

2018 Opportunity Grant Recipients

Alaska State Association for Guardianship and Advocacy **\$35,000**

This grant supported translation services and travel costs to rural areas of Alaska and the costs of a pro-bono coordinator who recruited and trained volunteer lawyers to provide legal services related to adult guardianship and who provided support and education to family and other non-professional guardians.

Arizona Bar Foundation (AZ) **\$20,000**

This grant supported replacing a flash-based application for prequalifying individuals for legal aid and providing online services with a mobile-friendly web-based application.

Asian Services in Action (OH) **\$30,000**

This grant supported the expansion of the capacity of the agency to provide green card application services to immigrants. By developing simplified instructions for green card applicants who have limited English proficiency and by translating these instructions, more immigrants will have access to service. These instructions have been translated into French, Burmese, Nepali, Swahili and Arabic and are available for use by other organizations.

ABA Center for Innovation **\$20,000**

This grant supported enhancements to a successful rapid response tool, FloodProof. Through this app and online tool, homeowners and their pro bono lawyers can easily gather documents (such as proof of homeownership) and other necessary information to apply for an receive FEMA and other benefits (such as unemployment, small business relief, social security) following a disaster.

Center for Access to Justice (GA) **\$24,000**

With little to no scholarly research on the impact of eviction on families and communities, this grant supported a pilot study exploring how lower-income individuals in semi-rural communities in Georgia experience and interact with dispossession courts (i.e., courts responsible for hearing eviction proceedings). This initial study will be the basis of more comprehensive studies into what has become known as the “hidden housing problem.”

Colorado Legal Services (CO) **\$20,241**

This grant supported the establishment of a panel of pro bono attorneys who are available to assist low-income tenants in a rural jurisdiction with eviction cases during a consolidated eviction docket. Having an attorney greatly increases the avoidance of an order of eviction, giving tenants time to remedy violations, catch up on payments, and avoid difficulties finding housing in the future.

Community Activism Law Alliance (IL) **\$25,000**

This grant supported the expansion of community legal clinics to two additional areas of Chicago to specifically serve people of color who are LGBTQ in partnership with Affinity Community Services and to serve Arab Americans and immigrants in partnership with Arab American Action Network. CALA brings legal services to the people who need them by co-locating clinics in community organizations serving those who are most vulnerable.

Innocence Project of New Orleans (LA) \$31,713

This grant supported an investigator to work with the Police and Prosecutor Accountability for Community Trust Program being launched by the Innocence Project to increase transparency and accountability of law enforcement and the justice system in capital cases in Louisiana.

Mississippi Volunteer Lawyers Project (MS) \$12,000

This grant supported the recruitment, training and litigation expenses for pro bono lawyers providing limited representation to pro se litigants in civil rights matters filed in the United States District Court. With a focus on support for settlement conferences, the project was designed to assist clients with resolution of cases; provide lawyers with federal court mediation experience and help clear pro se dockets.

Proof Alliance (MN) \$34,450

This grant supported the launch of a first of its kind medical-legal partnership at a specialty Fetal Alcohol Spectrum (FAS) Disorder diagnostic clinic. The clinic addresses legal issues such as immigration-related to the international adoption of children with FAS, housing, educational equity, benefits, criminal justice, and guardianship. FAS poses special legal considerations in cases like these.

Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (TN) \$20,000

This grant provided seed funding to establish a mobile legal clinic for survivors of domestic violence in rural Tennessee. Partnering with local service providers who are members of the coalition, the mobile clinic will offer services to survivors such as immigration, domestic relations, orders of protection, custody, child support, landlord-tenant and other civil legal matters. Access to justice is increased by taking legal services to survivors who need them.

Tennesseans for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (TN) \$24,250

This grant supported the production and dissemination of a short documentary about the important issue of severe mental illness and capital punishment to serve as a vital public education tool, helping explain a nuanced legal and medical topic to a lay audience. The public is generally unaware that people with severe and persistent mental illness are still executed in this country. The film will educate about the important human rights and ethical concerns with this practice.

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