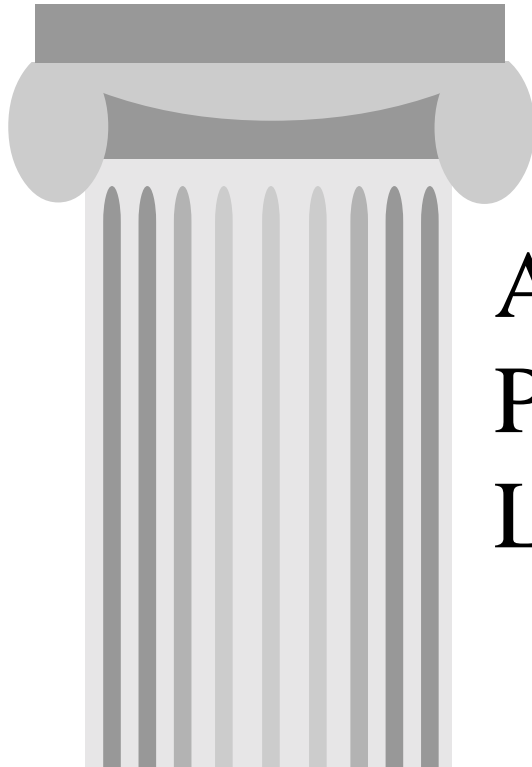


LEGAL SERVICES GUIDE



A GUIDE TO PURSUING WORK IN LEGAL SERVICES

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SECTION 1

AN INTRODUCTION TO LEGAL SERVICES

Legal services programs, often called “legal aid societies,” provide direct civil representation, at reduced cost or for free, to low income and elderly clients. Legal services attorneys ensure equal access to the justice system for people who could not otherwise afford attorneys. Much of a legal services lawyer’s work involves individual client contact, and attorneys often take on “bread and butter” cases in which a client’s fundamental rights and needs are in jeopardy—for example, representing families in wrongful eviction cases, advocating for women who need protection from abuse, or arguing for a worker who has been denied employment benefits. Many legal services offices are organized by subject matter and the staff lawyers specialize in one area of practice. In some offices, lawyers are generalists, handling the spectrum of cases that fall within their program’s mandate.

This guide is structured to give readers an overview of legal services and directions from the hallowed halls of Harvard Law School and other law schools to the “trenches” of legal services. It contains personal narratives from HLS alums enthusiastically working in legal services. It lists HLS courses and extracurricular activities of interest to those planning to pursue careers in legal services. Finally, it contains lists of legal services organizations and legal services websites to use as a starting point in identifying potential employers.

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Acknowledgements: A big thank you to Bob Sable at Greater Boston Legal Services, Nancy King of Southern Middlesex Legal Services, Phyllis Holman of Georgia Legal Services Program, Greg Schell at the Migrant Farmworker Justice Project, Jon Asher of the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver, Joel Ferber of Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, and Jonathan Stein of Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, who spent time talking candidly about their jobs. Thanks also to the Harvard Law School graduates who took the time to write the narratives we have included with this Guide - Judith Lurie ‘96, Louise Hayes ‘96, Melissa Reinberg ‘91, Raun Rasmussen ‘84 - their words say more than we could ever describe. Thanks to Dean Suzanne Richardson for student organizations descriptions. Also thanks to Linda Perle at the Center for Law and Social Policy for providing information about legal services funding.

SECTION 2

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE A LEGAL SERVICES LAWYER?

Legal services attorneys are expected to handle a large amount of responsibility very quickly, often accountable for their own cases from start to finish as soon as they are sworn into their state bar. Lawyers working in legal services have intensive client contact, a varied work load and a great deal of time in court or in administrative law hearings. They often manage as many as 40 to 60 active cases at one time. Legal services lawyers also frequently collaborate on larger projects, such as community education or complex cases. However, the heart of legal services work lies in helping one person at a time.

Despite the tumultuous funding history of legal services, many legal services attorneys still proudly proclaim that they have “the best job in the world.” As Greg Schell (HLS '79), Executive Director of the Migrant Farmworker Justice Project in Florida explained, “I can’t imagine a better job. I love to get up and go to work. Ninety-nine percent of my clients are wonderful, wonderful people. . . I would do it again in a heartbeat.” Lawyers in legal services enjoy casual, non-hierarchical and collegial work environments and the opportunity to make a significant positive impact on individuals’ lives. Lawyers in legal services get personal satisfaction from seeing the immediate results of their work. As Nancy King of South Middlesex Legal Services in Framingham explained, “You can feel good about what you’re doing in legal services, even if you don’t win all the time.” Schell shared the same enthusiasm: “I’ve found the work challenging and meaningful for 20 years. I can’t start to tell you how exciting it is. . . we are right, and most of the time it still matters. We beat Goliath nine times out of ten. That’s pretty neat.”

Legal services attorneys welcome the great autonomy and responsibility they are given almost immediately upon arrival. One misconception about legal services work is that it becomes repetitive over time, as attorneys begin to see the same kinds of issues arising in case after case. In fact, legal services attorneys say they tend to find their work intellectually stimulating. Phyllis Holman of Georgia Legal Services Program explains, “The challenge is to find a new strategy, or a new legal remedy for something you’ve never seen before. Our cases aren’t just run of the mill.”

On the downside, some legal services lawyers find the large caseloads and quick turnover of cases stressful. King explained, “Thirty cases can feel like a hundred and thirty. The consequences of these cases are very intense and critical.” Many legal services lawyers express frustration with the limited funding and resources allocated to their offices. Others feel that their work does not have enough of a global impact, and are frustrated that the individual client approach may be a “Band-Aid” solution to larger societal ills. Because of the current restrictions legal services organizations face, some find long-term psychological satisfaction difficult. Some lawyers feel that as a result of the recent funding changes, legal services is no longer a viable career to pursue for someone who wants to use the laws to change conditions for poor people. Others, however, have found ways to both provide direct services to clients as well as work creatively to impact groups on a larger level.

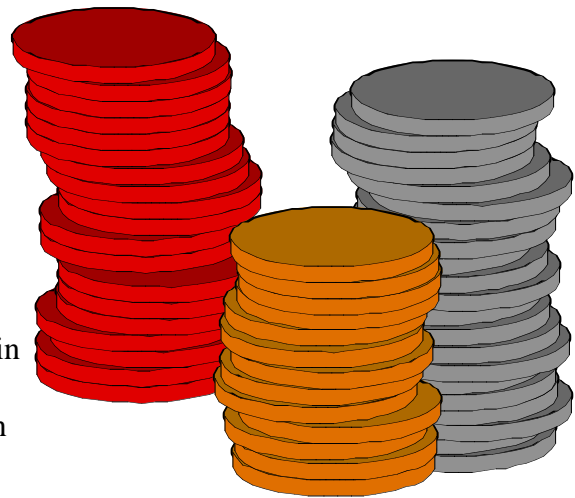
One of the most challenging aspects of a legal services career is that attorneys often must resolve issues that extend beyond their role as a legal advocate. Legal services attorneys confront people whose daily lives are in crisis, whose fundamental and critical human needs such as income, shelter

and safety depend on the performance of their attorney. Some find this overwhelming. In addition, legal services lawyers must face the stress of turning eligible clients in crisis situations away. Many, like Bob Sable of Greater Boston Legal Services, cite the most difficult aspect of their jobs as turning down those who need their services: “We’re still turning away three out of five eligible clients,” he explains, “and are probably only serving 20 percent of those who need our services.”

SECTION 3

SALARY TRENDS

Salaries for legal services lawyers tend to fall at the lower end of the public interest spectrum. Starting salaries range from \$20,000 to \$35,000 per year, depending on geographic location. Generally, legal services lawyers receive a \$1,000 to \$2,000 pay increase each year. Salaries for directors of legal services organizations can range from \$40,000-50,000 up to \$100,000 in a major metropolitan area. To offset their relatively low salaries, legal services programs often offer generous leave and other benefits.



Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. Equal Justice for Maryland

POSITION AVAILABLE

CHIEF ATTORNEY: Full Time

OFFICE LOCATIONS: Baltimore City

CHIEF ATTORNEY: Minimum of five (5) years prior practice experience and substantive knowledge of Housing or Public Benefits law. Excellent mentoring and communication skills and basic computer skills required. Admission to Maryland Bar or eligible and willing to take first available Maryland Bar examination.

SALARY: \$40,350 and up depending on experience.

START DATE: Immediately

REQUIREMENTS: Admission to a bar and eligible for admission to Maryland Bar.. Minimum of three years litigation experience required. Experience in management of legal work.

Persons interested should submit a resume.

SECTION 4

FUNDING HISTORY

In order to understand how legal services programs function, it is important to know something about their funding history. Traditionally, almost all legal services programs have relied heavily on funding from the federal Legal Services Corporation (LSC) and have been vulnerable to political funding decisions. Some legal services programs, such as the Legal Aid Society in New York City which has both criminal and civil divisions, have historically been funded in large part by the private bar and state and local government.

In 1994, Congress cut LSC funding substantially and imposed a series of restrictions on the program. Legislative advocacy activities were severely limited—LSC-funded organizations were prohibited from engaging in class action litigation as well as substantive lobbying. In addition, legal services organizations were restricted from opposing welfare reform, asking for attorney’s fees, or representing illegal aliens.

In response to these 1994 funding cuts and restrictions, legal services programs have increasingly turned to other sources of funding such as support from state legislatures, the private bar, foundations and income from IOLTA (Interest on Lawyer Trust Accounts). In some areas, entire programs have chosen to totally relinquish their federal funding so that they can continue to take on the activities that federal funding recipients are prohibited from engaging in. In other locales some programs have created separate “sister” offices to handle the prohibited types of advocacy. As a result, there are now legal services programs that handle almost exclusively individual direct service cases, and other programs that, without any federal funding, handle law reform cases.

| | Types of Advocacy Work |
|--|--|
| LSC Funded Legal Services Programs | direct service cases in public benefits, housing, domestic violence, community education, in addition to individual advocacy and creative group advocacy |
| Non-LSC Funded Legal Services Programs | law reform cases, class action litigation, lobbying, welfare reform, fee generating work, representation of indocumented immigrants |

SECTION 5

FINDING A LEGAL SERVICES JOB

Although the severe funding cuts did negatively impact hiring trends in legal services, hiring at legal services programs has started to increase once again. While it still may take a bit of creative job strategizing, if you are dedicated to finding employment in the legal services field, chances are you will be successful.

USE YOUR TIME IN LAW SCHOOL WISELY

HLS courses like Critical Perspectives on the Law: Issues of Race, Gender, Class and Social Change, can broaden your knowledge of the kind of issues legal services attorneys face. Clinical courses such as Introduction to Advocacy Civil: The Lawyering Process can give you valuable skills training and will help demonstrate your commitment to legal services work to future employers. For more suggestions of courses, see Section 7: Academic Paths at HLS.

Extracurricular activities at HLS provide great opportunities to get more practical experience in legal services. Consider joining the Battered Women's Advocacy Project, the Legal Aid Bureau, or another organization that interests you. For more suggestions of extracurricular activities, see Section 8: Extracurricular Activities at HLS.

Starting with your 2L year at HLS, clinical programs provide you with the unique opportunity to build experience in client representation while obtaining academic credit. At HLS, clinical placements that give you legal services type exposure include the Hale and Dorr Legal Services Center in Jamaica Plain and the Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinic at Greater Boston Legal Services. Both of these placements provide you with the chance to work directly with low income clients in a community-based setting under the supervision of experienced advocates. Several of Harvard's clinical externship placements can also provide you with valuable experience working on issues relevant to legal services clients; for example the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute works on impact cases and policy advocacy on issues affecting the poor residents of Massachusetts. Students who are members of the Legal Aid Bureau may earn clinical credit for their work at the Bureau through certain courses. Finally, students who meet the appropriate prerequisites may create independent clinical placements. For more information see Section 7: Academic Paths at HLS or contact the Clinical Program Office.

MAKE YOUR EXPERIENCE COUNT

Legal services organizations often hire attorneys straight out of law school, or with relatively little work experience. Therefore, they consider a prospective employee's experiences and activities while in law school to be very important. In particular, legal services organizations look for a candidate's strong commitment to helping the underprivileged, demonstrated by coursework in poverty law, participation in relevant clinical programs, positions in summer jobs, and experiences prior to law school.

Spending your summers doing some type of public interest work, even if it isn't specifically legal services work, is important. Any work you do on behalf of indigent clients will enhance your chances of landing a legal services job after graduation. Include on your resume any experience working with the low-income and elderly, even if it is non-legal in nature such as serving food in a soup kitchen. In your cover letter and interview, stress your desire for direct client contact, as well as your commitment to helping indigent clients.

Language skills are often helpful (but not always necessary) in the legal services job market. Knowledge of Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese is particularly useful in many areas of the country. While knowing a second language is not usually a requirement for employment in the legal services field, even basic proficiency in such a language may enhance your application.

FIND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Finding employment opportunities in legal services requires a bit of searching. OPIA often receives many job announcements from legal services organizations around the country, which you can find in our Full-Time Job Announcements binder located on the bookshelves opposite our office in Pound 328.

In addition, the Law Library subscribes to a publication called *The Clearinghouse Review*, which contains articles written by legal services attorneys on contemporary trends and topics in the field, as well as job vacancies at legal services organizations around the country. It is published every other month, so some jobs may be filled soon after they are listed.

Consult local legal periodicals, such as *Massachusetts Lawyers' Weekly*, and national periodicals like the *National Federal and Legal Employment Report*, located on the bookshelves outside of OPIA. These periodicals often have legal services job listings. Go online to www.pslawnet.org to find job and fellowship opportunities.

In addition, take advantage of OPIA's extensive alumnae mentor network. Sign up for an individual mentor working in legal services to give you one-on-one advice, encouragement and suggestions. Search the OPIA Alumni Mentor Network to find other legal services-oriented alumni willing to answer questions.

Lastly, don't limit yourself to advertised openings. Take initiative on your own: find individual legal services programs that interest you and contact them and ask about job possibilities. The Legal Services Corporation's website at www.lsc.gov contains the most recent directory of all federally funded legal services organizations in the country; the most recent printed edition of this directory is *The Legal Services Corporation Program Directory*, available in OPIA's resource center. In addition, the *Directory of Legal Aid and Defender Offices in the United States and Territories*, on reserve at OPIA, lists both LSC-funded and non-LSC funded programs.

A note about Fellowships: These days many legal services programs expand their staffs by bringing in new attorneys who come with their own funding. If there is a particular legal services/legal aid program that you are interested in working for, you may be able to persuade them to take you on, even if they are not hiring, if you can work with them to secure a fellowship. Two Fellowships that law students often use to fund positions at legal services programs are the Skadden Fellowships,

sponsored by the law firm of Skadden Arps Meagher and Flom, and the NAPIL Fellowships, sponsored by the National Association of Public Interest Law. For both Fellowships, before you apply, you must have the legal services office you are interested in working for agree to sponsor you and you must jointly come up with a project that builds upon the work of the office you are applying with.

For information on other Fellowships, check out the Fellowships Chapter of OPIA's *Public Interest Job Search Guide* and the Fellowships listings in PSLawnet. If you are a Harvard Law student or graduate, you can also talk to Judy Murciano, OPIA's Fellowships Director, about your funding options.

EVALUATE YOUR EMPLOYMENT OPTIONS

Once you've found employment opportunities, evaluate what kind of legal services program is right for you. Deciding whether to work for a federally-funded or non-federally-funded organization is one primary consideration. LSC-funded organizations provide the opportunity to do extensive work with individual clients, and are at least somewhat assured of being financially solvent in the future. Nevertheless, LSC-funded programs are restricted from certain kinds of legal work, and individuals wishing to do more impact work may have to think creatively in order to achieve results. Non-LSC-funded programs offer the opportunity to engage in unrestricted legal activity, but their financial futures, dependent upon private organizations and various sources, are often unpredictable.

In addition, pay close attention to the reputation and demographics of the legal services organization you are considering. Jonathan Asher of the Legal Aid Society of Metropolitan Denver explained, "Recent law school graduates ought to be enthusiastic about pursuing a career in legal services, but need to be careful where they do it. There are some places they will pick up bad legal habits." He recommends contacting lawyers in the program's community who know the reputation of the organization within the bar and with private attorneys and firms.

Moreover, finding a legal services organization that prioritizes issues you care about is important. Do research on what types of cases the organization handles, and what kinds of community work and bar committees they are involved in. Furthermore, investigate the make-up of the organization. A mix of experience levels is important, as a good legal services organization should have a balance of experienced veterans and young blood.

Find out how attorneys' legal work is supervised at the organization. Securing a helpful, more experienced mentor at a new job is critical, especially in a field like legal services in which conditions have fluctuated and changed in recent years.

Another factor, related to supervision is the type of training that the program will offer you. How will they orient you initially at the program? Some legal services program will not provide you with much initial training, expecting you to learn on the job, so you must be comfortable with that type of responsibility in order to be happy with the program. Some programs invest money in the professional development and training of lawyers, sending their staff to substantive conferences like the National Legal Aid and Defender Conference or trial trainings like the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. Other programs are unable to fund such trainings. Figure out how important that type of

training is to you and evaluate the programs you are looking at accordingly.

Another aspect of legal services programs to consider are the individual attorney caseloads for different types of cases. Some programs are good about imposing control mechanisms on staff caseloads so that the attorneys have the appropriate time to devote to each case. Other programs allow staff to set their own caseloads. The danger in the latter approach is that there may be pressure on the staff - because of the fact that there are always more clients who need help than there are advocates to help them - to keep taking on new cases even past the point where those cases can get the attention that they need.

Finally, think about the types of resources that you need to be a happy new lawyer and whether the program you are evaluating has them. Very few legal services programs have unfettered access to Lexus or Westlaw but many of them have good law libraries. Is the library at the program you're looking at adequate, or are you going to have to go elsewhere to do your legal research? In the resource category, is the program willing and able to spend the money to litigate cases? For example, if you need to take a deposition in a case, will the program authorize the funds? What if you need any expert witness, can the program afford to fund one if it is the right thing to do for a case? You will never find a legal services program that has all the resources available at big firms, but you should look at the spectrum of programs and see which one meets your needs.

Perhaps most importantly, evaluate whether you find the staff at the program to be the type of people with whom you want to work. Legal services offices, as has been noted above, are usually very collegial. Staff often collaborate on litigation and other matters. It is essential that you relate well to, and even enjoy, the majority of the staff you will be working with.

6 SECTION

PERSONAL NARRATIVES

Because the climate and nature of legal services work varies depending on both geographic location and the funding status of the organization, hearing about legal services work first-hand from HLS alumni throughout the country is a helpful way to gain insight into the field. The four alumni whose narratives follow work for both LSC and non-LSC funded organizations, and have graciously offered to share their experiences with you.

**JUDITH LURIE '96, FARMWORKER ATTORNEY, NORTHWEST JUSTICE PROJECT
WENATCHEE, WASHINGTON**

I graduated from law school in June of 1996. In September I bought a truck, moved with my cat into an old farmhouse nestled in the middle of a pear orchard, and then opened the doors of a new legal services office in rural Washington state. Within a few weeks it became clear that the “experienced attorney” I was promised was not showing up. Before I knew it I was promoted, before I even passed the bar, I think, to “Senior Attorney.” Patrick, another recent law graduate, and I arranged the furniture and then went to business.

It is three years later, and Patrick and I are still here. When we got here, no one had ever heard of the Northwest Justice Project. Now, after logging miles and miles in our five county service area, visiting labor camps, doing radio shows, and making presentations at schools, clinics, and the like, our phones ring off the hook some days. We are here three years later because we love our jobs.

I am tired, but in good spirits. Last night, Sunday, I got home from work at 9 p.m. I was at work, but not at the office. It is the height of the apple harvest, and I have been logging too many miles on my truck. My office covers a five county area which represents the vast bulk of the apple growing industry in the state. I have been responding to calls all month from workers who are not getting paid, beaten up by some foreman or grower, doused with pesticides, living in wretched conditions,

.....
• On my way home, I think over the complaint in my head. But mostly I think
• about how cold it is getting these nights, and about going to sleep in one of
• these unheated cabins, with sore muscles, without one’s wife and children,
• with a thin blanket, and without a check.
.....

and then fired for demanding some of these basic rights. The back of my truck is full of outreach materials, retainer agreements, and dust.

Today I am back on the road, almost into Canada, to negotiate with a group of growers who have refused to pay four of their workers wages representing months of work. These farm workers were thinning apple trees and then picking apples for months, never receiving anything for it except a few small “loans” to string them along and keep them barely fed until every last apple was picked. After a big swearing match between the workers and one of the growers, and after the grower hit one of

the farm workers, they finally quit. I have sent the growers a demand letter outlining our claims, which range from assault, to non-payment of wages, to violations of the federal statute protecting farmworkers. I explain that we are interested in negotiating, but are prepared to go to federal court if necessary.

We meet in a hotel conference room on the highway. The negotiations took about 30 minutes, and went nowhere. They did not bring an attorney, despite our request, and have little confidence that a few Mexicans can actually command \$21,000 from a corporation through the U.S. courts. I already have a draft of the complaint back at the office and will try to file it in federal court by Friday.

I take advantage of being up here and do more outreach in the area. I cruise along back roads, working from maps made in years past which locate the farmworker housing hidden behind rows and rows of trees. I talk to lots of workers just coming in from the fields with their empty sacks. They are wearing many layers of thin, cotton shirts.

On my way home, I think over the complaint in my head. But mostly I think about how cold it is getting these nights, and about going to sleep in one of these unheated cabins, with sore muscles, without one's wife and children, with a thin blanket, and without a check.

I went into legal services after spending two years before law school working in El Salvador for the popular movement. I worked in communities in the "conflict zone" training campesinos and later, after the peace accords were signed, ex-FMLN combatants, in how to form and manage agricultural cooperatives as a way to reclaim the land and move beyond subsistence farming.

In my mind, working for legal services, representing farm workers, was the closest I could come to being a human rights worker in the United States. My clients are not all that different from the peasants of El Salvador. They work hard and still can barely feed their families. They live in isolated areas, and have difficulty accessing health care, legal aid, even a telephone. In many instances, the working and living conditions are worse than what I saw in El Salvador.

What is fulfilling about my job? Why would I recommend working for legal services? Helping those most in need is at the top of the list. But my work is also fulfilling because:

- My clients appreciate me and let me know it almost every day.
- My "boss" is 200 miles away; before I was even a lawyer, I was running an entire legal services office.
- Not only am I responsible for an entire office, I am responsible for each of my cases. The litigation strategy, discovery, negotiations, and ultimately the trial is all up to me.
- My cases may not involve a lot of money, but for each of my clients, the case is very important. It is about money to buy food and to pay rent.
- Some of my cases do affect lots of people. Even though the Legal Services Corporation prevents me from bringing class action lawsuits, I can still represent groups of individuals in, for example, a wage claim. I can also represent groups of individuals such as the group of farmworkers who have formed a non-profit corporation, brought a farmworker clinic to their community, and opened a food bank which serves sometimes hundreds of people a day.
- My best friends are my colleagues in legal services.
- My job has given me time to have a fulfilling life outside of work as well. I have had time to fall in love, get married and have a baby while continuing to work with the same level of responsibilities.

Life is full of challenges. I chose a job with legal services which presents me with minimal challenges to my lifestyle and quality of life. It is a job which, at the same time, presents me with great challenges professionally. And it is a job which lets me help the poorest and hardest working people in our country take on their most basic challenge: putting food on the table and a roof over their heads.

**LOUISE HAYES '96, ATTORNEY, COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES
PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Since starting work two years ago as a welfare specialist at Community Legal Services in Philadelphia, I've been telling people, only half-joking, that "I once was lost but now I'm found." Before starting, I hadn't fully known that being a legal services lawyer is the best job in the world. I feel very lucky to have stumbled onto this secret.

In law school, I saw myself as going into "impact" work. To be honest, I thought that direct client service was not challenging enough, maybe even beneath me. I also told myself that I didn't have what it takes—I thought I was too shy and too middle class to successfully build rapport with low income clients. But through good advice, I came to realize that I wouldn't be equipped to do impact work without a solid grounding in direct representation. I therefore decided to work in legal services for two years or so, to give myself this grounding, even if I wasn't sure I would like it. I applied for and received a fellowship to work on welfare-to-work issues, through direct representation, community education, and big-picture advocacy.

Now I can't imagine not having a direct client caseload. For one thing, the theory that led me to this job—of yoking direct representation and impact advocacy, so that each informs the other—is absolutely true. Many of the problems that most trip up our clients moving off welfare—such as the welfare office's income reporting system and child care payment scheme—are invisible to policy analysts. It is only through seeing case after case of problems with a policy that you realize what an effect it has on our clients. I no longer plan to move on to full-time impact work. The system changes; you need to see it first-hand daily to keep up.

.....
• I enjoy going to work, but it's more important than that: this job
• makes me closer to the person I want to be.
•
.....

I also didn't appreciate how much I would enjoy working directly with clients. I really like talking with these women (and a few men) and making the effort to bridge our differences. And of course there's nothing like the satisfaction of helping someone get something she really needs and can't get on her own. For example, I recently got Medicaid to pay for surgery for an immigrant whose hand had been crushed and was in danger of developing permanent damage. How many opportunities do we have to make such a real difference in someone's life?

Here are three more reasons why this job is so great: First, legal services attracts the best people. Though of course we all have our quirks and bad days, overall my colleagues are joys to spend time with: smart, fun, kind, and cooperative. I think the kind of people drawn to anti-poverty work, and willing to make financial sacrifices for it, create an ideal office culture, one that is supportive, appreciative of the need for balance in our lives, and energizing.

Second, I'm given amazing autonomy to work on what I think is interesting and important. No one gives me assignments (other than scheduling me for client intake shifts); almost all our work is volunteered for. So if I want to set up a meeting to discuss child care problems, or draft a flyer on how welfare recipients can stay in school, or write a letter to the welfare office's policy staff about

problems with its caseworker handbooks, I am encouraged to do so—no need to ask permission. Having initiated much of my work (or at least picked up the ball when someone else had a good idea), I feel thoroughly invested in it. I work almost as hard as an associate at a firm, but the extra hours are entirely because I *want* to do more. I could leave at 5:00 daily if I choose.

Third, I do a tremendous variety of things. My job description, if I had one, would be a mixture of litigator, educator, policy analyst, social worker, technical advisor, and lobbyist. I spend a lot of my time on the phone, with clients and welfare caseworkers of course, but also with welfare office policy staff, human services professionals seeking advice about how to help a client, and with colleagues in the Philadelphia advocacy community discussing strategy. I also do a fair amount of public speaking, training groups of clients and advocates about welfare reform and how to fight for your rights.

My old fear that this job would not be challenging enough was wildly off base. I am constantly challenged to learn new skills, and hone existing ones, that are much broader and more interesting than pure legal issues we addressed in law school. In particular, I expect to be challenged for years, if not for my whole career, on how to educate and empower clients, and in developing judgment about advocacy strategy.

Of course there are frustrations. I wish I had a better equipped library, and someone to whom to delegate more of my routine work. At the moment CLS is fiscally solvent, but the stories of bad budget years are disheartening.

All in all, though, this job can't be beat. I enjoy going to work, but it's more than that: this job makes me closer to being the person I want to be. I'd be happy to speak directly with anyone who'd like to talk more about it. My work number is (215) 227-2400 ext. 2421.

**MELISSA REINBERG '91, LEGAL DIRECTOR, LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

I love my job. It is challenging, meaningful, and satisfying. I feel very lucky because I don't know many lawyers outside of the public interest community who can say the same thing about their jobs.

At D.C.'s Legal Aid Society, where I am the Legal Director, we represent clients in matters involving family (child custody, child support, adoption, domestic violence), housing and public benefits. We are the oldest and currently the largest provider of legal services in the District of Columbia.

I'll describe what I do in my job, and why it is so fulfilling for me, but first I digress to explain how I got here.

I never considered a career in legal services when I was in law school. I wanted to be a criminal defense attorney. I took classes in criminal law and procedure, enrolled in clinical programs and extracurricular activities that involved criminal defendants and prisoners, and did volunteer work at the local public defender's office. After graduation, I became a Prettyman Fellow at Georgetown University Law Center's Juvenile Justice Clinic. That was a great program. I loved working with my clients, going to court, learning the law. But when my fellowship ended, I had to decide what I would pursue next. I tried to figure out what it was about being a criminal defense attorney that was most important to me. Was it the trial work, the subject matter of criminal cases, or working directly with poor people? I focused on this question because I knew the answer would drive my next job search. Though all three features were very meaningful to me, I concluded that working with poor people was most significant. So I broadened my search and sought a job in which I could do that regardless of the subject area.

I was hired by the Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP), the LSC-funded legal services program in D.C., then comprised of five offices throughout the city. Initially I was somewhat skeptical that I would be inspired by the work or by my clients, wondering how civil cases could be as exciting or how working with clients in civil matters could be as rewarding as in criminal defense work. How wrong I was! One of my first clients was an elderly man of limited education who had lived in a house for almost forty years and had decided to borrow some money to fix the leaking roof in his home. He ended up with a \$35,000 mortgage at 24% interest, with monthly payments higher than his monthly income. Not surprisingly, he defaulted on the loan, and the lender foreclosed on the property. The new owner (who was in fact the lender) sued my client in landlord and tenant court seeking to evict him. In my first month at NLSP, my managing attorney handed me the case, described the basic facts and told me that I was due in court the next week to argue that the judge should not, as a requirement of my client to defend this court action, impose on my client an undertaking (a form of bond) in the amount of the value of the house. I knew then that I had a lot to learn and that I would be very challenged in this work.

I spent a lot of time working with my elderly client, learning about the prevalence nationwide of predatory lending and about areas of the law new to me. Though it was well-known that the lender in my client's case, a millionaire who owned numerous homes and polo horses, regularly provided these unconscionable loans to uneducated, elderly minorities in the D.C. area, no one had yet been able to prove it in court. I was determined to prove that this lender had done my client wrong. I represented my client at a jury trial. We won. What a sweet victory!

Over the next two years, I worked on a variety of legal services cases—landlord and tenant, public benefits, consumer, and family law cases—and quickly became hooked on legal services work. I realized that representing poor people in civil matters was every bit as exciting, rewarding and meaningful as representing poor people in criminal matters. I also realized that I used the same basic skills that I had learned from my criminal defense work—client interviewing, investigation, case

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• achieve workable visitation schedules for their children.
.....

theory development, discovery, trial presentation—and that a lot of my work, as it had in the criminal area, involved helping my clients respond to intrusions into their lives which occurred largely because of their poverty. In fact, legal services work has made me understand even better the overwhelming pressures faced everyday by poor people in urban America—the uninhabitable conditions of their apartments, the constant harassment by their welfare benefits workers, the domestic violence.

Two years after I started that NLSP, the Managing Attorney position at The Legal Aid Society became available, and I was offered the position. Simultaneously, the LSC cut hit NLSP, and after I left NLSP soon closed three of its five offices. I have been at The Legal Aid Society for almost four years now. My title has changed to Legal Director, but throughout my tenure I have been responsible for training the lawyers and supervising all the legal work in the office. In the four years I have been at Legal Aid, the legal staff I supervise has approximately tripled, and we have added several programs, including a loaned associate program, a welfare reform project, a law reform program, and a social work component to complement the work of our lawyers. In addition to my supervisory and training responsibilities, I also carry a small caseload and am involved in several coalitions and task forces.

One of the things I like most about my job is that each day is different. I'll go to court on my own case or with one of our lawyers. I'll spend some time with a lawyer discussing strategies for persuading the court to vacate a child support order for a mentally retarded individual or talking through possible areas of cross-examination of a respondent in a domestic violence case. I'll meet with our law reform attorney to discuss strategies for responding to newly enacted regulations affecting public housing residents. I'll attend a D.C. Bar task force meeting to discuss the pro se adoption forms we have drafted to be in compliance with recently revised rules. And I'll make decisions to accept or deny new applications for our legal services.

My work is not glamorous by any traditional measurements. The pay is low and the work is emotionally taxing. Our clients don't win huge sums of money, even when they prove they have been wronged. And for the most part, our work received little public recognition relative to its importance. I work in the trenches—in the lowest courts of the land—helping poor people navigate their way through the court system and other government bureaucracies to obtain food stamp benefits, to

persuade their landlords to fix the gaping holes and faulty plumbing in their rented apartments, and to achieve workable visitation schedules for their children.

But the rewards from my work are immeasurable. I help my clients obtain the tools they need for their basic survival—food, habitable housing, stability. Through our welfare and law reform programs, we help to shape the landscape and hopefully lessen the barriers for poor people in response to the very complex new welfare programs and laws governing public and subsidized housing. And when I obtain a victory—even a small one—for my clients, their words of thanks and appreciation are inspiration enough. They know that I have fought for them and that I have truly been on their side. For many of my clients, unfortunately, that is a novelty. Moreover, on occasion, we do receive public acknowledgment of our work. When my elderly client and his story were featured on the front page of *The Washington Post*, he felt like a superstar, and he felt truly vindicated.

I have been a poverty lawyer for about eight years now, and a legal services lawyer for six of those years. I have never once had any doubt about the value to society of the work I am doing. Though I am often frustrated by many aspects of my work—the clients who fail to keep in contact with me, the judges who appear completely unsympathetic to my clients' circumstances, the maze of government bureaucracies that can be totally inaccessible to poor people—I still love what I do. At the end of each day, I know that I have used my legal education and experience to help people who truly need assistance. And I learn a tremendous amount from my clients—about family ties, loyalty and survival. I am grateful for the opportunity to do this work, and I feel very lucky.

I never envisioned doing legal services work when I started law school. Now I can't imagine doing anything else.

**RAUN J. RASMUSSEN '84, DIRECTOR OF LITIGATION, SOUTH BROOKLYN LEGAL SERVICES
BROOKLYN, NY**

I am what you might call a legal services “lifer,” having been here for fourteen years now. Since I seem (somehow, miraculously) to love my job now even more than before, I imagine I will continue to be here for quite a while. For now, for me, legal services is the most challenging, engaging, provocative and satisfying kind of legal work I can imagine doing.

I am now director of litigation for an office of approximately 35 lawyers, ten paralegals, and fifteen support staff. Previously, I was a staff attorney, deputy director and then director of the housing unit.

I now work with attorneys throughout the office on affirmative and complex litigation, help in the development of special projects, such as predatory lending project and a child-care network support project, and participate in the management of the office. I review and write briefs, make oral arguments in court, write occasional articles for publication, attend meetings on a wide variety of topics, and continue to represent some of my favorite housing clients when they return to the office for help. I love the variety, the fun and challenge of working with newer and older attorneys, the client contact, and the virtually limitless opportunity to conceptualize and attempt to implement various advocacy projects to assist our clients.

Legal services work was severely restricted by Congress in 1996, when both monetary and practice restrictions were imposed on the program. As a result, we are not allowed to do class action litigation, not allowed to bring litigation challenging “welfare reform,” and not allowed to generate attorney fees, to mention just a few of the restrictions that have affected our office the most. So the challenge of the past couple of years has been to do impact litigation without representing a class, and with fewer staff to do the work.

We have always believed that “impact” litigation is what we do every day, on behalf of every client we represent. We accomplish results for our clients, of course. But we also attempt to influence the courts, the way judges conduct their courtrooms and the way they interpret the laws, and the law itself, through our aggressive and persistent presence and advocacy in courts throughout the City. We choose our cases based on who comes through the door, but also based on whether particular cases interest us: Are there legal issues that are novel or “cutting edge?” Is this client working with a community group on larger issues? Is there a particularly nasty landlord or bank involved as an adversary?

Aside from litigating individual cases in as creative and active a way as we can, we are constantly thinking of ways to go on the offensive: to bring affirmative litigation or other advocacy efforts to bear on particular problems that affect large numbers of clients. So we do some of the traditional “stuff” like representing tenant associations in efforts to take control of buildings from slumlords. But we have also, increasingly, sought to represent groups of individual clients and community groups who have standing to challenge a variety of policies and practices that adversely affect our clients.

In the past few years we have sued a bank and the City Sheriff on due process grounds to challenge their practice of evicting hundreds of tenants post-foreclosure; we have sued a major law firm under the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to challenge its practice of routinely issuing dispossession notices that contained inaccurate and misleading information; we have sued the City’s Division of

AIDS Services challenging on statutory and due process grounds its failure to inform HIV-positive welfare recipients of their eligibility to receive certain enhanced benefits; we have sued the New York City Transit Authority, claiming that its paratransit system (the public transportation system for persons with disabilities) violates the Americans With Disabilities Act; and we have sued the City’s Administration for Children’s Services challenging its failure to comply with regulations that require parents who have children in foster care to be included in the development and review of services plans for their children.

Each of these cases asks for some form of systemic relief. And each has been brought on behalf of individuals and/or advocacy groups. Some have succeeded already in encouraging substantial change, and others are likely to succeed.

But perhaps more important for this letter, all of these cases have been challenging to develop and fun to work on. Each has provided an opportunity to work with others—clients, community

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• I am what you might call a legal services “lifer”...
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advocates, and colleagues—to create something that, we hope, will challenge “the system” to better meet the needs of our clients.

I have been incredibly fortunate in my work here. I got involved in some “big” projects right at the beginning, and have managed, for the most part, to keep a critical variety of projects going so that I did not “burn-out” early from the crush of individual cases that is the primary challenge for all new legal services lawyers. I am still not earning as a first year associate earned in New York City fifteen years ago (and nowhere near what they earn now!), but am not poor by any stretch and certainly have enough to live a rich, satisfying life in the City.

This work is not for everyone. It helps to enjoy the characters and life stories you hear when you work with individual clients; helps to care about the politics of advocacy for poor people; helps to desire a mix of services and impact work; and you certainly need to be willing to practice in some of the “grungier” courts in the City. But aside from the substance of the work I also believe that the nature of the workplace is incredibly important. I prefer, and enjoy here, a looser, more democratically structured workplace than what I imagine many other offices to be. One that is not rigidly hierarchical, and one in which there is an eager, open door to discussions about the substance, challenge and problems of the work among all those who work here. I’ve been fortunate to find all those qualities here. Although our office certainly has its share of conflict, there is a spirit of energy and caring about our clients and the work that, although it has been more or less present through the years, has remained. I like the people in the office, and that has made a huge difference.

Courses at HLS can inform you about public interest law in general and legal services in particular and prepare you for your future in legal services.

COURSE OFFERINGS

The following is a partial list of course offerings of interest to students pursuing a legal services career. Note that these courses may or may not always be available for enrollment. For the most recent course listings and descriptions, contact the registrar's office.

- ◆ Administrative Law
- ◆ Seminar: Administrative Law Advanced, Federalism, and the Poor
- ◆ Seminar: Child Care, Development Policy, and Women's Work: Comparative Perspectives
- ◆ Community Economic Development
- ◆ Seminar: Critical Perspectives on the Law: Issues of Race, Gender, Class, and Social Change
- ◆ Family Law
- ◆ Gender, Work, Social Welfare, and Citizenship
- ◆ Housing Law and Policy
- ◆ Immigration Law
- ◆ Seminar: Institutional Reform Litigation
- ◆ Legal Profession: The Responsibilities of Public Lawyers
- ◆ Local Government Law
- ◆ Mediation
- ◆ Seminar: Public Lawyering
- ◆ Research Colloquium on Poverty Issues
- ◆ Social Welfare Law: Expanding Low Income Women's Economic Capacity-Global Issues/ Local Opportunities

CLINICAL COURSES

Harvard Law School has one of the most extensive clinical legal education programs in the country. This year, the school will offer more than 32 courses with required or optional clinical components for students to undertake legal work for academic credit. While certain courses focus on lawyering skills, ethics and professional responsibility, others emphasize subject matter doctrine, policy and theory. For more information, contact the Office of Clinical Programs by phone (495-5202) or in person (Austin 102). The following is a list of clinical courses relevant to legal services:

- ◆ Administrative Law
- ◆ Clinical Workshop A& B (Hale and Dorr)
- ◆ Community Economic Development
- ◆ Employment Law
- ◆ Environmental Law
- ◆ Disability Law
- ◆ Family Law
- ◆ Housing Law and Policy
- ◆ Immigration Law
- ◆ Introduction to Advocacy Civil: The Lawyering Process (A & B)
- ◆ Introduction to Advocacy Civil: Skills and Ethics in Law Practice (*open only to students who are members of the Legal Aid Bureau*)
- ◆ Introduction to Advocacy: Criminal Justice A & B
- ◆ Introduction to Advocacy Criminal: Prosecution Perspectives
- ◆ Law and Education
- ◆ Legal Profession: Delivery of Legal Services
- ◆ Legal Profession: Responsibilities of Public Lawyers
- ◆ Trial Advocacy Workshop

CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

- ◆ The Hale & Dorr Legal Services Center. The Center offers the following Practice Departments:
 - ◆ Community Enterprise Project
 - ◆ Family & Children's Law
 - ◆ Housing Law & Litigation
 - ◆ Individual Rights
 - ◆ General Practices Unit (includes estate planning, consumer, disability rights and employment)
 - ◆ The Criminal Justice Institute
 - ◆ The Harvard Immigration and Refugee Clinical
 - ◆ Externship Placements - For a full list of externship placements, contact the Office of Clinical Programs. Some of the placements that help you to build experience in representing indigent clients and/or in poverty issues include:
 - ◆ Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
 - ◆ Center for Law and Education
 - ◆ Greater Boston Legal Services
 - ◆ Mental Health Legal Advisers Committee
 - ◆ Student Practice Organizations - Although most students work for them as volunteers, it is possible to earn credit at the student practice organizations through certain clinical courses. The following are the organizations that host clinical placements:
 - ◆ Legal Aid Bureau
 - ◆ Harvard Defenders
 - ◆ Mediation Program
 - ◆ Prison Legal Assistance Project
 - ◆ Tenant Advocacy Project
- For more information on these organizations, see Section 8.

SECTION 8

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT HLS

Extracurricular activities at HLS can be a great way to meet others who are interested in Legal Services and get some practical experience in the field. The following is a list of some of the student organizations at Harvard Law School which relate to Legal Services. For a more extensive list of student organizations related to public interest law in general, refer to page 94 of the *2000-2001 Public Interest Job Search Guide*.

The organization descriptions are based on longer descriptions of student organizations taken from the booklet *Student Organizations 2000-2001*. For a copy of the booklet or for more information about student organizations, contact the Dean of Students Office by calling 495-1880 or visiting Pound 311.

BATTERED WOMEN'S ADVOCACY PROJECT

BWAP assists victims of domestic violence through direct advocacy and research. Members are trained to advocate for battered women seeking restraining orders in the Massachusetts district courts. BWAP advocates help women through the legal process by interviewing them about their histories and situations, explaining the legal process of obtaining restraining orders, assisting them in filing their complaints, and advocating for them in front of district court judges.

BWAP also works with women's advocacy organizations outside Harvard to approach domestic violence from different fronts; BWAP often does legal and policy research for these outside organizations. In 2001-2002, BWAP will continue projects related to the Family Violence option in the 1996 federal welfare legislation to look the

connection between violence and poverty in women's lives.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY RIGHTS PROJECT

The Children and Family Rights Project (CFRP) brings together students interested in a wide variety of children and family rights issues such as poverty, juvenile justice, and education. CFRP aims to facilitate student work with children in the Boston community, to encourage interaction between students and faculty at HLS, and to define and advocate for children's rights. CFRP encourages both long- and short-term projects such as the Teen Violence Education Program, Kids in Court, Advocates for Education, and the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program.

LEGAL AID BUREAU

The Harvard Legal Aid Bureau is a student-run legal services office dedicated to providing legal assistance to low-income people and to creating a clinical education environment in which its members learn from legal practice. The cases handled by the Legal Aid Bureau include landlord/tenant, public housing, consumer, child custody, domestic relations, benefits (welfare, unemployment, social security, veterans benefits, and methadone maintenance) law, and AIDS-related cases. After clients are accepted by the Bureau, they are assigned to a student attorney who is responsible for the case from initial interview through final disposition, often including arguing motions and conducting trials. Students are supervised by part-time practicing attorneys.

The Legal Aid Bureau also has an

impact advocacy program through which it tries to facilitate law reform within poverty contexts. Additionally, the Bureau engages in outreach work with community groups. The 54 second and third-year students on the Bureau are selected by lottery from the first-year class in the spring. Bureau members serve for two years. For more information, visit Gannett House.

MEDIATION PROJECT

The Harvard Mediation Project (HMP) works to resolve disputes both in and out of the courts in the Boston area. After basic training, student mediators handle a variety of cases in small claims court, ranging from dissatisfied daters to dying dogs. Mediators seeking further experience complete an advanced training, qualifying them to handle criminal cases, parent-child disputes, or divorce cases.

For more information about HMP or to receive an application for training, call the office at 495-1854, stop by Austin 103, or visit the website at http://www.law.harvard.edu/Academic_Affairs/Clinical_Program/hmp/index.html

PRISON LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT

The Prison Legal Assistance Project (PLAP) represents Massachusetts prisoners in administrative hearings. Student attorneys serve as advocates for prisoners charged with violating prison regulations, as well as representing clients in 15-year parole and revocation hearings before the Massachusetts Parole Board. PLAP also provides research assistance for inmates facing legal difficulties, and occasionally litigates cases in state

and federal courts. PLAP gives its members, including 1Ls, full responsibility over their cases and offers them the opportunity to represent clients at hearings. A concise training program, along with the continuing guidance of the PLAP office manager and supervising attorney, allows students to receive the skills necessary to provide effective representation of their clients. For more information, visit PLAP's office in Austin 108.

TENANT ADVOCACY PROJECT

The Harvard Tenant Advocacy Project (TAP) is a student-practice organization dedicated to representing residents of public and subsidized housing before local housing authorities. TAP provides badly needed assistance to low- and moderate-income tenants who are facing eviction or who have been denied admission to public housing or a subsidy program. TAP also provides advice on general landlord-tenant questions. TAP offers 1Ls members the opportunity to do hands-on lawyering by handling every aspect of their cases from the initial client interview to the trial-like hearing. TAP members are supervised by attorneys. For more information about TAP, call 495-4394 or visit the TAP office in the basement of Austin Hall.

SECTION 9

DIRECTORIES FOR LEGAL SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL DIRECTORIES

DIRECTORY OF LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER OFFICES IN THE UNITED STATES AND TERRITORIES

[National Legal Aid and Defender Association, Washington, D.C. (202) 452-0620, 1998]

State-by-state list of offices that provide civil and criminal legal assistance to indigent persons. Also contains separate list of programs that serve particular client groups and those with specialized practice areas. New edition in Fall 2001.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION PROGRAM DIRECTORY

[Legal Services Corporation, Washington, D.C. (202) 336-8820, 1997] State-by-state directory of legal services programs, including separate listings of programs with specialized areas of practice.

This directory is now available online at <http://www.lsc.gov>

REGIONAL DIRECTORIES

LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS SERVING INDIAN COMMUNITIES

[Public Interest Advocate, 1995] State-by-state list of legal services programs for the Indian community.

STATE DIRECTORIES

ALABAMA LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

[Legal Services Corporation of Alabama, Montgomery, AL (334) 832-4570, 2001]

Comprehensive list of the legal services field programs throughout Alabama updated in July 2001.

ARIZONA LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

[Arizona Statewide Legal Services Project, Phoenix, AZ (602) 252-3432, 1998]

List of the legal services available in Arizona.

ARKANSAS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS DIRECTORY

[Arkansas Legal Services, 1999] List of legal services programs throughout Arkansas.

DIRECTORY OF LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS IN CALIFORNIA

[The State Bar of California, San Francisco, CA (415) 561-8250, 2001] Individual county listings of nonprofit organizations and programs providing civil legal assistance to poor and low-income persons in California.

LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

[Alameda County Bar Association, Oakland, CA (510) 893-7160, 2001] Describes public interest organizations and programs in Alameda County, cross referenced by subject matter. Provides program name, address, telephone number, hours, clientele, fees and types of services offered.

LEGAL RESOURCE DIRECTORY

[Denver Bar Association, Denver, CO (303) 860-1115, 2001] Provides names, addresses, descriptions and phone numbers for state legal services programs.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DIRECTORY OF LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

[District of Columbia Bar Association, 2001] Lists all legal assistance programs in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

FLORIDA LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDERS DIRECTORY

[Florida Legal Services, Inc., Tallahassee, FL (850) 385-7900, 2001] Lists all legal services offices in Florida, including addresses and phone numbers.

HAWAII LEGAL SERVICES HANDBOOK

[Hawaii State Bar Association, Honolulu, HI (808) 537-1868] Describes public interest organizations and government agencies in Oahu and on neighboring islands.

LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY: CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AREA

[The Chicago Council of Lawyers and The Fund For Justice of the Chicago Council of Lawyers, Chicago, IL (312) 427-0710, 1995] Detailed list of all the legal services programs in the Chicago area, arranged by area of specialization.

DIRECTORY OF LOUISIANA CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES PROVIDERS

[Louisiana Bar Foundation, New Orleans, LA (504) 619-0146, 1999] Lists the civil legal services providers throughout Louisiana.

A GUIDE TO LEGAL SERVICES IN MARYLAND

[Maryland State Bar Association, Inc. and Community Law Center, Inc., Baltimore, MD (301) 366-0922, 2001] Provides brief descriptions of free or reduced-fee legal services available in Maryland.

DIRECTORY OF PUBLIC SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ATTORNEYS

[The Massachusetts Bar Association, Boston, MA (617) 542-3602, 1988] Detailed description of statewide and individual county organizations providing legal services to indigent

persons.

LARC REFERRAL DIRECTORY

[Legal Advocacy and Resource Center, Boston, MA (617) 371-1123 ext. 639, 1998]

Detailed list of legal services, public interest organizations and government agencies in the Boston area, organized by area of legal specialization and type of legal services offered. A new edition may be published in Fall 2001.

LEGAL AID, LEGAL SERVICES AND DEFENDER OFFICES — STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES

[Michigan Bar Journal, MI (517) 372-9039, 2001]

Lists state and local legal services organized by county.

MISSISSIPPI LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS 1999 DIRECTORY

[Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project, 1999]

Lists all legal services providers in the State of Mississippi.

MONTANA LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

[Montana Legal Services Association, Helena, MT (406) 442-9830, 1999]

Comprehensive list of the legal services field programs throughout Montana.

OREGON LEGAL SERVICES OFFICES DIRECTORY

[Oregon Legal Services Central Support Office, Portland, OR (503) 224-4094, 1998]

Lists the 14 legal services offices throughout Oregon.

PENNSYLVANIA LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAMS

[Pennsylvania Legal Services, Harrisburg, PA (717) 236-9486 or (800) 322-7572, 1997]

Directory includes program names, contacts, addresses and phone numbers.

VIRGINIA LEGAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

[Legal Services Corporation of Virginia and Virginia Poverty Law Center, Inc., Richmond, VA (804) 782-9438, 1999]

Lists area served, staff titles and names, addresses, types of cases and income criteria for clients. Arranged alphabetically by program.

WASHINGTON STATE BAR ASSOCIATION DIRECTORY

[Washington State Bar Association, Seattle, WA, 1999]

Lists county bar associations, special and minority bar associations, law-related organizations and legal services and volunteer attorney legal services programs.

10 SECTION

LEGAL SERVICES WEBSITES

GENERAL WEBSITES

www.lsc.gov

The starting point for legal services websites. Homepage of the Legal Services Corporation. Contains map-based and searchable directories of all LSC funded programs, links to webpages for LSC funded programs, client stories, press releases, and LSC statutes.

www.abanet.org/legalservices/home.html

Homepage for the American Bar Association's Division for Legal Services. It contains links to news stories, job announcements, and directories of legal services organizations.

www.nlada.org/civil.htm

Homepage for the National Legal Aid and Defender Association. Contains news announcements, an events calendar, the electronic newsletter Civil Brief, and information about various legal services related projects.

www.povertylaw.org/index.htm

Homepage for the National Center on Poverty Law. Contains news, case reports, and specific information for different practice areas of poverty law.

LSC-FUNDED LEGAL SERVICE PROGRAMS WEBSITES

The following websites are from a list of LSC-funded legal services programs on the Legal Services Corporation website: **www.lsc.gov/links.htm**

Alaska Legal Services Corporation
www.alsc-law.org/

Atlanta Legal Aid Society Inc. (GA)
www.law.emory.edu/PI/ALAS/

California Indian Legal Services Inc.
www.calindian.org/

California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.
www.crla.org/

Center for Arkansas Legal Services
www.arkansaslegalservices.org/

Central California Legal Services
www.centralcallegal.org/

Florida Rural Legal Services
www.frls.org/

Georgia Legal Services Program
www.glsp.org/

Gulfcoast Legal Services Inc.
www.gulfcoastlegal.org/

Idaho Legal Aid Services Inc.
www.idaholegalaid.org/

Florida Rural Legal Services
www.frls.org/

Knoxville Legal Aid Society Inc. (TN)
kornnet.org/klas/

Lane County Legal Aid Services, Inc. (Eugene, OR)
www.lanecountylegalservices.org/

Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc.
www.legalaction.org/

Legal Advice & Referral Center Inc. (NH)
www.mv.com/ipusers/larc/

Legal Aid Bureau Inc. (MD)
www.mdlab.org

Legal Aid of Central Texas

www.lact.org

Legal Aid Service of Northeastern Minnesota
www.lasnem.org/

Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati (OH)
www.lascinti.org

Legal Aid Society of Orange County Inc. (CA)
www.legal-aid.com

Legal Aid Society Inc. (NE)
www.las-omaha.org/

Legal Services Agency of Western Carolina Inc. (SC)
www.lsawc.net/

Legal Services for Cape Cod and Islands Inc. (MA)
www.lscii.org/

Legal Services of Eastern Missouri
www.lsem.org/

Legal Services of Northern California
www.lsncc.net

Legal Services of Northern Virginia
legalaidthelp.org

Legal Services of North Texas
www.lsnnt.org/

Legal Services Law Line of Vermont
www.lawlinevt.org/

Legal Services Program for Pasadena & SG-P Valley
firms.findlaw.com/LASP/

Lehigh Valley Legal Services Inc. (PA)
www.lehighlegal.org/

Nassau/Suffolk Law Services Committee, Inc. (NY)
www.nslawservices.org/

Neighborhood Legal Services
Association (PA)
trfn.clpgh.org/nlsa/

Neighborhood Legal Services Inc.
(NY)
www.nls.org/

New Orleans Legal Assistance
Corporation (LA)
www.nolac.org/

North Mississippi Rural Legal
Services
www.nmrls.com/

Northwest Justice Project (WA)
www.nwjustice.org/

Northwestern Legal Services (PA)
www.nwls.org/

Ohio State Legal Services Association
www.oslsa.org/OSLSA/PublicWeb

Palmetto Legal Services (SC)
www.logicsouth.com/~legalpal/

Peninsula Legal Aid Center, Inc. (VA)
www.plac.org/

Philadelphia Legal Assistance Center
(PA)
www.philalegal.org/

Pine Tree Legal Assistance Inc. (ME)
www.ptla.org/

Rhode Island Legal Services Inc.
www.rils.org

Southern Minnesota Regional Legal
Services Inc.
www.hbci.com/~smrlswi/

Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society
www.svlas.org

Three Rivers Legal Services Inc. (FL)
www.trls.org

West Tennessee Legal Services
www.wtls.org

Wisconsin Judicare Inc.
www.judicare.org