get interns from both during the year; they work with general units of the program as well as on some of our special projects including the Senior Citizens Law Project, Relative Caregiver Project (which represent grandparents and other relatives in adoption and custody cases) and

Breast Cancer Project. We also get summer students and work study students through our local schools and from around the country.

There are two special projects which are not typical. First is our HeLP Project, which is a medical legal collaborative among Legal Aid, Georgia State School of Law and Children's Hospitals. Under the collaboration, we provide two staff attorneys and an office administrator; the school provides the HeLP Project manager (one of our former managing attorneys), a clinical director and 6-8 students a year. (The hospital provides office space in a building next to one of their hospitals and individual offices in each of their three hospitals.) We were the first (may be the only program) in the country which has this three party collaboration.

The other project may be unique. About 10 years ago, we won the landmark disability case of *Olmstead v. LC and EW*, in the United States Supreme Court, which required that states provide community care for institutionalized people under the ADA. We held a 10-year commemorative celebration of the Olmstead victory with Georgia State and with a local law firm in October. The celebration included a symposium on Olmstead issues at the school and plans for a law review edition published about them. We also may be able to develop an Olmstead fellow with the law school and with the firm.

**Phyllis Holmen, Executive Director
Georgia Legal Services Program**

Georgia Legal Services Program (GLSP) has excellent working relationships with all of the law schools in Georgia, and special ongoing projects with several of them. Many GLSP staff know the deans and faculty members of the various schools and these personal relationships are important to ongoing collaboration on projects that come up from time to time.

Georgia has five law schools: the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, Mercer University, Emory University, and John Marshall Law School. We recruit for summer associate and staff attorney positions at all of the schools.

We have established cooperative projects at both the University of Georgia and Mercer University law schools so we are able to have law students perform research and write legal memos on significant "real" issues that impact clients. It benefits our staff as well as the students who have the opportunity to do additional research and writing projects and get meaningful feedback from both their supervising faculty and from the GLSP staff person.

University of Georgia, Athens, GA (UGA)

The Special Education Law Clinic was started by GLSP's Specialist in Education and Mental Health Law, following his selection as the first recipient of the Cousins Fellowship, sponsored by the law school.

GLSP attorneys serve as adjunct faculty. GLSP alums are a mainstay of the Law School's clinical faculty. GLSP staff have lectured on various topics to public interest students and provided presentations on public interest careers.

In addition to summer associates, we have student volunteers and externs.

GLSP staff have served with law school faculty on a number of "outside" task forces, boards, committees, and the like, such as the Georgia Supreme Court's Commission on Indigent Defense, the Georgia "Justice Builders" group, and others.

GLSP staff have been presenters at the annual Working In The Public Interest (WIPI) conference, organized by the law students.

The Managing Attorney of the Gainesville GLSP office is a Master with the Chattahoochee Inn of Court, which involves UGA students.

Mercer University, Macon, GA

GLSP has many Mercer graduates on staff, and these alums stay closely involved with their school. This relationship has greatly benefited our office in Macon, which houses a volunteer Program for Mercer students who perform research and other projects for GLSP staff.

The law school faculty annually sponsor two Dan Bradley Summer Fellows at the GLSP Macon office, in honor of one of the early presidents of LSC.

GLSP staff have been recipients of the annual ETHOS (Extending The Hand Of Service) award, a fundraiser which supports public interest summer internships.

Emory, Atlanta

GLSP staff have been recipients of the annual EPIC (Emory Public Interest Council) awards, a fundraiser which supports public interest summer internships, and we have been the worksites for several EPIC scholars.

GLSP staff have lectured on various topics to public interest students and provided presentations on public interest careers.

Georgia State, Atlanta (GSU)

GLSP staff have lectured on various topics to public interest students and provided presentations on public interest careers.

GLSP accepts referrals of clients from the GSU Health Law Project.

The GLSP Executive Director is a Master of the GSU Bleckley Inn of Court. Several GLSP staff have been Barristers with this Inn.

John Marshall Law School, Atlanta

This is a relatively newly-accredited free-standing law school. We know the Dean and several faculty. We have had summer associates from John Marshall.

The former Chair of the Georgia Clients Council (GCC) initiated a relationship with this law school that was intended to provide law students to provide legal research on various projects of the GCC.

Other law schools

The GLSP Executive Director has been asked to address classes and groups of public interest students at several other law schools, including Yale University, the University of Illinois, and Stetson University in Florida.

Illinois

Linda Zazove, Deputy Director

Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.

We have four law schools convenient to our offices. In the St. Louis area, Washington University and St. Louis University law schools are convenient to our Alton and East St. Louis offices. The University of Illinois College of Law is located in Champaign where we have an office, and the Southern Illinois University School of Law is located in Carbondale, very close to our office.

Over the years, we have engaged in many different projects with the law schools. We hire law students full-time during the summer months and when funding permits, part-time during the school year. Washington University provides a stipend for students during the summer months to work at public interest law firms. This has enabled us to use as many as six or seven law students in the Alton and East St. Louis offices during the summer. In Carbondale and Champaign, we have a number of law students each semester and in the summer who work for credit through an extern program or who volunteer.

In addition to using law students in our offices, over the years, we have had a number of special projects with the law schools. Washington University School of Law has a joint degree program with the School of Social Work. We have supervised students getting joint degrees in several different projects, including our new Education Advocacy Project.

Following is a description of two current projects with law schools: The Law School Domestic Violence Partnership and our Pro Se Clinic Project.

The Law School Domestic Violence Partnership is a collaboration between Land of Lincoln, three law schools and four domestic violence programs to increase capacity to meet the legal needs of victims in central and southern Illinois. Experienced domestic violence attorneys deliver direct services to victims and supervise clinical law students

in three of Land of Lincoln's offices: Alton, Champaign, and Carbondale. The project serves victims in sixteen counties. Our Alton office partners with St. Louis University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri to serve victims in the Illinois counties of Madison, Calhoun, Jersey, Macoupin, Greene, and Bond. Our Champaign office partners with the University of Illinois (UI) College of Law in Champaign-Urbana. The Partnership with UI serves victims in five counties: Ford, Vermilion, Champaign, Piatt, and Douglas. Our Carbondale office works with Southern Illinois University School of Law in Carbondale and serves victims in Franklin, Williamson, Jackson, Union and Perry counties.

By using clinical law students from local law schools, the Partnership provides a unique opportunity to increase capacity to meet the needs of more victims, while at the same time, training a new generation of advocates on the needs of victims. Because of the academic calendar, most law school clinics handle discrete legal proceedings and are not able to handle protracted proceedings involving divorce, contested custody, visitation and support issues. Through this project, the students are obtaining experience on the full range of legal issues encountered by victims.

The legal aid and law school clinic collaboration is different at each site based on the law school's current clinical model and the domestic violence service delivery system in place in each county. One objective of the project is to educate and sensitize law students to domestic violence and the needs of victims. When these students graduate and begin to practice law, they will know and understand more about domestic violence than the vast majority of attorneys practicing law today. These experiences cannot help but make a difference in the communities where these graduates live and practice law.

Hopefully, some students will be encouraged to undertake careers in public interest law focused on the needs of domestic violence victims. For others who go into private practice, this practical experience working with victims will be invaluable if they practice family law and represent victims who can afford an attorney. It should also encourage them to undertake pro bono work on behalf of low-income victims, no matter what type of law they end up practicing. For law students who end up in prosecutor's offices, this experience will increase their understanding of domestic violence and encourage aggressive prosecution of domestic violence.

Our Pro Se Divorce Clinic project is a collaboration between our Carbondale office and the Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Law. We conduct 12 clinics per year. The clinics are conducted once per month at the SIU School of Law and each clinic consists of two sessions. For each clinic the students are provided with easy to complete fill-in-the-blank forms, including written instructions on how to complete them as well as written instructions on the steps one must take in order to obtain a divorce pro se. These forms and instructions are also available on-line at the Law School's Self-Help website. The students are also told they can use automated forms on the Illinois Legal Aid Online site.

Each clinic is conducted by an attorney who takes the students through each of the steps and discusses the purpose of each of the documents the student uses. The

instructor also uses “Smart Board” technology available at the Law School. The Smart Board allows us to project a PowerPoint presentation that has been integrated into the clinic. This presentation allows the class to not only hear the instructor talking about the procedures and issues, but also to see these in writing on the screen. The legal forms can also be accessed from within the PowerPoint presentation and projected on the screen. Once on the screen the instructor can demonstrate how a student might complete the forms by filling in blanks that appear on the screen with an erasable pen.

We also use distance-learning technology to broadcast the class to another site. Because we serve a large geographic area, it is sometimes difficult for clients to make it to the Law School for the class. The broadcast allows us to reach more students than we could if all the students had to come to Carbondale. The Law School provides the equipment and their tech coordinator for this broadcast. Our other partner in the broadcast, Rend Lake College in Ina, IL, provides space, their tech coordinator, and an assistant to distribute forms to the students and facilitate the smooth functioning of the class at the remote site. The technology allows the students to have virtually the same experience as the students in Carbondale. They get the same view of the Smart Board and can communicate in real time with the instructor.

Indiana

Norman P. Metzger, Executive Director Indiana Legal Services

Our involvement with the 4 law schools in Indiana, both historically and currently, is extensive. I am listing, in no particular order, examples of this involvement and interaction:

1. Because of the size of our Board of Directors, we enjoy the benefit of 3 law school professors serving as Indiana Legal Services (ILS) Board members. One is a faculty member of the Indiana University (IU) School of Law – Bloomington, appointed to the ILS Board by the Monroe County Bar Association. He directs the IU Law School Clinic and assigns student interns to our Bloomington branch office who receive academic credit for their internships. These law students are technically called externs when the student works out of the ILS office under the tutelage of ILS attorneys. Third-year law students are permitted to practice law under an Indiana Supreme Court rule when supervised by a legal aid attorney and providing services to clients represented by legal aid organizations. Another professor, a faculty member of the IU School of Law – Indianapolis, is appointed to the ILS Board by the Dean of the IU School of Law – Indianapolis. The ILS by-laws require one board appointee to come from the IU School of Law – Indianapolis. The third professor, a faculty member and former dean of the Valparaiso University School of Law, is appointed to the ILS Board by the Lake County Bar Association. The latter two are former legal services attorneys. One was a staff attorney with ILS in the Indianapolis branch office and one was a staff attorney with the Maumee Valley Legal Services in Fort Wayne. These professors play a crucial role in legal services delivery by

sensitizing law students to the needs of the poor while they are in law school and often have created opportunities for students to do pro bono activities.

2. Currently, 4 of our attorneys serve as adjunct professors at 3 of the 4 law schools in Indiana. The managing attorney of the Bloomington office teaches a course in poverty law at the IU School of Law – Bloomington. The poverty law course was initiated by the school to broaden the law school’s curriculum. An attorney in our Bloomington office teaches a course in legal ethics at the IU School of Law – Bloomington. A staff attorney in our South Bend office teaches a course in disability law at the Notre Dame Law School. A staff attorney in our Indianapolis office is supervising the Civil Clinic at the IU School of Law – Indianapolis during the law school’s search for a new civil clinical director.
3. The IU School of Law – Bloomington funds the Elder Law Clinic, which provides extensive opportunities for law students to provide direct representation of elder law clients and research assistance to ILS Bloomington staff attorneys serving seniors. The Low-Income Taxpayer Clinic (LITC) in the ILS Bloomington office is funded by the IRS. The LITC grant requires law students to assist in the delivery of legal assistance to low-income tax clients. Both Clinics provide opportunities to over 40 students per semester. The IU School of Law Clinic in Indianapolis directly handles cases referred by the ILS Indianapolis office to the Clinic. The clinical law students are supervised by a staff attorney in our Indianapolis office and the cases are treated as ILS cases when closed. Historically, the IU Clinic in Indianapolis assigned clinical professors to our offices and the students worked out of the ILS offices. With the opening of the new law school building approximately 5 years ago, the Clinic is now housed at the school itself and cases are assigned to the Clinic by the Indianapolis managing attorney. The Clinic originally began as a result of a Community Legal Assistance Office (CLAO) grant to the IU School of Law – Indianapolis in 1973. All of these Clinics provide opportunities to introduce students to poverty law issues and help ILS to identify law students we would like to employ.
4. The ILS Migrant Farmworker Law Center (MFLC) has historically hired from 4–6 bilingual law students each summer to outreach farmworker clients in the migrant camps around Indiana. The current MFLC Director worked as an intern while attending law school. She is the first recipient of Public Interest Recognition Dinner sponsored by the Equal Justice Works student association of the IU School of Law – Indianapolis.
5. ILS has been a sponsor of the Equal Justice Works student association supporting them with various fundraisers including the annual Jog for Justice run and their annual campaign to raise funds for fellowships and funding for an LRAP for Indianapolis graduates who go to work for public interest organizations.
6. A professor of the Valparaiso University School of Law and a professor of the Notre Dame Law School assisted the Housing Law Center director in our Bloomington office in a 2-day mortgage foreclosure training program at the law school in April 2008. The cooperation with the law professors and schools directly led to the

\$240,000 grant from the Institute for Foreclosure Legal Assistance. The grant helps fund 3 staff attorneys to provide legal assistance to clients threatened with mortgage foreclosures in the Merrillville and South Bend offices service areas. An IU School of Law professor is collaborating with another ILS Board member, who is counsel to the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority, to sponsor a similar mortgage foreclosure training event. The professor has requested the assistance of the ILS Housing Law Center in providing training materials and presenters.

7. The Valparaiso University School of Law has a mandatory graduation requirement that graduating seniors must have provided 20 hours of pro bono services to organizations and clients before they can receive their diploma. The IU School of Law – Indianapolis has a similar rule but it is aspirational, not mandatory, for graduation. Both schools have staff that develop pro bono opportunities for their law students and ILS cooperates with the schools to provide a variety of opportunities for these students.
8. The Indiana Bar Foundation, the Indiana State Bar Association’s Pro Bono Committee and ILS collaborated on an in-depth legal needs study (LNS) for two years. The LNS involved the Indiana University Survey Research Center, which conducted a telephone survey of clients, the completion of questionnaires by ILS stakeholders including pro bono plan administrators, judges, private attorneys, ILS Board members, ILS clients, ILS staff, social service providers and 8 focus group meetings around Indiana with 4 in urban centers and 4 in rural communities. The LNS working group was co-chaired by a professor of family law and mediation at the IU School of Law – Bloomington. This initiative led to publication of “Unequal Access to Justice: A Comprehensive Study of the Civil Legal Needs of the Poor in Indiana.” The involvement of the professor has given the LNS the necessary expertise and academic credentials to give increased credibility to the LNS. During this process, the professor, the lead trainer in the family law mediation certification training, invited the ILS executive director to participate as a trainer and presenter on mediation issues involving parties with domestic violence.

Iowa

Dennis Groenenboom, Executive Director

Iowa Legal Aid

Working on relationships with law schools is important for developing a long-term and continuing strategy to have future generations of lawyers understand the importance of legal aid and hopefully contribute both financially and with their volunteer time.

In Iowa, there are two law schools, Drake University Law School, located in Des Moines, and the University of Iowa College of Law, located in Iowa City. Iowa Legal Aid has offices in both of those communities. Our relationship with both law schools has been longstanding. Examples include:

- For many of the more than 30 years that Iowa Legal Aid has been in existence (but not currently), there was a representative of one of the law schools on Iowa Legal Aid's Board of Directors, serving as an appointee of the Iowa State Bar Association.
- Iowa's law schools have clinical programs. The University of Iowa College of Law has placed externs through their clinical program in Iowa Legal Aid offices for many years. Although the Drake program does not routinely place students with Iowa Legal Aid offices as part of their clinical program, Iowa Legal Aid does work with the clinic in referring cases and in educational efforts.
- For over 15 years there has been a program funded by Iowa's IOLTA program that provides funds to allow students attending Drake and Iowa to be employed during the summer months in Iowa Legal Aid offices. In fact, in recent years, the Drake University Law School has been able to leverage a portion of their IOLTA grant with work study money so that the number of Drake University students working during the summer in Iowa Legal Aid regional offices is three to four times the number that would be available without the work study grants.
- In the past year Iowa Legal Aid has undertaken efforts to work with the University of Iowa College of Law to implement systems to assist pro se litigants. The Iowa Supreme Court recently approved forms for use by pro se litigants in family law cases involving dissolutions of marriage where there are no children or property, as well as in child support cases. Working with students and volunteer attorneys, Iowa Legal Aid staff help coordinate clinics where these students and volunteers assist pro se litigants in ensuring that they are filling out the forms properly.

Beginning later this year, this project has been expanded to involve students in assisting persons who are filing bankruptcy pro se as well. This pilot project is being designed as a way to try to determine whether students can effectively assist pro se litigants in bankruptcy proceedings.

Kansas

Marilyn Harp, Executive Director Kansas Legal Services

The University of Kansas School of Law is in the top 10 nationally in clinic opportunities for students. Two of those clinics are partnerships involving Kansas Legal Services. The Elder Law Clinic coursework is taught by the Executive Director of Kansas Legal Services (KLS). KLS receives payment for the services of the ED, as adjunct faculty. The students in this clinic spend 80 hours a semester involved in actual case work in Kansas Legal Services offices. During an academic year, over 250 senior Kansans have received advice or representation from the six students involved in this program. One of these students became a staff attorney with KLS upon graduation.

Recently, Kansas Legal Services has initiated a partnership with KU Law School and the Southwest Blvd Family Medical Clinic (Kansas City, KS) to provide a new clinic opportunity. Beginning in January, 2008, ten students began delivering services upon referral from health care providers at the clinic. Supervision of students in the Legal Clinic is provided by a long-time staff member of KLS, under a professional services agreement.

As you may know, the mascot of the University of Kansas is the Jayhawk. Many KU medical students volunteer at the Family Medical Clinic. This group of medical volunteers has become known as the Jay Docs. Seeking a parallel, but significant name for their efforts, the law students working with this clinic have dubbed themselves the "Law Hawks."

This partnership has allowed a long term KLS staff attorney the opportunity to share her knowledge of poverty law areas with students, to use the students as extenders of the services she is able to provide and to inspire these students to continue, as volunteers or staff, to meet the unmet needs of low-income Kansans.

Kentucky

Scott Crocker, Executive Director Kentucky Legal Aid

Kentucky Legal Aid (KLA) has coordinated with the state's three law schools primarily through participation in summer internship programs funded by the schools or by the Kentucky IOLTA foundation. We have also used law students on occasion to perform legal research. Recently, a faculty member of the University of Kentucky School of Law co-counseled on a KLA case that went before the state supreme court.

Kentucky Legal Aid's direct collaborative efforts with law schools have been somewhat limited because there are no law schools within KLA's service area.

Dick Cullison, Executive Director Legal Aid of the Bluegrass

Legal Aid of the Bluegrass (LABG) is proud to have such a longstanding relationship with the Salmon P. Chase College of Law. The partnership we have forged offers a mutually advantageous arena for the furtherance of legal scholarship, education, and the growth of the legal profession not only in the Northern Kentucky area but throughout the Commonwealth, Southern Ohio and beyond. Chase Law School and Legal Aid have collaborated on the following projects with tremendous success.

Each academic semester, including summer sessions, The Chase Center for Excellence in Advocacy places 1-2 law students in a clinical externship with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass. The Director of Clinical Programs for the Center for Advocacy and the Director of Advocacy for Legal Aid work closely to determine which students will be

placed in the program. The Chase students are given a limited license to practice law under the supervision of a fully licensed attorney. This limited license allows the students practical experience in the courtroom to work on administrative hearings, wrongful evictions, divorce proceedings, and other real world legal scenarios.

The Chase Law Advocate Program serves both as a student organization at Chase as well as a functioning arm of Legal Aid's Pro Se division. The Pro Se Clinic Coordinator is both a law student at Chase as well as an employee of Legal Aid. She serves as a liaison between the student body and indigent clients in need of legal assistance. Legal Aid sponsors free clinics to assist clients in filling out divorce paperwork and drafting wills and power of attorney documents. The Clinic Coordinator organizes student volunteers who actually meet with clients at the clinics to field questions and execute the appropriate legal documentation. The Law Advocate Program is an excellent venue for law students to gain real life experience interviewing and interacting with clients as well as drafting and executing simple legal documents, all under the supervision of a fully licensed attorney.

Recently the Chase College of Law instituted a pro bono requirement for all incoming law students as a component of graduation. All students are to complete fifty hours of pro bono service during their tenure at Chase. The Director of the Chase Pro Bono Service Program is instrumental in placing students with Legal Aid of the Bluegrass to assist with a variety of legal service projects and allow them to accumulate pro bono hours. Law students may also receive pro bono credit for attending the clinics offered through the Chase Law Advocate Program. We anticipate this new pro bono requirement will further strengthen the relationship we share with Chase College of Law.

For the past three years, and hopefully for many years to come, the Scripps Howard Foundation has funded a full-time paid summer law clerk fellowship at Legal Aid of the Bluegrass. This fellowship is offered to a qualified Chase student each summer to work on a specific legal project. The Scripps fellowship is advertised through the Career Development Office at Chase.

Chase Law School uses a portion of their IOLTA funding to provide two paid IOLTA fellowships to Legal Aid of the Bluegrass. Legal Aid fills those two positions as Intake Law Clerks. Our intake department is responsible for interviewing all clients over the telephone, identifying legal needs, screening clients for eligibility and assigning cases to our staff attorneys as well as assigning cases out to our pro bono panel. Sometimes these IOLTA grants fund summer interns in LABG's other offices. LABG uses students from the University of Cincinnati Law School and the University of Kentucky Law School as law clerks. Much of the time they are partially funded with work study money.

Maine

Nan Heald, Executive Director Pine Tree Legal Assistance

Pine Tree has had a longstanding relationship with the only law school in Maine, the University of Maine School of Law in Portland. Law students regularly participate in summer clerkships at Pine Tree and also work as volunteers during the academic year with the Maine Volunteer Lawyers Project, which gives them the opportunity to handle incoming requests for help and to participate in a range of pro bono initiatives, including a courthouse forms clinic and a telephone-based statewide helpline for self-represented family law litigants. Since the late 1990's, their students have also had the opportunity to participate in an externship at Pine Tree for which they receive academic credit. The current program provides up to 6 academic credits for a semester long program, typically giving students a chance to go to Court with their own cases under a special Maine bar rule.

From time to time, we have also hosted externs from other law schools with similar programs, including Thomas Cooley in Michigan and Northeastern University in Boston. And of course, our summer law clerks have come from law schools around the country, including Yale.

Since 1995, the Law School Clinic Director has also been a regular participant in state planning for legal services in Maine, through the Justice Action Group initiatives and through more informal collaborations with the other provider directors in our State. Pine Tree's Farmworker Unit has partnered with Yale Law students on at least one case related to our regional Farmworker grant.

As an aside, the director of the Yale Law Career Placement Office is a former Pine Tree Board President who practiced law in Maine for many years before taking her current position.

Massachusetts

Meg Connolly, Executive Director Volunteer Lawyers Project of the Boston Bar Association

In Boston, the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP), LSC's grantee, is a much smaller program than its partner, Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS). As part of our delivery plan for the joint service area, GBLS and VLP have divided the responsibility for services along function lines, with VLP having responsibility for the pro bono work and the hot line services. GBLS is the primary staff project. Consequently, GBLS has more relationships with the area law school clinical programs than does VLP. GBLS provides financial support to Boston College's Legal Assistance Bureau and its office in Waltham.

Much of Boston and Suffolk University Law School clinical programs operate through GBLS.

VLP, however, also works closely with the law schools. Boston College Law School and VLP sponsored an alumni and student pro bono day of service at the Boston Family Court and plan another such day in the early spring. VLP hosts students from New England Law School as part of a formal internship offered by the School. Students from Suffolk University Law School's Rappaport Center serve as interns at the Suffolk County Probate and Family Court through VLP's Senior Partners for Justice Project as well as taking on ad hoc pro bono assignments. Of course, VLP also has summer students from the area schools including Harvard, BC, BU, Suffolk and New England.

Frequently summer students continue on a reduced schedule throughout the year either as volunteers or work-study placements. VLP also has a history of serving as a placement for Northeastern Law School Coop students. Staff from VLP serve on numerous panels and as speakers at various law school functions and the executive director is a past president of the Boston College Law School Alumni Association. Obviously, the ties between area law schools and the legal services community are substantial.

**Richard McMahon, Executive Director
New Center for Legal Advocacy**

Below is a brief summary of the New Center for Legal Advocacy (NCLA's) collaboration with the one law school in our service area: The Southern New England School of Law Legal Services Clinic Program.

Operated out of NCLA's offices, the clinic provides students an opportunity to work side-by-side with attorneys and other staff in the day-to-day operation of a legal aid office.

The program is open to third- (or fourth-) year students who must commit to working 20 hours per week for the duration of either the fall or spring semesters (a shortened summer session is available). Students receive course credit and receive Massachusetts *Rule 3:03 Certification*, which is the State's student practice rule allowing students to appear in court under supervision of an attorney.

Typically, four students participate each semester supporting the work of NCLA's attorneys through research, drafting letters and pleadings, meeting with clients, accompanying attorneys to court, assisting in screening and other case-related assignments. As students progress through the semester, they are assigned cases to handle and argue in court as "lead counsel" with the assistance of NCLA attorneys.

In operation since 1998, the Clinic Program has proven beneficial for the law school, students, NCLA and especially clients who almost routinely receive a greater level of attention and assistance than would otherwise be possible with limited resources.

NCLA receives a small payment from the school for each semester and NCLA's Executive Director is considered adjunct faculty at the law school.

Minnesota

Jean A. Lastine, Executive Director Central Minnesota Legal Services

Central Minnesota Legal Services (CMLS) partners with the four law schools in Minnesota primarily through the Minnesota Justice Foundation:

The Law School Public Service Program: The Minnesota Justice Foundation (MJF) administers the law school public service program and the summer clerkship program at Hamline University School of Law, the University of Minnesota Law School, University of St. Thomas School of Law, and William Mitchell College of Law. MJF staff includes full-time and part-time staff and AmeriCorps volunteers who link law students to opportunities through the legal services community in Minnesota.

All four Minnesota law schools encourage their students to perform at least 50 hours of pro bono legal work during law school. MJF matches interested law students with volunteer opportunities in the metro area and in greater Minnesota. CMLS uses an average of four volunteer law students a semester to help with client intake in its Minneapolis office. In the rural offices, CMLS periodically schedules clinics for self-represented petitioners in dissolution of marriage proceedings. CMLS staff arrange for a local law firm to host the clinic and provide an attorney who can provide legal advice. MJF students assist CMLS pro bono coordinators in helping self-represented litigants with the paperwork. This time commitment can be four hours to eight hours for the day as the paperwork for these proceedings is quite lengthy. This partnership helps CMLS serve more clients and keeps the waiting time on family law waiting lists low.

MJF Summer Clerkship Program: MJF sponsors and funds law student summer clerkships with Legal Aid offices in Minnesota. CMLS has been selected as a host agency for a number of years. The clerks work at the direction and supervision of each Legal Services program. Each clerk works a minimum of 400 hours (ten 40 hour weeks) during the summer. CMLS and other agencies are able to choose their own clerks by screening resumes and cover letters, conducting on-campus interviews and reviewing other additional information.

CMLS always feels like we are able to serve more clients with the help of our summer clerks. They conduct legal research, do fact gathering and if eligible under the student practice rules for our state even represent clients at administrative agency and state district court hearings under the supervision of staff attorneys.

In addition to these formal programs, CMLS staff are often invited into law school classrooms to talk about legal services careers, provide substantive lectures on poverty law, judge students participating in mock trial programs and participate in other activities at the law schools.

Missouri

Gregg Lombardi, Executive Director Legal Aid of Western Missouri

Legal Aid of Western Missouri's experience with law schools:

First, we regularly have law students do internships with us. The average is about 5 or 6 a semester. The interns average 120 hours of work for the semester. They tend to do high-quality work, which is a boon for our program and our clients. Some interns work far more than 120 hours, which is even better. They often end up becoming staff members with us.

Second, we occasionally refer cases to law school clinics.

Third, we have a network of approximately 8 professors at Midwestern law schools who scout for our program—looking for high-quality law students who are dedicated to helping low-income people and who would make high-quality legal services attorneys. These scout-professors encourage these students to work for us. The scout-professors also provide us with candid evaluations of other applicants, who are current or former law students with their schools, when those applicants apply to us for jobs. The scouting work is an invaluable service to our program.

Douglas B. Kays, Executive Director Legal Services of Southern Missouri

Our program does not have a law school in its service area. However, we have developed a close relationship with the University of Missouri Law School (Columbia). One of our board members was on the Board of Curators of the University and was able to get the Dean of the Law School to attend one of our board retreats. He assisted our board in its strategic planning process. At that retreat, we developed a plan of cooperation with the law school. One of the main points of that plan was that professors at the university would be speakers at continuing legal education programs sponsored by Legal Services of Southern Missouri for staff and pro bono/judicare private attorneys. Another main point was to create a summer internship program for law students which would include a small stipend for the participating students.

Since the original agreement, we have had four CLE programs in which professors from the law school have been speakers via our video conference equipment in each of our offices. The university has video conference equipment that utilizes the same system our office uses.

We have had several summer interns since the relationship with the university began. The university has facilitated the application and interview process. One of these interns has returned to become a staff attorney.

We have also participated in student forums and informal gatherings at the law school to discuss careers in legal services.

The dean of the law school is very supportive of legal services and the close relationship with the law school is continuing.

**Daniel K. Glazier, Executive Director
Legal Services of Eastern Missouri**

Following are ways in which our program interacts with various law schools.

- We utilize law students through work/study programs, clinics, and as volunteers. We average about 45 law students throughout the year. Most are from local law schools, Washington University and Saint Louis University, but we also get summer students and have had holiday break students who are attending law schools in other cities.
- Law school staff members serve on our Board of Directors.
- We regularly co-counsel with law school staff members on cases, including at least six significant cases with Washington University School of Law and/or Saint Louis University School of Law clinical programs in the last few years.
- Law school staff members refer cases to us and we refer cases to their various clinics.
- We work collaboratively with law school staff members on various task forces and groups that address our clients' problems; for example, we participate together with law school staff members in a homeless task force and a special education advocacy coalition.
- Saint Louis University School of Law and the University of Missouri-Columbia are both among numerous collaborators in a current two-year statewide Department of Justice grant we received.
- We have received assistance from Saint Louis University School of Law staff with editing portions of our *Senior Citizens Handbook* when revisions are necessary prior to publishing a new edition.
- Our staff members serve as adjunct professors at the area law schools. At this time, one of our staff members is an adjunct professor at Saint Louis University School of Law where she teaches pretrial civil practice.
- Our staff members serve on advisory boards for the law schools. As an example, I serve on the Advisory Board of the Washington University Environmental Law Clinic.

- We collaborate with the Saint Louis University School of Law clinical program, as well as other entities, in developing, implementing and operating a Medical-Legal Partnership Project.
- Our staff members have participated in several *Equal Access to Justice Conferences* sponsored by Washington University School of Law since 2001.

Nebraska

Dave Pantos, Executive Director

Legal Aid of Nebraska

There are two law schools in Nebraska: Creighton University and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln (UNL). We do collaborate with both.

UNL-Law's Civil Clinic is a subgrantee of ours under our Justice Department Violence Against Women Act grant. As well, our consumer law expert is working with the Civil Clinic's director on a Bankruptcy Manual. UNL-Law also sends us interns from time to time.

Creighton University School of Law has an externship program, and we host an extern or two every year. Also, the civil clinic at Creighton has a strong housing law program, and the director meets often with our housing attorney to discuss advocacy in Omaha.

New Hampshire

Marilyn B. McNamara, Executive Director

Legal Advice and Referral Center of New Hampshire

The Legal Advice and Referral Center of New Hampshire (LARC) has a working relationship with the state's one law school, Pierce Law. The Executive Director co-founded the law school's first clinic in 1977. Since that time, clinics at the law school have gone through many models but the most recent, the Civil Clinic, has developed a practice in consumer, foreclosure, and housing law. LARC refers cases to the Civil Clinic--not many, because the clinic is small, but all of the cases we refer are of a type not otherwise handled elsewhere in the system--cases with an odd twist, or needing extensive research for a small result, or combining an area of law outside our system's priorities with a compelling need for a low-income person. Equally important, LARC is able to call on the expertise of the Civil Clinic Director, who is always happy to discuss a case, point to issues and think through strategy.

In addition to the Civil Clinic collaborative, the ED works with the Daniel Webster Scholar program, a unique, first-in-the-nation approach to legal education that selects highly motivated and qualified second-year students (15 each year) and provides two years of hands-on legal education. At graduation, those students who stay in New Hampshire are sworn in without the need for a bar exam. (Students going elsewhere do

take the bar, and some NH students opt to take it as well). Our collaborative effort entails the ED teaching a 10 hour mini-course in family law to these students, followed in the past by the students volunteering at LARC. As a hotline model, LARC receives many calls each day; students provided advice under supervision for a minimum of 10 hours each, and came away with a much better understanding of the problems of low income persons. This year, they will gain experience in housing, representing clients in eviction cases under the supervision of their program director. Some of these students have gone on to volunteer with the NH Bar Association Pro Bono program, and we hope they will be providing a lifetime of service to clients in need.

New Mexico

Dorene Kuffer, Litigation Director New Mexico Legal Aid (NMLA)

New Mexico has one law school – University of New Mexico School of Law. We recruit from the law school for interns and staff attorneys. We do not have any formal relationship because the Clinic at the Law School is a year-round, mandatory clinic that has had programs in place for years.

New York

Lillian M. Moy, Executive Director Legal Aid Society of Northeastern NY

Here are some examples of the rich relationship between the Legal Aid Society of Northeastern New York (LASNNY) and the Albany Law School:

1. LASNNY is a field placement site for Albany Law School (ALS) students. We regularly host between one to four ALS students at the Albany and/or Saratoga Springs offices.
2. ALS provides a particular internship slot for our Legal Aid Society Homelessness (LASH) Unit. This serves as part of the leveraging for our HUD grant that funds the LASH project.
3. LASNNY's director is an adjunct professor at the Law School, teaching the public interest field placement class. This class is for students working at LASNNY, the Empire Justice Center, The Legal Project, Disability Advocates, or other public interest field placement sites. Students get an overview of poverty law issues and an introduction to the history and present status of legal aid in the United States.
4. LASNNY's director has served as a speaker at Albany Law School's orientation. She has also served as a speaker at the field placement orientation, on cultural competence and on supervisory issues.

5. Albany Law School provides training to attorneys at Legal Aid who supervise Albany Law School externs. This includes ethics trainings and an overview of the field placement program.
6. Albany Law School participates in the Domestic Violence Legal Training Coalition—local providers that band together to recruit and train private attorneys to provide pro bono legal services to clients in domestic violence matters. The other members are The Legal Project, Empire Justice Center and the Legal Aid Society. Albany Law School professors have also served as trainers for our Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Project “Best Practices” trainings to recruit new pro bono attorneys.
7. Albany Law School and LASNNY are subcontractors to each other on two different grants from the NYS Department of Health’s AIDS Institute. The Legal Aid Society now serves as the single point of entry for consumers living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. We refer cases to the Albany Law School and The Legal Project according to agreed-upon protocols. Albany Law School also subcontracts a sum of money to LASNNY for representation of families affected by HIV/AIDS. We work jointly on a Health Law Conference funded by this grant. ALS and LASNNY staff are active together in the Ryan White Cares Network, a network of social service, health and legal providers who serve consumers living with or affected by HIV/AIDS.
8. The Albany Law School Litigation Clinic accepts PAI referrals from us and handles all unemployment cases for LASNNY’s Albany office during the school year. Albany Law School’s Clinic and Justice Center also accepts other referrals from LASNNY (e.g., for its Low Income Taxpayer Clinic and its Securities Clinic).
9. Albany Law School professors have served on the Board of Directors of the Legal Aid Society.
10. Albany Law School professors are generous donors to the Legal Aid Society.
11. Albany Law School professors also do pro bono work for Legal Aid Society clients (outside of the clinic setting) as local private attorneys. They have also been available to mentor new Legal Aid staff in their areas of expertise, e.g., trusts and estates.

Albany Law School and Other Law Schools

1. LASNNY’s executive director has developed and delivered many trainings in diversity and cultural competence with clinical law professors.
2. Touro Law School hosted the Civil Gideon Conference for civil legal services providers and others.

3. Fordham Law School and the Fordham Law Review has worked closely with the New York legal services community on a conference and equal justice issues.
4. Law schools are natural partners if legal services agencies and staff want to do “pipeline work” in their local communities. Efforts to bring more people of color into legal education and a career in the law certainly benefit the profession.

**Paul J. Lupia, Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York**

Our relationship is with the Syracuse University College of Law and our primary involvement with them is two fold.

One, Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York (LASMNY) has direct involvement with both the University and Law School work-study, externship and Grant Opportunity (GO) programs. Through work study, LASMNY pays approximately half the salary of the University or Law Student and the Federal Work Study program pays the balance of the student salary. Through the College of Law Externship Program, 2nd and 3rd year law students chose to work in our office for either the summer session or the entire academic year. Lastly, through the GO program, law students can apply for a GO award through the law school. If awarded, the student can select to work for a "not for profit" and the GO award is used to pay the student's salary. All three of these opportunities have resulted in law students being placed in our Syracuse branch office.

All three of these academic/employment projects are wonderfully beneficial to both the students and our organization. Students have the opportunity to work in their field of study and learn the practice of law in a fully functional, high-paced law office. Furthermore, our agency has the opportunity to increase productivity and assist more clients by increasing our workforce through the use of students. We also use this relationship as a conduit to the law school to keep a pulse on the law from an academic perspective. Through the relationships that we have developed with faculty through these programs, we have sought advice on technical legal questions primarily in the areas of "Professional Responsibility," but certainly in other areas of law as well. We have also been fortunate to recruit faculty to provide pro bono assistance to our clients through our Private Attorney Involvement project.

Secondly, the agency has frequent communication with the College of Law clinical programs. The clinical programs work similar to other social justice law offices in the region and therefore they are included in the coordination of legal services to the poor and disabled clients in our community. For example, the elder law clinic is one of the Law School's many clinics. Our agency also operates an elder project funded by our local Office for Aging. We coordinate services with the Law School so as not to duplicate services while at the same time increasing the numbers of clients we are jointly able to serve.

Over the past 10 years, Syracuse University College of Law has significantly expanded their involvement in our community. This has greatly benefited our agency, the clients that we serve and the community as a whole.

Edwina Frances Martin
Director of Communications and Government Relations
Legal Services NYC

Law School Outreach: We participate in the NYU Public Interest Job Fair and also recruit at most of the area law schools to recruit students to handle cases during the summer and also for internships and externships during the school year. Over the past two years, the Director of Communications and Government Relations has participated on Public Interest Career panels at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law; Fordham University School of Law; St. John's University School of Law; Hofstra University School of Law; Seton Hall Law School; and Touro Law School. Last summer, we had close to 100 interns working in our program citywide.

Following are descriptions of on-going projects in the Legal Services NYC offices:

Bedford-Stuyvesant Community Legal Services: This office has a relationship with Brooklyn Law School for interns during the school semesters to do housing and benefits work.

Brooklyn Family Defense Project: This is the newest Legal Services NYC program, created in April 2007 to represent low-income parents in child protective proceedings and related matters in the Brooklyn Family Court, in collaboration with NYU Law School's Family Defense Clinic.

The NYC Bankruptcy Assistance Project: NYC BAP has a strong commitment to involving law students in its work. In particular, NYC BAP has developed a close working relationship with Harvard and Columbia Law Schools—both of which have developed mandatory pro bono requirements for graduation. Each fall, the Bankruptcy Project Coordinator conducts trainings at these law schools for students interested in doing pro bono bankruptcy petition work with the Project. We typically train about 20 students at these trainings, and each student usually completes 3 bankruptcy petition cases. The Pro Bono program at Harvard Law School deserves particular praise for its willingness to cover the travel expenses involved in bringing the project coordinator to Cambridge for trainings, and to bring the student volunteers to New York for client meetings.

In addition, the Bankruptcy Project works constantly to maximize the use of law student interns/externs, and college work-study students. Each year, the Project has had at least one part-time extern during the school year.

Finally, The Project involves law students in special projects that students do for classroom credit, and that are separate from volunteer work. A past law student project was the creation of a volunteer satisfaction survey, which measures the experience of

pro bono volunteers with the project and gives the project actionable feedback on their volunteer experience. Another law student is conducting a similar satisfaction survey project with our clients, which includes the gathering of client satisfaction data both from forms and from “cold-call” telephone interviews. Finally, a group of students from Columbia Law School has embarked on a case study of the Bankruptcy Project, in which they’ll seek to assess the Project from an enterprise perspective that might be used to assist other potential pro bono startup projects in the future.

Legal Services NYC-Bronx: This office has a unique interdisciplinary collaborative legal services project with Fordham Law School and the Highbridge community. Legal Services NYC-Bronx supervises and trains several Fordham law students a semester who have been competitively selected to do an interdisciplinary internship working at Legal Services NYC-Bronx. At Legal Services NYC-Bronx, the law students do legal research, writing, client counseling, and attend hearings and court with attorneys, with an emphasis on family law. The students usually also attend an interdisciplinary seminar in family law at Fordham. A private foundation funds this project.

This semester for the first time, the office also has a fellowship from Brooklyn Law School. Brooklyn Law School compensates a Law Graduate to work 200 hours with its housing unit this semester.

The office also periodically has interns from many of the local law schools (New York Law School, Columbia Law School, New York University School of Law, the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law, and Brooklyn Law School) that work there for a semester credit or through school funded or public interest fellowships.

LS-NYC-Bronx and Columbia Law School: In a collaboration between Legal Services NYC-Bronx’s Low Income Taxpayer Clinic, Columbia Law School and the law firm of Milbank Tweed, the Clinic’s overflow cases are referred to the law firm for tax representation. This collaboration is an opportunity for the Clinic to increase its reach in the community by having more taxpayers represented, and to get the private bar involved. Having cases generated by the Clinic referred on a *pro bono* basis to the firm allows Legal Services NYC-Bronx to continue to provide new and potential clients with the opportunity to fully access free and high quality legal services, to provide students with the opportunity to work with real clients with real problems, and to expose both the students and private attorneys to *pro bono* work.

Ken Perri, Executive Director
Legal Assistance of Western New York

As Legal Assistance of Western New York, Inc. (LAWNY) is an LSC-funded program, it is encouraged to seek opportunities to engage law students in pro bono activities. With this objective in mind, a straightforward program was developed: the Law Students in Action Project (LSAP).

LSAP began in 2003 with an AmeriCorps grant funded by the Corporation for National Service and awarded to Equal Justice Works. Since its inception, the sponsor of the

New York program has been LAWNY. This is currently the only program of its kind and size in all of New York State.

The purpose of LSAP is two-fold. First, LSAP seeks to place law students as pro bono volunteers at public interest law firms throughout Western and Central New York. Secondly, LSAP seeks to expand the legal services available to low-income people in underserved communities. As a natural and inevitable consequence of its purpose, LSAP also encourages law students to continue to commit their time to public interest firms and engage in pro bono activities after they graduate.

LSAP's goals are achieved primarily through collaborating efforts with law schools and public interest firms within the LAWNY, Inc. service area. Those collaborations have proved successful over the years because they are built upon lasting partnerships between law school and public interest law firm administrators. LSAP essentially forms a necessary bridge between these partners in public service. Law schools could rely on LSAP for placement opportunities and public interest law firms could rely on LSAP for a steady flow of interns to serve their ever-increasing clientele.

LSAP's structure is as follows: three Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps legal fellows are placed in three of the seven LAWNY offices. These three legal fellows act as co-administrators of LSAP during a maximum of two one-year terms. In addition to providing legal services at their host offices, the fellows are responsible for recruiting law students from nationwide to volunteer in the LAWNY and other public interest law offices in upstate New York. For geographical reasons, law student volunteers are most heavily recruited from Cornell, SUNY – Buffalo, and Syracuse University. Most recently, however, a partnership was formed with Albany Law School to provide additional public interest opportunities for law students in Western and Central New York and in the Capitol Region. To recruit law students, LSAP participates in career fairs such as the New York University Public Interest Career Fair and the Massachusetts Law Consortium. LSAP also participates in resume collections and internship postings.

Our report for the 2007-2008 academic year will show that in the most recently completed LSAP programmatic year, 64 law student volunteers donated at least 10,648 hours of their time to LAWNY and other area civil legal services providers.

North Carolina

George R. Hausen, Jr., Executive Director Legal Aid of North Carolina

Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) takes its responsibility to train the next generation of lawyers quite seriously. We offer a wide variety of case types and a unique opportunity for first-hand experience under the supervision of some of the finest lawyers in their fields. LANC has programs for law students in general and also has both clinic and teaching relationships with all seven law schools in North Carolina. All of these projects

and the assistance of individual students have added immensely to our capacity to assist our clients.

Law students: Each of our 24 offices permits law students to work in a supervised setting on a year-round basis. Some of our students come under the auspices of a school-sponsored program, while others find us on their own. Depending on the student's needs, we use them as volunteers, as part-time employees, and we host them as externs for law-school credit. All of these students are given research and writing duties, they interact with clients, and participate in and support advocacy to the extent the rules and their schedules allow. Most of this student participation is centered in the area known as the "Triangle," which comprises the University of North Carolina, Duke, NC Central, and Campbell. We also see many students in the "Triad" area, which comprises Wake Forest and Elon, as well as the Charlotte area, which is where the new Charlotte Law School is located. During the summer break, we host approximately sixty students throughout our firm.

Also during the summer break, LANC sponsors its prestigious Martin Luther King Jr (MLK) Summer Internship Program. Funded, in part, by grants from the North Carolina Bar Association and the NC IOLTA Program, LANC selects, after rigorous interviews scheduled through the schools, twenty second-year students who will spend their ten-week summer practicing law in our offices under the special practice rules for students. These students engage in a wide range of cases, and they generally get actual litigation experience. Many of these MLKs go on to legal services positions after graduation.

Law school clinics: We have a very strong clinical relationship with the law school at the University of North Carolina. The civil clinic at UNC accepts cases from our Durham and Pittsboro offices, which serve the adjoining service areas, and these cases are handled by students who are supervised by LANC staff attorneys, who are on the UNC faculty as adjuncts. Although the cases are LANC cases the university reimburses LANC for the time LANC staff spends working with the students on these cases in the clinic. The former dean of the law school, a constitutional law professor, and head of the Center on Poverty, Work, and the Law serves on the LANC strategic planning committee.

North Dakota

Jim Fitzsimmons, Executive Director Legal Services of North Dakota

Below you will find a detailed description of the University North Dakota (UND) School of Law Externship program. Legal Services of North Dakota (LSND) is one of the very few extern sites out of the City of Grand Forks where the law school is located. Our Fargo office (80 miles south of the University) has hosted the externship since 2007 with very positive results. The program is under the direction of the Assistant Dean of the Law School and a former LSND board member.

The Bismarck Law Office of LSND and the State Bar Association usually split the cost of a summer law clerk from the University. The Student is placed at LSND and handles traditional clerking duties. The student also spends a couple of weeks helping out with the State Bar's Annual Convention.

LSND negotiated with the UND School of Law to initiate formal off-site law student externships in the Fargo Law Office of LSND. Students must continue to take classes during the externship semester, including a special class in which externs from each site are required to develop a presentation about the externship to the class in a dynamic and compelling way. Although there have been a few more informal placements with legal services in North Dakota, this is the first time a formal approval was obtained through a faculty committee.

A general law extern position and an immigration law extern position have been approved for each academic semester since the fall of 2007. Both fall semesters produced two selected students after a formal interview process. Both spring semesters produced one law student. Students have the potential to become involved in a mix of the full range of civil legal services work from legal research and writing and community education to working cases and including appearances at selected hearings for those who are admitted under the senior practice rule.

Since students have to continue class work, the number of students who can travel back and forth to Fargo to fulfill the externship are limited due to time and cost. Most students are exposed to cases and legal problems that they would most likely never otherwise experience and appreciate the opportunity.

Externs have worked on cases in all major areas of law, including Social Security, landlord tenant, family law, Medicaid, guardianships, routine naturalization and legal permanent resident applications as well as assisting to address a range of obstacles that can arise to either slow or terminate those applications. Later on, some externs decide to write their professional responsibility ethics papers on ethics issues confronted in a poverty law practice as opposed to private, corporate or government practice, using a legal services attorney as a primary resource. The enthusiasm of these externs, in turn, provides additional energy to legal services staff by their fresh perspectives and complete engagement with their work.

Ohio

Kevin C. Mulder, Executive Director Legal Aid of Western Ohio

Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO) is fortunate to have three law schools located within its 32-county service area: the University of Toledo College of Law, the Ohio Northern University College of Law, and the University of Dayton School of Law. We have developed active partnerships with each. Below is a brief summary of our collaborations with these schools.

Pro Bono Legal Assistance Project: The linchpin of LAWO's relationships with local law schools is the work of two Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Fellows through the Pro Bono Legal Assistance Project. The third group of Fellows began their two-year term of service last fall. The Fellows recruit, train, place, and support law students interested in public interest law. The Fellows work throughout the year to instill a pro bono ethic in law students that will continue throughout their legal careers by developing quality public interest opportunities and fostering partnerships with local attorneys and organizations. Most recently, the Fellows have worked on projects involving Foreclosure Assistance, Pro Se Clinics, Remote Research Assistance, a Summer Associate Program, and support for law student organizations.

Foreclosure Assistance: Both the urban and the rural communities in our service area have been devastated by rising foreclosures. In northwest Ohio, the Toledo metropolitan area ranked 20th among America's 100 largest cities in foreclosure actions in the third quarter of 2007. In Lucas County (Toledo), 1 in 331 households were repossessed through foreclosure, a rate behind only Cleveland's Cuyahoga County.

The Fellows have worked with law students to coordinate assistance to pro bono attorneys working on foreclosure cases. Assistance includes conducting client intake and screening and providing assistance with research, paperwork, and pleadings in helping provide legal representation and advice to reach low-income residents who cannot be directly represented by LAWO or its partner law firm, Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc. (ABLE).

Clinical Programs: The Fellows have collaborated with the Christian Law Students Organization (CLS) and the Volunteer Student Law Project (VSLP) at the University of Dayton and the Public Interest Law Association (PILA) at Ohio Northern University to help organize and run Advance Directives and Pro Se Divorce and Custody Clinics. The advance directives clinics are held at a local senior center. The students sign up in advance for the date on which they would like to volunteer. In the morning the Fellows conduct a 1.5 hour training for the law students. Through the clinic, the Fellows and students assist seniors in completing health care powers of attorney, living wills, and simple wills. The students gain invaluable experience in a specialized area of senior law while the firm is able to concentrate resources in other areas.

The Fellows also conduct pro se custody and divorce clinics in conjunction with the Ohio Northern University College of Law. The students assisted with presentations, clinic organization, client intake, and completion of paperwork. The Fellows have had to regulate the number of students in attendance because there has been such an overwhelmingly positive response from the students.

The clinics have proven to be an effective tool for reaching clients, particularly in rural areas. The opportunity to discuss legal issues and the forms and information provided at the clinics by the Fellows and volunteers also increases the understanding clients

have of the information provided so that they are better prepared to handle their legal issues themselves.

Remote Research: The Fellows have worked to continue and to enhance their innovative Remote Research Team of law students who gained vital experience with crucial poverty law issues. The Remote Research Team consists of a group of law students from all three of the law schools in our service area. The Team has received training on certain facets of poverty law, as well as on the firm's policies. When a research project surfaces that is not particular to a specific case, the Fellows will email the Remote Research Team with basic information on the assignment. Anyone who has participated in the Remote Training may opt to complete the assignment. At this time, we have never sent out a research request that a student did not agree to complete, even those requests that were made during finals. This has been a great way to get students with limited time availability involved in legal services.

Summer Associate Program: Through the Pro Bono Legal Corps Fellows LAWO and ABLE sponsor a summer associate program. The Fellows implemented the first Summer Associate Program (SAP) from May through July 2008. Nine students from five different law schools volunteered over 350 hours each over a 10-week period. The students assisted staff attorneys with research, case support, outreach, and clinics. The SAP was an innovative endeavor, highly praised by staff, that provided excellent experiences for the students.

Law School Organizations: Through the collaboration between the Pro Bono Legal Corps Fellows and the law students, two new student run organizations were created in the past four years -- the Public Interest Law Associations (PILA) at Ohio Northern University and at the University of Toledo. Both organizations began as a way for students to get involved in public interest and pro bono work; both are now recognized by their respective law schools as school sanctioned organizations. The Fellows support the majority of the activities that the law students participate in, including research, clinic organization, a speaker series, and assisting with a public interest auction.

The Fellows also work with The Volunteer Student Law Project (VSLP) at the University of Dayton, and one was invited to be an off-site advisor for the group. The VSLP recruited students to assist with a phone-a-thon in our offices as well as to volunteer for a "Winter Blast" volunteer day. For the "Winter Blast" volunteer day, the students (as well as the Dean of the law school) participated in a clinic at a local senior center and also completed research projects in the legal aid offices.

The Fellows also work closely with the Career Services Office of each law school and are frequently invited to speak to the students regarding public interest careers. All three of the law schools have some sort of recognition at graduation for law students who have completed a certain number of pro bono hours. Two of the law schools started their programs after prompting from the public interest student groups. We work very closely with students to make sure that the hours they donate can be counted towards those requirements.

Mary Asbury, Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati

The Legal Aid Society has several connections with local law schools.

We co-sponsor and host a University of Cincinnati (UC) College of Law clinical program that represents victims of domestic violence. This clinic is for academic credit. The Legal Aid Society provides a part-time clinical supervisor, secretarial support, and office space for the clinic. The law school provides a clinical director and a part-time supervisor. Legal Aid has had a clinical partnership with the UC College of Law off and on since the 1920's. Legal Aid also accepts UC College of Law externs. This is a more limited, for-credit program than the clinic.

We have recently initiated a project with the Samuel P. Chase College of Law, which is part of Northern Kentucky University. Chase has an organized pro bono program for its students, and one of its projects for 2009 is to provide students to staff a pro bono wills and estates clinic in cooperation with our Volunteer Lawyers Project. This will fulfill the law school's community service requirement, but is not for academic credit. We anticipate providing additional project opportunities, both through the VLP and through Legal Aid for the Chase students.

Eugene R. King, Managing Attorney
Ohio State Legal Services Association (OSLSA)

We have both a state support center and a direct service program. Through the years, we have worked with all of the nine law schools in Ohio, but our closest relationship is with Ohio State University's (OSU) Moritz College of Law. Some examples of our collaborative work includes the following:

1. The Pro Bono Research Group (PBRG) at Ohio State's Moritz College of Law. PBRG is a student organization, founded in 1997 by an OSLSA clerk, that does research and investigation for all of the legal services programs in Ohio. In a recent year, PBRG students provided more than 2,500 hours of pro bono research for Ohio legal services staff.

Generally, 40-50 second and third-year students participate in PBRG.

PBRG also develops and presents an annual seminar on a current public interest issue that is open to all legal services staff. PBRG has been a strong tool for recruiting summer clerks and graduates into legal services.

Finally, many PBRG alums never work in legal services or public interest work, but they carry their PBRG experiences with them in private practice or government work. This has led to greater sensitivity to our issues and a heightened interest in pro bono opportunities.

2. We have worked with OSU to focus its loan assistance program to meet the needs of legal services staff.
3. We are a work-study site for OSU, so we are able to recruit clerks at no cost to our program.
4. We regularly speak in classes, seminars, and career development conferences about public interest work and career opportunities. We have presented a session on Poverty Law 101 annually for several years. We have also visited tax classes to recruit student volunteers for our Low-Income Tax Clinics.
5. We consult, or contract with, faculty for assistance on issues.
6. We have used the law school facilities for trainings and statewide meetings.

Our work with Moritz has been assisted by the Dean, who is a legal services alum, former LSC board member, and strong supporter of legal services. In addition to the specific activities listed above, there are many other benefits of our relationship with the law school.

**Tom Weeks, Executive Director
Legal Aid Society of Columbus (LASC)**

LASC partners with our local law schools on several special projects. For example, Capital University Law School (CULS) clinic professors help to train private attorney volunteers to handle pro bono eviction cases for LASC; CULS professors facilitate student involvement in this pro bono project and supervise any students handling cases through the project. LASC is able to make client referrals to both CULS and Ohio State University (OSU) civil clinics; each clinic gives LASC notice of which types of cases they are specifically seeking each semester, and will accept general referrals as well. Primarily through the Legal Fellow, LASC is able to recruit students outside of the clinic setting to participate in brief advice and counsel clinics and in support roles on other private attorney pro bono projects.

Our local law schools have made considerable contributions to legal services. In terms of direct client service, both schools accept referrals for their clinic programs, and support our ongoing pro bono efforts. Both schools provide workspace and in-kind support to the Legal Fellow—this allows LASC continuous on-campus visibility to promote pro bono and public interest, and also increases LASC's access to students, faculty, and staff. In addition, staff at both schools has been instrumental in coordinating presentations to specific student groups and to students at large, and in arranging meetings between LASC staff and key law school staff to solicit support and ideas for future collaboration.

The Legal Fellow continues to work with both local law schools to enhance and promote their recognition of pro bono and public service work by students. Specifically, the Legal Fellow has worked with career services staff at both schools to allow limited

participation of first-year students in recognition programs that would result in a special designation on student transcripts, and has provided support and supervision to law students at various pro bono projects. LASC would happily support increasing clinic programs at both schools in any way that would increase services for eligible clients.

LASC is very fortunate to have supportive law schools within its service area; however, there is always more that the law schools and LASC can do to further instill a public interest ethic in law students. Recognizing that clinic opportunities are generally very limited in number, LASC and the law schools need to work to make pro bono and public interest opportunities available to all students, not just those already inclined to pursue public interest careers. With additional funding, a second Legal Fellow could be recruited so that each school could have one Legal Fellow dedicated primarily to their unique interests and goals. Goals for future Legal Fellows could include instilling a public interest ethic in law students by presenting to professional responsibility classes at each school, providing increased awareness about the struggles of low-income individuals and families within our service area, and providing increased access to pro bono opportunities at LASC and other public service agencies.

Specific examples of collaboration between our program and both CULS and OSU are primarily through the Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps Legal Fellow program. Specifically, the Legal Fellow has recruited, trained, and supervised law students to participate in a Civil Protection Order negotiation project, an eviction defense project, and a monthly brief advice and counsel clinic. The Legal Fellow has also helped solicit ideas from students regarding their involvement in developing and maintaining a consumer clinic, and has helped students to brainstorm ideas for other pro bono projects outside of the current menu of opportunities provided by LASC. Further, the Legal Fellow has given presentations to student groups regarding poverty law in Ohio and local pro bono opportunities; the Legal Fellow works with these groups to raise awareness of the need for pro bono service and helps students to effectively participate while maintaining course work.

**Colleen M. Cotter, Executive Director
The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland**

At The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland (Cleveland Legal Aid), we are fortunate to have two law schools within our service area with which we work very closely.

Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic: Starting in the fall of 2009 Cleveland Marshall School of Law at Cleveland State University will have a Medical-Legal Partnership Clinic, in partnership with Cleveland Legal Aid. This Clinic will work closely with our medical-legal partnership. The students will take cases from our staff, will work with our staff and with our medical partners, and will shadow our staff. They will be supervised and taught by a clinical professor at the law school. We are helping to develop the curriculum and reading materials for the class. Students at Cleveland Marshall must apply and then be accepted into their clinical programs. We have been invited to participate in the selection of students for the clinic, to help ensure that we work with a group of students who are a good match for this interdisciplinary setting. We look forward to this

partnership as it will help law students better understand our client community and what we do, it will serve clients, and it will not take substantial resources on our part.

Other Clinic Partnerships: Cleveland Legal Aid also partners with other clinics at both Cleveland Marshall and Case Western Reserve. Some clinics receive almost all of their clients through referral from Cleveland Legal Aid. We also often provide guidance to students in these clinics and regularly make presentations to their classes. This allows us to better allocate our resources. We know which cases the clinic will handle and which we should handle. This on-going relationship is beneficial to our clients.

Externs: Each semester Case Western Reserve University School of Law offers its students the opportunity to participate in an extern program at Cleveland Legal Aid. The students receive law school credit for working with us. We develop projects for them each semester and have recently had law students working on projects such as assisting pro se litigants expunge their criminal records, assisting pro se litigants in obtaining a divorce, interviewing and assisting in domestic violence cases, working in our medical-legal partnership, and working on a wide variety of other issues.

We have also had the opportunity to work with several students from Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. These students work full time at Cleveland Legal Aid for a semester, as part of their law school experience.

Summer Associate Funding: At Cleveland Legal Aid we operate a Summer Associate program through which we employ 12-to-15 law students each summer. We do not have funds to pay these students and instead rely on them to obtain funding. Most are able to find funding through their law schools. Many law schools have designated funds specifically to support students working in the public interest. The University of Notre Dame has such a program in which they match funds raised by local alumni. The Cleveland alumni group has chosen to raise funds to support a law student at Cleveland Legal Aid each summer. These types of programs make it possible for us to have a vibrant summer associate program without incurring costs. Like for-profit law firms, we have hired several of our former summer associates and this helps us build relationship with the private bar, starting with law students. Those we are not able to hire have had a positive relationship with Legal Aid and have had exposure to our clients and the legal issues they face.

Law Student Volunteers: At Cleveland Legal Aid we have more than 100 law student volunteers from Cleveland Marshall, Case Western and Akron. We use the volunteer time of these students mostly in our Volunteer Lawyers Program. The students screen clients at our brief advice clinics and provide other support for our growing VLP.

Faculty members on Board: Finally, Cleveland Marshall and/or Case Western Reserve law schools regularly have faculty member representation on our Board of Directors. This helps to build our relationship with these institutions and helps us take advantage of the law school faculty resources and skills in our community.

Pennsylvania

Harvey F. Strauss, Co-Executive Director Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania

We do have a number of local law school students who have volunteered at one or more of our offices during the school year and/or summer. We have always received some case referrals, on an informal basis, from local law schools/law school clinics, in cases where the law school/clinic could not assist someone or where it was felt our program could better help someone. We have also made a few informal referrals to a couple of local law school clinics in recent years.

We had work study law students from at least 2 of the local law schools in recent times. Our program has also been fortunate to have paid summer law school intern/interns every summer through the Martin Luther King Jr. Summer Internship program administered by PLAN (Pennsylvania Legal Aid Network) and some summers we have had an IOLTA-funded summer law school intern from a Pennsylvania law school. In discussing this informally with our Managing Attorneys, it does appear that in recent years, our program has at various times had one or more volunteer law school students from most if not all of our local law schools (Villanova, Drexel, Widener, Temple and Penn) and some other law schools, as well.

We are currently a possible placement site for Drexel Law School's Co-op program.

A number of our staff attorneys are graduates of local law schools and at least one of our attorney Board members is an adjunct faculty member at one of our local law schools.

Barbara Kern, Managing Attorney Neighborhood Legal Services Association (Pittsburgh, PA)

Neighborhood Legal Services Association (NLSA) is located in a four county area in southwestern Pennsylvania. Our main office is in Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, where two law schools, the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and Duquesne University School of Law, are located. Although both law schools offer their own well-established clinical programs, they have also developed a clinical relationship with NLSA . We have also established a summer internship program that draws students from law schools across the country as well as from both local universities.

The bases of our relationship with both local schools are clinic programs in which Neighborhood Legal Services provides a practicum for a hands-on experience. The Legal Services Practicum clinic in connection with the University of Pittsburgh is a one semester program in which students have 13 weeks of seminar instruction provided by NLSA attorneys and 104 hours of field work under the supervision of an NLSA managing attorney. Students observe various court and administrative hearings, participate in the preparation of clients for such hearings, prepare legal pleadings, and represent clients at Landlord Tenant hearings before District Judges. These experiences run the gamut of poverty law matters. Students also assist the NLSA

Helpline attorneys by providing advice on landlord tenant cases. All advice is followed up with a confirming letter. The Civil & Family Justice Law clinic with Duquesne University is a full year program; otherwise, the same structure prevails. Students have 26 weeks seminar hours and 280 hours of field clinical hours. Classroom instruction in both programs is provided at the law school by NLSA attorneys.

The clinical aspect of both of these programs allows students to observe skilled attorneys at work in various settings and also gives the students hands-on experience in advising and representing clients under the supervision of an experienced attorney. Although students will be engaging in some research in the preparation of cases, they are not relegated to a role in which research is their only activity. The goal is to sharpen issue identification, legal reasoning, and legal writing skills within a participatory framework.

Our summer internship program is advertised to law students across the country. It is a 10 week program, in which 8 students join our staff for 40 hour weeks. Currently, we do not provide any stipend for the students; many of them, however, have obtained some kind of financial assistance from their law schools to enable them to participate in our program. We are now developing grant proposals for funding to give financial assistance to students in the program.

The goals of this program are similar to the academic year clinics, to develop the interns' legal skills within a framework of concrete legal experiences.

Students begin the summer program with a week of intensive training in landlord tenant law, evidence, and legal service compliance issues. Throughout the summer, there is a weekly two-hour ongoing training based primarily on case activity during the previous week. The summer interns assume responsibility for all Helpline cases involving landlord tenant issues; they also represent these clients at hearings. In the summer of 2008, they handled approximately 250 landlord tenant cases. Students also work on credit card cases and present preliminary objections in Motions Court. They also participate in an educational component, preparing and delivering educational talks to local organizations representing low-income residents.

The program also provides two or more "Lunch and Learn" sessions in which guest speakers are brought in to present short seminars on such topics as negotiation techniques, subsidized housing issues, and evidence.

The law schools have provided significant contributions to our program by presenting various forums to discuss the legal needs of clients and the need to foster the equal justice concept in our legal system. Both deans of the law schools are accessible for discussing ways to enhance the quality of services offered through the clinics. The law schools have been able to use electronic means to make students aware of the clinics. The University of Pittsburgh Law School provides a lunch and learn training session once per month to enhance teaching skills for the professors.

There are interactions that our law school staff have with the students and faculty which include participation in the law school graduation day with the faculty. We get the chance to meet the parents of our students and continue to network with the law school faculty members. We encourage our staff to attend law school activity involving the alumni at the two law schools.

South Dakota

Doug Cummings, Executive Director East River Legal Services

East River Legal Services has had a relationship with the University of South Dakota, School of Law since 1994. We partner with the Second Circuit Bar Association, which is the local bar in Sioux Falls, to run a pro bono project known as the RD Hurd Volunteer Law School Society. It's a project that serves eligible rejected clients with routine family law matters. The clients are pre-screened by us and set up for appointments with 2nd and 3rd year students to assist them with default or uncontested divorces. We supervise the work and sign the pleadings and the bar funds the project (\$12,000/yr). We have handled approximately 50-70 cases per year for the past 15 years.

Vermont

Tom Garrett, Executive Director Legal Services Law Line of Vermont

We work with Vermont Law School (VLS) in several areas.

The Executive Director of the VLS clinical program is a member of Law Line's Board of Directors. This formalizes the relationship between Law Line and the law school.

We have a long history of referring cases back and forth between the clinic and Law Line. This is possible because we have an ongoing relationship that informs both of us about the other's priorities and highlights for each the important work the other is doing.

Law Line frequently has law students from Vermont Law School working in our office as interns. In some instances they receive academic credit for their work here. We visit the law school regularly to talk to students about possible internships and about working in legal services. We have strong relationships with people in the law school's placement office.

A representative of the law school, the former academic dean who is now a professor, is on the Vermont Access to Justice Coalition, as is the Executive Director of Law Line. This group creates a structure for looking at overall issues around legal services in Vermont. It attempts to coordinate decisions about services and funding. This group recently created the Vermont Fellowship program, funded by contributions from Vermont lawyers and law firms. The first fellow was hired last fall. She will be working

on issues agreed to among Law Line, Vermont Legal Aid, the law school clinic, and the Access to Justice Coalition.

Washington

Cesar E. Torres, Executive Director Northwest Justice Project

Northwest Justice Project (NJP) works with Washington's three law schools—Seattle University School of Law, the Gonzaga University Law School, and the University of Washington School of Law—on many multifaceted efforts to promote equal justice and instill an ethic of public interest in law students.

As Washington's publicly funded civil legal aid provider, NJP is acutely aware that the depth of client need far exceeds our resources. As such, NJP is deeply invested in supporting the ongoing efforts of the law schools to increase law student's exposure to the civil legal needs of low-income communities, to deepen a culture of public service and to increase service capacity within the law schools through various formal partnerships, informal networking and specific projects that strengthen Washington's equal justice movement.

Significantly, NJP's engagement with the law schools takes place within the context of Washington's renowned Alliance for Equal Justice, such that our various collaborations seek to instill and reinforce shared values and ensure that all of our activities are coordinated to supplement and enhance client services. Washington's Alliance for Equal Justice is a statewide network of civil legal aid providers and supporters whose goal is to promote and increase civil legal aid services while promoting coordination and collaboration to effectively and efficiently provide the full range of critically needed legal services and advocacy tools to all low income communities across the state.

To these ends, the Alliance for Equal Justice has articulated and adopted "Hallmarks of an Effective Statewide Civil Legal Services System" based on the premise that poverty should not be an impediment to justice, as well as undertaking extensive state planning efforts (most recently in 2006-2007) designed to ensure that as a statewide equal justice community we clearly identify the legal needs of low-income communities, identify ways that we can coordinate, avoid duplication and improve client services throughout our delivery system.

An important aspect of the Alliance's efforts is directed to ensuring that law schools and law students are directly engaged in Washington's equal justice movement as supporters and participants in the delivery of legal services. As valuable partners and supporters of the Alliance, Washington's Law Schools are explicitly included in the State Plan and each makes a significant contribution to its goals.

Access to Justice Board's Law School Relations Committee: The Access to Justice Board, established by the Washington Supreme Court in 1994, has been central to the

Alliance's efforts. The Access to Justice Board has established the Law School Relations Committee (LSR) with the original goal of "ensuring that every law student in Washington State has an understanding of the importance of public interest law." The ATJ Board Law School Relations (LSR) Committee is currently Co-Chaired by a highly respected NW Advocacy Coordinator. Each law school has faculty, staff and student involvement in the Law School Relations Committee.

The LSR Committee's mission statement is being revised, but I wanted to share the draft version under discussion to provide insight into the scope of the Alliance's vision for engagement of law schools and law students:

The goal of the LSR' Committee is to ensure that every law student in the state has an understanding of the importance of public interest law, familiarity with the Alliance for Equal Justice community, an opportunity to work with Alliance members in some capacity as a student, an appreciation for the work that is being done on behalf of low-income clients, and a commitment to support the Alliance's work in some capacity after law school.

Ongoing LSR Committee activities include:

- Integrating law students into the annual statewide access to justice conference by organizing conference workshops that address the intersection between law schools and civil legal aid and fostering law student participation;
- Coordinating job shadowing opportunities for students with civil legal aid providers;
- Helping to build support for post-graduate fellowships, including advising students and organizations on best practices in seeking fellowships;
- Hosting and coordinating public interest law receptions and related events that introduce law students to the equal justice community and provide networking opportunities;
- Developing a centralized student information internet based site, hosted by the Advocate Resource Center, which provides information to law students regarding volunteer, work-study, internship, externship and paid work public interest opportunities;
- Planning workshops for law students at various annual events such as the Goldmark Luncheon that address public interest job search information as well as substantive practice in poverty law;
- Creating service projects that involve activity and coordination between all three law schools;

- Developing a rural legal services project to place 3 law students each year (one from each of the three schools) in three different rural legal services offices for a full school term as externs and provide a complimentary externship class taught by faculty from the three schools.

The LSR Committee represents a conscious effort by the community of organized civil legal aid providers and supporters to engage with the law schools on a statewide, strategic level in collaborative, mutually reinforcing relationships to support the efforts of law schools to promote law student exposure to the values of the equal justice community, a deeper understanding of civil legal aid representation through advocacy opportunities, and a lasting public interest commitment.

Northwest Justice Project and Washington Law Schools: In addition to joint participation in the Alliance of Equal justice, NJP and the law schools engage directly in a number of capacities, including co-located clinics, targeted advocacy partnerships designed to address gaps in services (i.e. child support, debt collection), clinical program collaborations, co-counseling and referrals, externship placements, lecturers and faculty in public interest programs and civil legal aid related courses (e.g. an NJP attorney has taught the landlord tenant course at Gonzaga for the past 6 years), law review collaborations, and assistance with mentoring and career counseling efforts by the law schools.

Some highlights of specific collaboration efforts that directly benefit clients and law students include:

- The Refugee and Immigrant Advocacy Clinic, hosted by NJP in collaboration with the University of Washington students represent immigrants to gain access to basic needs, such as food, health care, financial subsistence, employment and training. Students may also help with applications for immigration status as victims of human trafficking or with pursuing citizenship. An NJP attorney has a faculty appointment at the University of Washington to direct this clinic.
- NJP has participated in Seattle University's Legal Writing Collaborative which provides potential helpful research for the NJP attorneys and their clients while at the same time providing law students with an introduction to NJP and its work through assignment related lectures, thereby providing greater meaning to legal writing requirements while exposing law students to the legal problems faced by low-income people.
- Gonzaga's University Legal Assistance clinical program, an important civil legal aid provider in rural northeast Washington since 1975, and NJP have a long history of collaboration and coordination of services and have engaged in significant regional planning efforts to ensure that scarce legal resources are directed to those areas of greatest client need.

- Washington's adoption of Court Rule 33, providing accommodations for disabled litigants, and publication of a Judge's Bench Manual on ADA Compliance was the result of joint work between NJP attorneys and a Seattle University School of Law clinical professor on the Washington State Access to Justice Board's Impediments Committee.

NJP and the law schools have established a broad range of other mutually reinforcing relationships designed to strengthen the NJP's advocacy efforts and the schools' efforts to strengthen a culture of public service and direct client services. These include NJP's support for Seattle University School of Law's internal Access to Justice Institute, which in turn has resulted in the School of Law's support for the NJP led Washington State Coalition for Language Access, whose mission is to ensure the provision and delivery of effective legal, medical, and social services to Limited English Proficient residents in Washington State. Similarly, NJP has worked closely in an advisory capacity with the University of Washington Law Schools' William H. Gates Public Service Law scholarship program, which requires a public service commitment for five years following graduation. In turn, Gates Scholars have had externship placements at NJP.

Needless to say, these efforts are synergistic and demonstrate a mutual commitment on the part of both providers and the law schools to proactively, affirmatively create a culture that supports public service and emphasizes equal justice. The law schools have a plethora of initiatives and programs ranging from public service and clinical course graduation requirements to summer work fellowships and loan repayment assistance programs.

To provide you with a fully representative picture of the schools' efforts, I asked law school representatives to provide a summary of each of their schools' initiatives:

Seattle University School of Law - Partnership with NJP

Seattle University School of Law is committed to the twin pillars of academic excellence and education for justice. Faculty, students and graduates are deeply committed to using their legal skills in the service of justice. The School of Law achieves its academic distinction through a devotion to service as a core value, understanding that it enriches us as individuals and as a community as much as it helps those we serve. As an active supporter of the Washington Alliance for Equal Justice, the School of Law engages with the Alliance as a whole and its members including the Northwest Justice Project (NJP). The following illustrate just some of the ways that the School of Law collaborates with NJP:

Access to Justice Institute: The Access to Justice Institute (ATJI) stands at the heart of Seattle University School of Law's social justice mission, serving as the bridge between academics and action. ATJI empowers and works with law students to collaborate with local and national social justice organizations to engage in meaningful social justice work that serves marginalized or underrepresented communities. ATJI also facilitates collaborative efforts between faculty and community service organizations that

strengthen the tie between law students' academic excellence and education for justice. ATJI also links law students to information, resources, and social justice, public interest, and public service opportunities involving and hosts social justice forums, conferences, and speaker series for the law school community as well our surrounding community.

NJP was instrumental in the launch of ATJI in 1999 and has remained supportive by serving on ATJI's Community Advisory Board. ATJI collaborates with many equal justice providers including NJP to develop Partnership Projects, which provide students with opportunities to engage in social justice work and to develop leadership skills.

One ATJI Partnership Project that is close to being launched involves child support advocacy. The need for representation in child support modification cases was identified as an unmet need through the regional planning process which was directed by the Alliance for Equal Justice's Revised State Plan. In response to this, NJP attorneys have worked with ATJI to recruit other partners including pro bono attorneys from a local large firm, the local bar association's volunteer lawyer program, and a legal services program from Seattle's Union Gospel Mission. Through this project, trained law students will work with trained pro bono attorneys to handle pro bono child support modification cases.

Another ATJI Partnership Project involves the Washington State Coalition for Language Access (WASCLA), which is housed at NJP's Seattle office and led by two NJP attorneys. WASCLA's mission is to ensure the provision and delivery of effective legal, medical, and social services to Limited English Proficient (LEP) residents in Washington State through the collaborative efforts of interpreters, translators, and service providers. As a WASCLA member, the School of Law has regularly co-sponsored the Coalition's annual summits. During the most recent summit, ATJI helped to organize a workshop and the Dean of the School of Law served as the keynote speaker. Through this project, trained law students will begin to launch a WASCLA campaign where they will provide outreach and education along with consultation to encourage and assist law firms, organizations and agencies to develop and implement their own LEP policies.

ATJI and NJP are collaborating on another Partnership Project involving fair debt collection. This project seeks to address the problems that many low-income debtors face in dealing with abusive debt collection. To determine the best advocacy strategies, NJP attorneys along with other consumer advocates from both the private bar and other legal services organizations agreed that solid data about debt collection lawsuits should be collected and analyzed first. Through ATJI, trained law students will gather information about individual debt collection cases they observe while in court. This data will then be compiled and analyzed by NJP attorneys to determine what problems exist and what advocacy strategies could be used.

In addition to these Partnership Projects, ATM has also collaborated with NJP attorneys to participate in the School of Law's Legal Writing Collaborative. Through this Collaborative, ATJI matches equal justice providers with legal writing professors who teach first year law students. NJP was one of the providers who submitted issues for the

law students to research and write their third memorandum assignment. NJP also agreed to come and speak to the law students about the particular legal problem and how it impacts their clients. This Collaborative not only provides potential helpful research for the NJP attorneys and their clients but also provides law students with an introduction to NJP and its work, a window into the legal problems low-income people face, and an opportunity to the students to "write for a reason."

NJP and ATJI have also worked together on coordinating many events and offering trainings. NJP attorneys have served on panels at law school events that provided students with an understanding of Washington State's Alliance for Equal Justice and a deeper understanding of NJP's work. In addition, an NJP attorney has participated as a speaker in ATJI's Speaker Series for 1Ls where first year law students hear about legal services attorneys' practice through the lens of a specific first year class. The NJP attorney taught Contract Law by discussing various consumer and housing related cases and the arguments and advocacy tools he used to obtain relief for his clients.

Finally, NJP, which takes the leadership role for training of civil legal services attorneys in Washington, has welcomed law students to participate in task force meetings and trainings which the School of Law hosts. Conversely, ATJI and staff from the School of Law's Center for Professional Development organized a workshop on law student supervision and mentoring at the Statewide Civil Legal Services Conference, which was overseen by NJP.

Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic: Students in the Ronald A. Peterson Law Clinic learn the fundamental skills and values of practicing attorneys by representing clients under faculty supervision. The clinic's practice encompasses a wide range of subjects including youth advocacy, public benefits, predatory lending, international human rights, and immigration. Consistent with the law school's mission, the clinic teaches students the habit of reflection, the value of collaboration and lessons about what it takes to make justice a reality in the lives of those who cannot afford to pay for legal services.

NJP attorneys and clinical professors share a collaborative relationship where they often cross-refer cases to each other, depending on the needs of the clients and resources available, and consult with each other on various cases. Also, NJP attorneys routinely serve as guest speakers for some clinic classes.

Two clinical professors have served on the Committee for Indigent Representation and Civil Legal Equality (CIRCLE) under the leadership of NJP for many years. In coordination with CIRCLE, one team of clinic students in the International Human Rights Clinic researched the right to a free civil lawyer under foreign and international law. Recently, NJP attorneys involved with CIRCLE provided a clinical professor with brief and oral advocacy consultation for a Washington State Court of Appeals case involving a youth's right to counsel in truancy proceedings.

In addition, one clinical professor has worked closely with NJP attorneys on the Washington State Access to Justice Board's Impediments Committee. Through this

Committee's work, a Judge's Bench Manual on ADA Compliance was published and General Rule 33, a court rule that provides accommodations for disabled litigants, was passed.

Center for Professional Development: The Center for Professional Development (CPD) helps students identify and develop the tools for career success including public interest careers. CPD sponsors programs and events throughout the year to expose students to career options and to help them understand the job search and career development processes. One event which CPD co-sponsors is the Northwest Public Service Career Fair which provides students with an opportunity to meet and interview with a variety of legal services and government agencies for summer internships. NJP has always participated in this career fair, which takes place in both Seattle and Portland, and has subsequently hired a number of Seattle University law students as summer interns.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program: To assist students pursuing public interest employment after graduation Seattle University School of Law has established an LRAP program that pays \$3,000 per year of qualified loan forgiveness for up to five (5) years if the graduate remains in qualifying public interest employment.

Externship Program: Seattle University School of Law recognizes that experiential learning is an important component of a law student's legal training. The externship program's goal is to provide externs with a rewarding, well-supervised experience in judicial chambers or a practice setting that will ease their transition into practicing law, will instill professionalism, and will increase awareness of social justice concepts. A faculty supervisor and site supervisor guide each extern, providing insight and context for externs.

Many law students have externed with several NJP offices including the Spokane and Seattle offices. The School of Law has been pleased to hear from the NJP supervising attorneys that the students contribute valuable work, enjoy the training they receive, and feel positive about the social justice nature of the work they are learning to do.

Seattle Journal for Social Justice: The Seattle Journal for Social Justice (SJSJ), published twice a year, is a peer-reviewed, student-edited, interdisciplinary journal. SJSJ publishes writings that reflect theoretical, literary and hands-on approaches toward achieving social justice. Over the past few years, the Editors-in-Chief have worked with an NJP Advocacy Coordinator through the Access to Justice Board and the Law School Relations Committee on soliciting article topics from legal services attorneys. The goal of this collaboration is to meet the attorneys' research needs and the law student authors' ability to write meaningful articles, all while furthering social justice. In addition to this collaboration, one NJP attorney has published an article in an issue of SJSJ.

Course Offerings: Seattle University School of Law is one of the nation's most innovative and respected law schools, known for training outstanding lawyers who are leaders for a just and humane world. Faculty and administrators stand for excellence,

and work hard to instill that value in students. The School of Law's commitment to academic distinction is grounded in its Jesuit Catholic tradition – one that encourages open inquiry, thoughtful reflection and concern for personal growth. Innovation, creativity and technological sophistication characterize our rigorous educational program which includes a number of classes which will prepare students for public service among other career paths.

Many NJP attorneys have guest lectured and some have taught (as adjunct faculty on their own personal time) the following course offerings: Poverty Law, Advanced Poverty Law, Public Benefits, and Advanced Constitutional Law: 14th Amendment Seminar.

Continuing Legal Education: Seattle University School of Law views continuing legal education as an opportunity to be of service both to members of the Bar and the community at large. NJP attorneys have worked with the School of Law's CLE Program to organize CLE events and serve as speakers. In 2008 alone, NJP attorneys were involved with three CLEs. In March, an NJP attorney chaired a two-day CLE entitled, "Fighting Predatory Mortgage Lending" where she was able to bring national mortgage experts from the National Consumer Law Center. In September, NJP attorneys participated as speakers for a CLE entitled, "Credit Abuse and Predatory Lending," which was a program sponsored by the Washington State Bar Association's Leadership Institute Fellows, who were so inspired by the CLE in March that they wanted to provide more consumer training for local attorneys. Finally, in October, NJP attorneys worked with a group of other legal services consumer advocates to organize a symposium called "Keys to Opportunity: Car Ownership and Finance."

Gonzaga University School of Law

University Legal Assistance (Clinical Law Program): Gonzaga University's School of Law has been providing direct legal services to low income individuals in the Spokane for over thirty-three years. The Law School's in-house clinical law program, University Legal Assistance (ULA) was founded in 1975 to provide clinical legal education to law students in a law firm environment while providing significant legal services to the Spokane community. ULA has provided legal services in the areas of elder law, family law, civil rights, consumer, immigration, public entitlements and housing law. The clinic has represented individuals in simple legal matters to complex Federal litigation including appellate advocacy in the Ninth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. Students can earn up to fifteen academic credits while "practicing law" in a law firm setting.

Since 1981, ULA has received a grant from the Older Americans Act through the local Area Agency on Aging to provide legal services to the elderly in Spokane County. ULA received IOLTA from the Washington Legal Foundation to provide legal services to Domestic Violence victims in the Spokane area from 1999 to 2008.

Many of the faculty supervising attorneys have been legal services attorneys and have continued to be involved in the legal services community and have collaborated on

many cases with Northwest Justice Project and its predecessors, and other public interest organizations including the ACLU, Columbia Legal Services, and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Gonzaga Law School and ULA have been part of the Washington State Access to Justice (ATJ) movement since its inception in 1994. In 1995, ULA was co-recipient along with the former NJP organization, Spokane Legal Services and the Spokane County Volunteer Lawyers of the Charles A Goldmark Distinguished Service Award presented by the Legal Foundation of Foundation. The Goldmark Award was created in 1987 to recognize exceptional efforts in assuring equal access to justice recognizes the outstanding work of an attorney or organization that has performed on behalf of poor people.

Currently, the Law School through the law firm of University Legal Assistance has the following clinic offerings: General Practice (Legal Services and Civil Rights) , Elder Law, Family Law/Domestic Violence, Indian Law, Federal Tax, and Business.

Starting with the first year class of 2009, all law students will be required to take a minimum of three credits of either a clinical law or externship program.

Externship Program: In Gonzaga Law School's, externship program, students earn academic credit by working in "field placements" for judges and practicing attorneys in public interest law offices. Students work in courts and public law offices, such as prosecutors' offices, public defenders' offices, or in public law firms serving people without resources to afford legal assistance. Judges' chambers provide field placement opportunities for students interested in experiencing a judicial clerkship.

Gonzaga Student Alliance for Social Justice: The Gonzaga Student Alliance for Social Justice (Alliance) is an association of Gonzaga Law School student organizations and academic programs that are committed to social justice as a part of their stated mission. The student Alliance is loosely modeled after the state-wide organization called The Alliance for Equal Justice.

The purpose of the Alliance is to (1) promote communication between all clubs and academic programs at Gonzaga, and to allow like-minded groups to collaborate on school and community events while minimizing the duplication of public interest/service efforts; (2) support Gonzaga's relationship with the public interest legal community and to cultivate opportunities in the community for students who are interested in public interest law including student participation in the various Washington state Access to Justice events; and (3) promote the numerous and varied opportunities to serve the underrepresented and indigent already instituted at Gonzaga Law as evidence of the school's overall commitment to social justice.

The Alliance collaborates with Seattle University and University of Washington to combine resources and increase student opportunities across the State via the Access to Justice Law School Relations Committee.

Public Service Requirement: All Gonzaga Law School students must complete thirty (30) hours of public service as a requirement for graduation. The public service requirement encompasses traditional pro bono legal work, but can also be satisfied volunteering at nonprofit charitable, civic or community organization (law or non-law related). Faculty members have a similar service obligation of 10 hours of pro bono or community service a year.

Director of Public Interest Law: The Law School has dedicated 25% of a law faculty's time as Director of Public Interest Law. This position will fulfill an information and referral function for students; guide students in seeking fellowships, internships, and mentoring relationships in public interest law; facilitate conversations with other like-minded public interest organization; foster faculty involvement in public interest endeavors and act as the faculty guide for all the student public interest organizations and programs.

Thomas More Scholarship Program: Gonzaga Law School's Thomas More Scholarship Program provides a unique opportunity for talented individuals to realize their commitment to serving the public interest through law.

Each year, the law school selects a small number of entering first-year students to be Thomas More Scholars. These Scholars are awarded full tuition so that they may pursue careers in public service unencumbered by substantial law school debt.

The scholarships are awarded for one academic year and may be renewed for successive years based on satisfactory academic performance and full participation in all the activities of the Program.

The Thomas More Program reflects Gonzaga's commitment to educating the whole person, serving the public good, and pursuing justice.

Gonzaga Public Interest Law Project: The Gonzaga Public Interest Law Project (GPLIP) was founded in 1989 to promote student participation in public interest work, especially public interest law. The Gonzaga Public Interest Law Project's (GPILP) main objective is to remove the financial obstacles that prevent students from pursuing careers in public interest. Various fundraising events allow GPILP to award summer grants to students working in otherwise uncompensated, summer, public interest law positions. GPILP members are also involved in general community service projects; for example, working with the Spokane Neighborhood Action Program, the Center for Justice, and the Unemployment Law Project.

Loan Repayment Assistance Program: The purpose of Gonzaga Law School's LRAP program is to provide loan repayment assistance to a select number of our graduates who are pursuing careers in public service. Applicants with outstanding law-school student loans, both federal and commercial, are invited to apply to the LRAP program.

The program functions to provide selected graduates with loans of up to \$4,000 a year to help meet the repayment of specified law school loans. If a graduate remains in qualifying public interest employment for at least one year after receipt of a loan under this program, the loan made by the law school will be forgiven. Graduates may apply annually for a total of five years of LRAP funding.

The program is administered by the dean's office and by the law school faculty Scholarship Committee. Any awards made through this program are issued through the sole and unfettered discretion of the dean's office and the Scholarship Committee.

Mission Possible: Mission Possible is a student-run organization that focuses on helping those who are less fortunate, abroad and at home. Mission Possible leads a trip every Spring Break to complete service projects in poverty-stricken communities. Over the past three years, Mission Possible has completed community service in Honduras and offered hurricane relief assistance in New Orleans. Mission Possible believes in promoting humanistic and diversity values through action and examples. Sharing their experience with the Gonzaga and Spokane communities is an important activity of the group.

University of Washington School of Law

The University of Washington School of Law community believes that lawyers play a critical role in establishing and preserving a civil society. Law should be a calling in the spirit of public service. To encourage our students to make a lifetime commitment to public service lies at the heart of the UW School of Law's mission. To support this mission, the law school offers a variety of public service-related opportunities, from volunteer activities to class offerings to public interest and government externships. Whatever their career paths may be, it is our hope and expectation that our students and alumni, as leaders in the legal profession, will lend their skills to serve.

For more than a decade, the UW School of Law has sought to instill this spirit in students by requiring sixty hours of public service before graduation. The majority of students demonstrate a strong commitment to public service, contributing significantly more than sixty hours. Their annual contributions support a dozen clinics, hundreds of externships, and a variety of community programs. Students gain practical legal experience while increasing access to justice in the State of Washington and beyond.

Much of our public service programming and volunteering is accomplished in collaboration with the Northwest Justice Project and other Alliance Partners. Specific collaborations with NJP occur in the context of clinics, externships, volunteer activities, public service career planning, events programming and our Gates Public Service Law Program.

Clinics: The University of Washington School of Law offers 11 clinics. Nearly 60% of each JD class enrolls in a clinic. Many of our clinics receive client referral through NJP or draw on NJP staff to assist with training. One clinic in is a direct collaboration with

NJP. In the Refugee and Immigrant Advocacy Clinic, students represent immigrants to gain access to basic needs, such as food, health care, financial subsistence, employment and training. Students may also help with applications for immigration status as victims of human trafficking or with pursuing citizenship. The Refugee and Immigrant Advocacy Clinic is a community collaboration with NJP. A full time staff attorney at NJP has a faculty appointment at the University of Washington and directs this clinic. The clinic itself is housed in NJP's Seattle office; students work directly with NJP staff on their cases.

Externships: Students complete public-interest externships for classroom credit with judges, government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, state courts and private law firms working on pro bono matters. Externships typically last three months and may be based with local, national or international organizations. The Northwest Justice Project and its offices around the state is a placement organization for a significant number of UW Law students.

Public Service Requirement: For more than a decade, the UW School of Law has sought to instill this spirit in students by requiring sixty hours of public service before graduation. The majority of students demonstrate a strong commitment to public service, contributing significantly more than sixty hours. Their annual contributions support a dozen clinics, hundreds of externships, and a variety of community programs. Students gain practical legal experience while increasing access to justice in the State of Washington and beyond. Untold hours of public service work have taken place at NJP offices across the state.

Public Service Voices: Public Service Voices is a web only vehicle to share the stories of public service law advocacy. Lawyers and other professionals who work in the law have been invited to share their own reflections of their public service careers and their roles in working to achieve full and equal justice in our society. NJP staff and advocates have been frequent contributors as essay authors to this series.

NW Public Service Law Career Fair/Career Planning Office: The Office of Career Planning and Public Service (CPO) invites students to partner in advancing their careers by providing career coaching, recruiting opportunities, electronic job-search tools, and events. Relationships matter in the practice of the law; many of the events and activities are planned to create and promote new relationships among attorneys, alumni, and UW School of Law students. In addition to career planning, the CPO promotes Public Service/Public Interest Law through several activities, career fairs, events, and is a co-sponsor of the Northwest Public Service Career Fair. The Northwest Public Service Career Fair provides students with an opportunity to meet and interview with a variety of legal services and government agencies for summer internships. NJP participates in this career fair and has subsequently hired a UW Law students and graduates for summer internships, term-time externships and post graduate positions.

Substantive Educational Programming and Events: The law school hosts a number of events throughout the year focused on public service law. Vehicles for educational

programming include our annual 1L public service law orientation event, and annual Public Service Law celebration dinner and our weekly Social Justice Tuesdays series. NJP attorneys have been frequent panelists, speakers and overall contributors at these events. Moreover, NJP staff make themselves available to assist student in brainstorming their civil legal aid career paths and this has been a great, though less formal collaboration between NW and all three law schools.

William H. Gates Public Service Law Program: The William Gates Public Service Law Program (Gates PSL) awards five scholarships on an annual basis to first year students entering the UW School of Law J.D. program. Acceptance of a Gates PSL scholarship represents a commitment on the part of each recipient ("Scholar") to work in public service for five years following graduation. NJP staff and advocates have helped strengthen this program in an informal advisory capacity and attend many events for the Gates PSL. In the Program's three short years of existence to date, 3 Gates Scholars have externed or interned for NJP.

Lastly, the University of Washington School of Law has recently endowed an LRAP program with more than \$800,000, including \$500,000 provided by the Washington Legislature and raising a matching \$250,000.

Conclusion

We are gratified and proud of the diligent work undertaken by Washington's law schools to promote equal justice and a culture of service while engaging with NJP, legal aid providers and the work of Washington's Alliance for Equal Justice.

Wisconsin

Rosemary R. Elbert , Executive Director Wisconsin Judicare

As we are about 200 miles from both Wisconsin law schools as well as the Minnesota law schools, our collaboration occurs mainly during the summer months. We have been very fortunate in recent years in having excellent law school interns, either partially or fully paid by law school programs. Two of them in our Civil Unit prepared the groundwork for the creation of uniform family laws in one of the judicial districts we serve. One of these interns was located outside our office, and was supervised by the judges in the area, in addition to being supervised by us. Our Native American Unit has had interns who participated in several of their projects.

Another intern, who under Minnesota law school requirements was required to complete a period of pro bono work, was recommended by us to a judicial district-wide self-help committee of which we were a part. This was a very felicitous arrangement, for her and for the committee, as she was able to staff the committee for a number of months and was able to work in the small town where she lived. She was also able to work on week

days during the school year, as she attended Hemline Law School in Minnesota, under their program of week-end law school attendance.

Although we have had a number of student interns apply, most cannot assist us without payment from their law school or from our program, as they usually work at other jobs during the summer to pay for their tuition and living expenses.