

## 2019 Opportunity Grant Recipients

### **ABA Commission on Immigration (DC) \$150,000**

With significant and increased demands for services by immigrants and asylum seekers, this grant supported the establishment of a pro bono service delivery program. This program will support ABA direct service delivery in Harlingen, Texas, and San Diego, California. It included seed funding to hire a pro bono coordinator who could recruit, train and place pro bono lawyers throughout the country, where migrant families settle and where unaccompanied children are placed.

### **Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA) / Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) Program of Summit County (OH) \$13,100**

This grant supported the development and implementation of a three-part training series on emerging topics in child advocacy practice: immigration, domestic violence, and human trafficking. The training will be both in-person for the GALs in Summit County and will include an online format for statewide impact.

### **D.C. Bar Pro Bono Center's LawHelp.org (DC) \$25,000**

This grant supported the translation of the site's more frequently accessed resources into Spanish, Amharic, and French (the most commonly spoken languages in D.C. after English). As translated, they will be updated with current law and information. These resources help users with housing, probate, and family law issues.

### **Foundation for Baltimore County Public Library (MD) \$50,000**

This grant allowed the Library to obtain a van equipped as a mobile legal office that travels throughout the county delivering legal services to those most in need and those most isolated. The library partnered with local legal service providers and the services focused on family issues such as divorce, custody, domestic violence, and adoption; expungement of criminal records so people can get back to work; housing issues such as landlord/tenant, eviction and foreclosure; social welfare and disability benefits; and immigration matters.

### **Illinois Legal Aid Online (IL) \$30,180**

This grant supported the development of updated, short, plain language videos and visual process maps so people can better understand how the court works and how to navigate the system when you don't have a lawyer. The grant also provided funds for marketing the new resources for maximized usage.

### **Iowa Legal Aid (IA) \$20,000**

This grant was used to hire legal clinic staff to launch two legal clinics co-located in VA clinics, the first of their kind in Iowa. As medical-legal partnerships, the clinics will assist Veterans with typical legal challenges such as domestic relations, housing, and consumer debt and with legal issues unique to veterans like benefits acquisition and discharge upgrade. It will do this through a lens that is sensitive to unique challenges facing veterans such as PTSD by providing trauma-informed services.

**Legal Aid of the Virgin Islands (USVI)      \$39,712**

This grant supported the creation of a multimedia approach to community legal education about disaster legal topics by developing and disseminating three short videos, interactive tools, and language-accessible brochures and handouts for distribution and linkage on the LSVI website. Disaster survivors will have access to critical information such as how to obtain FEMA or insurance benefits to find a new place to live or fix a current home; to negotiate with a landlord; handle disputes with contractors or address child custody if they must leave the island to find housing or other work.

**Living with Conviction (WA)      \$18,694**

In Washington state, those convicted of a crime can also face non-restitution legal financial obligations (LFOs) as part of their sentence, and these fines can accrue 12% annual interest while the person is incarcerated. Now, a waiver of the interest can be obtained by motion to the court. This grant supported the development of a pro se guide to seeking the waiver and a train the trainer program. Working with community organizations who provide support to formerly incarcerated persons, Living with Conviction trained staff and volunteers of those organizations to provide pro se guidance to others.

**Protect Our Defenders (National)      \$25,000**

In 2016, 129,000 service members faced severe and persistent sexual harassment or gender discrimination often at the hands of those they work with or in their chain of command. Since its inception in 2011, POD has provided free legal services and advocacy to over 1000 survivors. This grant supported the design and development of a reinvigorated pro bono attorney training curriculum and deployed it in two new locations with large military populations. Representation by a lawyer can help restore integrity in the military justice system and address inequalities faced by women, people of color, and LGBTQ service members.

**Puerto Rico Legal Services (PR)      \$25,210**

This grant supported the development and dissemination of two educational videos that will help the elderly and low-income families facing eviction (significantly exacerbated by the hurricanes in 2017) and those who serve them understand their legal rights and responsibilities and how legal services can help them. The videos will be in Spanish with English subtitles, and companion videos will include sign language interpreters. The dissemination plan includes community meetings, showings in senior centers, religious organizations, community centers and schools, where PRLS lawyers will be on hand to answer questions.

**Spokane County Bar Association      \$20,000  
Volunteer Lawyers Program (WA)**

This grant supported the development of curriculum to educate the public about common legal issues facing clients – family law overview, parenting plans, forms clinic, the court process, divorce, bankruptcy, wills, and consumer protection. It also supported the development of additional educational programs to assist volunteer lawyers better understand their volunteer duties and their clients (e.g., training in trauma-informed legal representation) and education classes that will be filmed and become available via the internet and public access television in multiple languages.

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