The Power of Collaboration:

How Civil Legal Service Lawyers, Public Defenders and the Private Bar Work Together in the District of Columbia to Get Things Done

Presented At:

2011 NLADA Centennial Conference

Friday, December 9, 2011
The Power of Collaboration: *How Civil Legal Services Lawyers, Public Defenders And The Private Bar Work Together In The District Of Columbia To Get Things Done*

Session Description

The District of Columbia Consortium of Legal Services Providers formed in 1989 in response to widening gaps in available legal assistance for the poor and dwindling financial resources to support those services. It has since grown into a coalition of 30 member organizations including the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia, all of which provide direct legal services to low-income DC residents. Hear how the Consortium has met the challenges and reaped the rewards of collaboration to create a forum for providers to share information, engage in collaborative planning and training, and to leverage member organization capacity to coordinate and expand the availability of quality legal services. Panelists will discuss coalition strategies and approaches that have worked best in fostering common ground among its members and that have led to united fronts to successfully influence city legislative and executive branch agendas, as well as judicial procedures, on behalf of poor and disadvantaged people in the District of Columbia.

Panelists Bios

**Katherine S. Broderick** is Dean of the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law, having previously served as Interim Dean, Clinical Director, Associate Dean and faculty member since 1979. Dean Broderick is also the immediate past president and has served on the Board of the American Civil Liberties Union of the Nation's Capital. She also serves on the Board of D.C. Appleseed, is a founder and ardent participant in the D.C. Consortium of Legal Services Providers, and was selected by the D.C. Court of Appeals to serve on the District of Columbia's Access to Justice Commission for 2008-2014.

**Mark Herzog** is the Associate Director of the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program, which is one of the largest providers of free legal services in the District of Columbia and best bar pro bono programs in the country. He supervises all litigation activities, court-based resource centers and community-based advice and referral clinics. Mr. Herzog also is a Commissioner on the D.C. Access to Justice Commission and has served on several local and federal court committees. Prior to joining the Pro Bono Program, Mr. Herzog was an adjunct professor of law at D.C. Law Students In Court Program and a senior staff attorney at The Legal Aid Society, Criminal Defense Division, New York City.

**Patricia Mullahy Fugere** has worked on affordable housing and homelessness issues in DC since 1980. She was a co-founder and is now executive director of the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, which for 25 years has advocated on behalf of people struggling with homelessness and poverty in the nation’s capital. Patty also serves on the DC Access to Justice Commission; the steering committee of the Fair Budget Coalition; and the boards of the Washington Council of Lawyers, the Homeless Children's Playtime Project and the National Center for Housing and Child Welfare.

**Barbara Kagan** serves as the Public Service Counsel in the Washington office of Steptoe & Johnson LLP where she works with the Pro Bono Committee to continually advance Steptoe's pro bono practice, and reviews and evaluates proposed and ongoing public service activities. Ms. Kagan represents Steptoe in the public service legal community, actively working with the District of Columbia Bar and various providers of legal services to broaden the scope of pro bono participation. She also provides advice and assistance to corporate clients of the firm seeking to
develop pro bono programs within their own general counsels' office. In addition, Ms. Kagan represents clients in a variety of pro bono matters, and assists other firm attorneys in their pro bono representations. While located in DC, she works with all of Steptoe’s offices to enhance the firm’s pro bono activities.

Paula D. Scott is Chief of the Civil Legal Services Division of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS). The division handles civil cases for PDS clients when civil implications and consequences flow from the criminal proceedings clients face. A long-time civil legal services lawyer, she formerly served as a Managing Attorney with the Neighborhood Legal Services Program for the District of Columbia.
Mission and History

The Consortium is a coalition of approximately twenty-six non-profit organizations dedicated to meeting the civil legal needs of the District’s low-income and disadvantaged populations. Its mission is to coordinate the delivery, expand the availability and improve the quality of legal services and advocacy for poor and disadvantaged people and groups of people in the District of Columbia.

The Consortium was founded in 1989 by a small group of legal services providers who sought a forum for sharing information and collaborating in order to better serve their clients. In its twenty years of existence, the Consortium has grown to approximately twenty-six member organizations, representing myriad practice areas and serving thousands of clients each year. Consortium organizations are engaged in a broad range of advocacy efforts including representation in individual cases, systemic advocacy, budget advocacy, legislative reform work, and policy-making initiatives. The Consortium continues to improve collaborative efforts and information-sharing among its members, focusing on, for example, shared planning efforts, communication with other entities (e.g. the DC Access to Justice Commission, the DC Bar Foundation, the Court, the DC Council, and the Mayor’s office), joint training for legal services attorneys, emerging client community legal issues, and joint projects that support the work of member organizations.

Two of the most significant accomplishments of the Consortium in the last several years are the creation of the Access to Justice Commission and the initiation of public funding for legal services. The creation of the Access to Justice Commission in 2005 was the culmination of years of organizing and advocacy by the Consortium, in cooperation with the Bar Foundation. The Order creating the Commission instructs it, among other things, to develop strategies to improve access and remove barriers to legal services and to facilitate efforts to create improved coordination and support of legal services programs. Securing approval of $3.2 million in annual funding for legal services in DC was a joint accomplishment of the Commission and the Consortium, which effectively argued that the lack of funding for legal services was itself the most significant barrier to access to those services. The Commission and the Consortium lobbied together for the funding package.

Leadership and Staffing

The Consortium is led by two co-chairs. The co-chairs are assisted in their work by a Steering Committee, which is comprised of the current Consortium co-chairs, the outgoing Consortium co-chair, and members elected at the July Consortium meeting.

The Consortium is also staffed by a Consortium Coordinator, Julie Glass (juliepglass@verizon.net).

Membership
Consortium meetings and activities are generally open to all individuals who work in the legal services community or who are interested in issues impacting low-income clients. Individuals from a broad spectrum of public interest organizations, local law schools, private law firms, and DC Bar entities are active in the Consortium.

To be a member of the Consortium an organization must be a non-profit organization whose primary purpose is to provide direct services, including legal services and advocacy, to low-income individuals who reside and/or have a legal claim in the District of Columbia. Members have the right to vote and to attend members-only meetings which are occasionally convened to discuss Consortium policies and planning or sensitive issues facing the legal services community. Members pay membership dues based on the size of their legal services budget (only the portion of their budget that is used to provide legal services to DC residents is counted). Partial waivers of membership dues are available. Dues are waived for an organization’s first year of membership. A dues form is attached.

The Consortium is very interested in having all organizations that provide legal services to low-income DC residents represented in the Consortium. The list of current members and a membership application are attached.

Meetings

The Consortium meets on the third Thursday of every month from 9:30 – 11:30 am. Currently, our meetings are hosted by Arnold & Porter, at 555 12th Street, NW, Washington, DC, 20004. If you are attending your first meeting, please contact the Consortium Coordinator Julie Glass (juliepglass@verizon.net) to be added to the check-in security list. Agendas and meeting minutes are circulated on the general Consortium list serve.

All attendees are welcome to make announcements at the end of general meetings about events or issues of interest to the community. If you have an item that you would like to put on the agenda for broader discussion, please contact the Consortium Coordinator Julie Glass (juliepglass@verizon.net).

List Serves

To facilitate communication and information-sharing, the Consortium currently sponsors the following list serves:

- the General Consortium list serve (open to individuals who work in, or have a special interest in the public interest or pro bono communities in the DC metropolitan area);
- the Directors list serve (open to directors of member organizations);
- the Legal Directors list serve (open to legal directors of member organizations);
- the Family Law Casehandlers list serve (open to individuals who work on family law issues in the DC metropolitan area);
- the Public Benefits Casehandlers list serve (open to individual who work on public benefits issues in the DC metropolitan area);
- the Housing Casehandlers list serve (open to individuals who work on housing issues in the DC metropolitan area);
- the East of the River list serve (open to individuals who are practicing – or who generally serve clients who reside -- east of the Anacostia River);
Affinity Groups and Committees

The Consortium convenes a number of affinity groups to facilitate small group meetings of individuals who share similar interests or who have similar positions in different organizations. The affinity groups that are currently meeting are: the pro bono coordinators affinity group, the legal directors affinity group, and the holistic services providers affinity group.

The Consortium also undertakes work through various committees. The committees that are currently active are: the training committee, the governance committee, and the quality standards committee.
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Rationing Justice: the Effect of the Recession on Access to Justice in the District of Columbia


November 2009

It is the daily; it is the small; it is the cumulative injuries of little people that we are here to protect....If we are able to keep our democracy, there must be one commandment: THOU SHALT NOT RATION JUSTICE.

- Learned Hand, Address at the 75th anniversary celebration of the Legal Aid Society of New York, February 16, 1951

Introduction

Legal assistance is a critical strand in the safety net for low-income individuals and families. As the economy forces working families into poverty and social services and government resources become scarce, more people are facing problems meeting basic human needs. Lawyers can make a difference by keeping families in their homes, helping children get health care, securing wrongfully denied unemployment benefits and helping persons with disabilities get Social Security.

Even before the recession, there was not enough legal aid to meet the needs of low-income District residents. In its report, “Justice for All?” the D.C. Access to Justice Commission documented the gaps in legal services for individuals living in poverty. In every area examined -- housing, family law, consumer, education, employment, health access, public benefits, disability, immigration -- there were vastly more clients who needed help than services available to assist them.

The recession is decreasing the availability of legal services while the need is increasing. Virtually every source of funding for civil legal aid in the District has diminished over the last year. Programs report losing more than 25% in revenue and have shed approximately 12.5% of their lawyers and nearly 40% of non-lawyer staff, including paralegals, social workers, case managers and administrative support. As a result of these staff cuts, thousands of District residents who need legal help did not get served.

There will be more cuts in services and staff in 2010. The crisis in representation will grow worse before it gets better. District government and grant funding have already been cut for the next year and, to sustain as many services as possible, legal assistance organizations have used reserves, imposed hiring freezes, required unpaid furloughs, frozen or cut salaries and overworked their staffs. As we enter another year of recession, available options are drying up, and further service cuts are inevitable.
The Increased Need for Legal Services is Driven by the Recession

The District has been hit hard by the recession. Those at the bottom of the economic scale have been hit the hardest. The official unemployment rate for the District is 11.4%. But the District-wide rate masks the dramatic effect the recession has had in some parts of the city. The unemployment rate in Ward 8 is 28.3%, nearly 10 times the Ward 3 rate of 3.2%. Ward 7 has not fared much better at 19.5% nor Ward 5 at 15.5%. Individuals living in neighborhoods with high rates of poverty are facing desperate conditions. Jobs that paid subsistence wages have disappeared, government programs have shrunk and charities have fewer resources to help. What is a recession in the rest of the District is a deep depression in Wards 5, 7 and 8.

Residents in these neighborhoods are facing new legal problems caused by the recession. Legal services lawyers estimate a 20% increase in demand for help. This probably underestimates the actual need. It is the experience of long-time legal services lawyers that many potential clients fail to seek services because they lack information about their rights, they cannot afford transportation or they are discouraged by prior experiences of not receiving services at an office that was too busy to help.

Among the new or increased needs are the following:

- **Foreclosures**: Foreclosures are on the rise and the hardest hit areas are East of the River. There were 2,353 single family homes and condos placed in foreclosure in the second quarter of 2009 alone. Very few of the homeowners had access to counsel to raise defenses or negotiate a settlement that would save a family’s home.

- **Tenancy after Foreclosure**: An increasing number of homes in foreclosure are rental properties. While tenants have a right to stay and become a tenant of the bank, the right is hard to enforce without a lawyer. Without readily available counsel, tenants are forced to bear the expense and disruption of moving and sometimes the trauma of becoming homeless while the house sits unoccupied.

- **Domestic Violence**: The incidence and severity of domestic violence is on the rise. As economic stress puts pressure on families, and women face increasing economic dependence, intimate partner violence increases. Access to a lawyer is often the only way for a woman and her children to escape from an abusive relationship. This is a specialty area of law that requires extensive training and the ability to provide representation on a broad range of collateral issues for a sustained period of time.

- **Homelessness**: Homelessness is increasing and prevention services are being cut. Veterans still coming to terms with their service in Iraq and Afghanistan have joined the increasing number of families who are homeless because of the economy. Homeless families face a shelter system lacking the capacity to respond to their needs. With more than 400 families on the waiting list for emergency shelter, it often takes a lawyer's intervention before a family can secure a safe place to sleep at night. Without a lawyer, homeless families have slept outdoors, in cars and abandoned buildings.
• **Unemployment Benefits**: As more jobs are lost, unemployment benefits are an increasingly important source of income for low-income families. Unemployment disputes have generated a large number of appeals to the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) where having a lawyer is often necessary to argue a complex legal issue.

• **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Food Stamps, Disability and other Benefits**: Public benefits are the final safety net for many families. There are 16,000 families in the District that rely on TANF for basic cash support and hunger is on the rise. A bureaucratic error, language barriers, or mental disabilities can make the system challenging to navigate and mistakes impossible to correct without the help of a lawyer.

At the same time that needs are increasing, there are fewer places for clients to turn for help. Social services are less available as non-profits have fewer resources and government budget shortfalls have forced cuts. The following are illustrations of safety net cuts that increase the need for legal assistance.

• **Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)**: ERAP is a District program that helps very low-income tenants -- those living within 125% of poverty -- to remain in their homes. If a qualified tenant falls behind in rent and is sued by her landlord, an ERAP grant can help the tenant avoid eviction. With the rise in unemployment, there has been an increased demand on the ERAP program. ERAP funds were exhausted mid-way through 2009 and no new funds have been made available six weeks into the District’s new fiscal year.

• **Local Rental Supplement**: As a result of the high cost of rental housing, very low-income tenants can often stay in their homes only with help from the District’s Local Rent Supplement program. The District cut $2 million from this program in July.

• **Food Banks and Private Charities**: Food banks, feeding programs and other charitable supports are stretched to the limit. Demand is greater but programs are receiving less funding and providing fewer services. Not only have private donations dropped, but government support is lower as well. In July, the District stripped millions of dollars from its budget that were designated for critical social services.

• **Domestic Violence Services**: Despite the increasing need for services for survivors of domestic violence, the District substantially cut funding for domestic violence services this summer. Without support, many women and their children will have no choice but to remain with their abuser.

• **Homeless Services**: To help address its budget shortfall, the District cut $12 million from its homeless services budget. This represents a 20% cut at a time of increasing need.

Lawyers are sometimes essential for individuals and families to meet basic needs of security, nutrition, health care and shelter. The resulting savings, whether measured by the social
costs or by the reduction in expenses to the District for services, far outstrip the cost of providing a lawyer who can solve a problem.

**Legal Services Providers Have Decreased Resources in the Face of Rising Needs**

**Budgets Reduced by More Than $4.5 Million -- a Drop of more than 25%**

The budgets of legal assistance organizations are under extreme pressure. The Access to Justice Commission (Commission) and the Consortium of Legal Services Providers (Consortium) conducted a survey of legal services programs in the fall of 2009 to determine the impact of the decreased funding. The survey results are alarming.

Prior to the recession, the combined budgets of legal assistance organizations were approximately $18 million. Not every program provided information about its fundraising, but among those who did the survey found that funding for legal services has decreased by more than $4.5 million. These funding reductions represent more than 25% of the legal services network, and this figure does not even include the cut in public funding for fiscal year 2010 that occurred this past summer. Moreover, providers project further reductions in other funding sources. Unless there is a substantial change, 2010 will be an even more difficult year than 2009.

Reductions in funding were nearly universal. Small programs and large, general and specialty, free-standing organizations and those embedded in a social services agency: every corner of the sector was affected. Support declined from all sources: individual, institutional, foundation and government.

The major components of the cuts are the following:

**IOLTA:** Among the largest sources of funding for legal assistance is the Interest on Lawyers Trust Account (IOLTA) program. By rule of the D.C. Court of Appeals, lawyers who practice in the District and hold client money are currently required in most circumstances to keep nominal or short-term funds in a pooled client trust account. Unless lawyers have opted out of the District’s IOLTA program, these accounts earn interest, which is paid to the D.C. Bar Foundation to support grants to legal assistance organizations in the District. In 2008, the D.C. Bar Foundation received over $2 million from IOLTA accounts. As a result principally of the unprecedented decline in interest rates, IOLTA revenue dropped by over 60% in 2009. The Foundation was forced to dip into its reserves to sustain grant giving at just half of the prior year’s level. These grants may well be smaller in 2010 if interest rates decrease as experts predict.

**Private Bar:** Lawyers and law firms are generous funders of legal services in the District. Each year they contribute millions of dollars in donations and in volunteer services. Programs rely on their financial support which comprises as much as two-thirds of the funding for some organizations. There was a large drop in law firm business in late 2008 and throughout 2009. Law firms laid off associates and staff and incoming lawyers were deferred from three months to a year because there was not enough paying work to keep them busy. Declining business also affected charitable contributions. Providers report that law firms and individual lawyers are giving as much as 20%
less in 2009 than in the prior year. This represents an estimated decrease of approximately $1 million. / .xx.

District of Columbia Government: The District of Columbia government provides support for legal services through a grant to the D.C. Bar Foundation and grants directly to providers through the Office of Victim Services. The Bar Foundation grant, which is completing its third year, was $3,285,000. For 2010, this grant has been reduced by 20% to $2,639,000. These funds are re-granted to providers. The funding reduction will require providers to reduce their ranks of lawyers by an additional 6 to 9 lawyers. / xxi.

The District’s Office of Victim Services (OVS) supports domestic violence services, including legal services. The funding for OVS was cut by $340,000 for the budget year beginning in October 2009. Much of these funds came out of civil legal services, which resulted in several programs being cut, including one program that was cut nearly $90,000. / xxii.

Other government agencies that provide grants for civil legal services were also cut. One program lost $50,000 in funding from the Office of Latino Affairs and another more than $20,000 from the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

Private Foundations: Charitable giving decreased significantly in 2008 and 2009. Nationally, giving is down $7 billion from 2007, with social services organizations taking the biggest hit. / xxiii. Giving for human services funding dropped by 12.7% nationwide.

Local foundations have worked hard to sustain existing grantees, especially in the legal services community. Although their assets are down, many have maintained near level funding by cutting operating costs and dipping into capital. These measures cannot continue in 2010. The Foundation Center predicts that giving will decline another 8% to 13% in 2010.xxiv Legal services programs will not be spared as foundations are forced to reduce their grant programs.

Staff Cuts Have Been Substantial – 21 Lawyers and 30 Other Staff

In the face of this loss in income, legal assistance organizations report that they have reduced their attorney staff by at least twenty-one full-time attorney positions. Lawyers were not the only positions affected. At least thirty non-lawyer positions were cut, including sixteen paralegals, several case managers and outreach workers, two social workers, a translator, two therapists, six managers, a project coordinator and two advocacy directors. Every position was key to the effective and efficient delivery of legal assistance. Without these staff, the quality and quantity of services diminishes.

The magnitude of these cuts is staggering. The twenty-one-lawyer reduction represents more than 12% of the 170 lawyers who were representing District residents living in poverty. The thirty non-lawyer staff cut represents 37% of the non-lawyer workforce.

Other Measures Have Been Taken – Cuts in Salary and Benefits

Legal services lawyers are among the most poorly paid in the profession. With starting salaries hovering at $40,000 per year and only modest increases for experienced lawyers, compensation was an issue before the recession. The effects of the recession have made matters worse. To address fiscal shortfalls and sustain services, programs have:

• Cut or frozen salaries;
• Forced staff to take unpaid leave;
• Reduced or eliminated benefits including health insurance and 401(k) contributions; and
• Reduced or eliminated budgets for training and professional development.

These cuts have an impact that goes far beyond the number of staff involved. To be effective, legal services needs a corps of well-trained and experienced lawyers. Many areas of poverty law are complex. The lives of people living in poverty are highly regulated and the intersection between statutes, regulations and decisional laws is not obvious to those without experience. Many of the cases that legal services lawyers handle are in specialty courts with unique rules and unwritten customs. The ability to effectively build a trusting relationship with a low-income client takes years of practicing anti-poverty law to develop.

The effect of cuts in salary, benefits and professional development budgets will drive good lawyers from anti-poverty law practice. The impact will be felt by clients who receive a diminished level of service and less skilled counsel.

**Deferred Associates, While Helpful, Are Not an Adequate Solution**

Business has slowed during the recession for many major law firms. In response, several firms have generously made unneeded first year associates available to public interest organizations, including District legal services groups. Deferred associates are doing important work, but because they are only available for up to one year, typically do not yet have a license to practice law and are early in their careers, they cannot accomplish the results or do the work of a permanent staff lawyer.

**Legal Services Have Decreased as a Result of a Substantial Drop in Funding and District Residents and Neighborhoods are Being Impacted**

Cuts to the budgets of legal services providers have serious effects on low-income residents and on the health and life of the District and its neighborhoods. Among the effects are the following:

**Fewer Clients are Being Served**

On average, annually each legal services lawyer can handle 50 cases in litigation and 100 matters with assistance short of litigation. During this year, when legal needs are more acute and urgent, the network of legal services providers lost the capacity to represent 1,050 clients. In addition, as many as 2,100 low-income District residents in need of advice, brief assistance, help with representing themselves or to reach a settlement were not served.

**Supportive Services Beyond Legal Services are Being Eliminated**

The loss of social workers, case managers and therapists within legal services organizations will be felt particularly acutely. Legal services clients present with multiple and complex issues. Legal issues are often intertwined with social problems, and the ability to benefit from counsel depends on the resolution of a social services need. A protective order for a woman escaping violence, for example, has little meaning if she has no place to live, cannot access
public benefits, or has no child care so she can work. The loss of social workers and other non-
legal staff from legal services organizations dilutes the impact legal remedies can have in
improving clients’ lives.

**Legal Services and Access Points are Being Limited**

Surveyed legal services organizations reported using a range of strategies in response to
reduced funding. Many of these strategies have the effect of limiting client access or the services
being provided, including:

- Reduced walk-in hours for new clients to seek services. The effect is to create a
  barrier to access and significantly reduce the availability of services for clients
  seeking representation for an emergency;

- Decreased provision of extended representation in favor of increased brief services
  and pro se support. By taking this step, programs may help the same number
  of clients, but are unable to help clients reach as positive a resolution or help
  clients with more complex legal problems;

- Narrower scope of representation. Some programs report limiting their services to
  fewer types of cases. This step limits access as well as making it harder to achieve
  results for clients with multiple interrelated issues.

- Prioritizing cases that will resolve quickly and require fewer resources or for which
  there is a higher likelihood of success. This strategy makes it harder for the most
  needy or vulnerable clients to get help.

**Law Reform and Structural Advocacy Efforts Have Been Reduced**

In order to help individual clients, legal services organizations report that they have
reduced advocacy, systemic litigation and the pursuit of test cases. Often, broad-based change
can be the most effective strategy to address the needs of a large group of clients. There are
many examples of legal services lawyers achieving large scale change by working with agencies
to draft regulations, working with the Court to change its rules, working with the Council to pass
a new law, developing decisional law in the Court of Appeals and bringing litigation to correct a
widespread practice of an industry or the government. With fewer resources, legal services
organizations are forced to focus on individuals’ emergency needs rather than on longer term,
higher impact results.

**Programs Have Been Eliminated**

The recession has caused the loss of critical components or practice areas in larger
organizations. For example:

- A program that serves domestic violence survivors dramatically reduced counseling
  services. The program had the only therapeutic program specifically designed for
  domestic violence.

- A legal services program embedded in a larger more holistic agency severely limited all but
  internal referrals for public benefits and family law cases.
• A provider eliminated staff for a long-standing project on education reform, leaving the community with fewer tools to participate in the District government’s recent efforts to focus on improving the schools.

**Legal Services Programs Now Lack the Resources to Meet Emerging Needs**

Legal services organizations have been struggling to address the most critical needs of District residents, sustain as many of their services as possible, and deal with the loss of staff and the impact on staff morale. As a result, it has been nearly impossible to develop new strategies or adjust priorities to address emerging issues such as the foreclosure crisis or the needs of homeless veterans.

**Conclusion**

Somewhere in the District a family won’t have enough to eat tonight because of a bureaucratic mistake. A child will be hospitalized yet again because the rat droppings in her apartment caused an asthma attack. A veteran who has served in combat will sleep on the street because he could not access the public benefits, mental health services and shelter to which he is entitled. At this time of great and increasing need, lawyers could make a difference for this family, this child and this veteran — as well as the thousands of District residents who face similar problems.

Because of the crisis in legal services, there are simply not enough lawyers to help our suffering, low-income neighbors. And next year there will be even fewer. The safety net has been seriously weakened and legal services providers, which have historically been a critical component of that safety net, have fewer resources available to help the most vulnerable members of our community. The result is that justice is being rationed. And, as is too often the case, those most in need are getting too small a measure of justice.

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v/. In addition, as intake workers and other staff of social and human services agencies are cut due to the recession, fewer clients are screened and assessed for legal issues. Many legal problems are identified through screenings by non-legal providers and cuts in those organizations reduce the number of clients referred to legal services providers for help.

vi/. [http://www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/housing/DCHousingMonitor_2009_2/Table5.pdf](http://www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/housing/DCHousingMonitor_2009_2/Table5.pdf) The highest rates of foreclosure are in Wards 7 and 8, with Wards 4 and 5 close behind. Twenty three per thousand of homes in Wards 7 and twenty-one per thousand of homes in Ward 8 are in foreclosure, while fewer than three per thousand are in foreclosure in Ward 3.

“A landlord-tenant dispute, like any other lawsuit, cannot be resolved with due process of law unless both parties have had a fair opportunity to present their cases. Our courts were never intended to serve as rubber stamps for landlords seeking to evict their tenants, but rather to see that justice be done before a man is evicted from his home.” *Pernell v. Southall Realty*, 416 U.S. 363, 385 (1974)


http://dcfpi.org/?p=926


http://dcfpi.org/?p=926

The “Justice for All?” report found that the network was $15 million and 140 lawyers in 2005. Since that time, the District provided $3.6 million in support which added approximately 30 additional lawyers.

Among the organizations that reported a loss in revenue are providers that deliver a range of services to their clients beyond legal services. In a few cases, reported loss of revenue includes other supportive services.

Prior to the recession, individual lawyer and law firms contributed $5.3 million.


The costs associated with the salary, benefits and overhead of a legal services lawyer is generally between $75,000 and $100,000.


The D.C. Bar Foundation collects statistical information on the work performed by grantees. These figures are an average for a legal services lawyer. Some lawyers who handle simpler matters might carry a higher caseload and those with more complex cases will handle fewer over the course of a year.

The Pro Bono Program’s Landlord and Tenant Resource Center reports an increase of persons served from 4,687 to 5,296 over the last two fiscal years. This increase is likely the result of both an overall increase in need and a reduction of services by other providers.