

## **February E-Newsletter**

*In just eight months, over 280 Washington families have benefitted from the help of the Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project. Thank you everyone for all of your hard work and commitment to public service!*

## **Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project Receives Attorney General Grant**

Countrywide settlement cash will refinance Washington foreclosure prevention efforts: Attorney General McKenna announces \$1.8 million in grants and direct consumer payments

<http://www.atg.wa.gov/pressrelease.aspx?&id=25168>

## **New Volunteer Opportunities**

**Emergency Assistance Needed! The Washington Homeownership Information Center Needs Our Help!**

The WA Homeownership Center staffs the statewide housing counselor hotline. These are the housing counselors at the frontline of foreclosure prevention who refer homeowners to the Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project. ***There has been a dramatic increase in homeowners calling the hotline this week.*** They need assistance with calling back some of these homeowners as quickly as possible to help assess what their issues are and help evaluate whether they might be eligible for loan modification and/or legal assistance. While the Homeownership Center would welcome a few of our volunteers helping out on site at their offices in Shoreline, it may also be possible for our volunteers to call back homeowners remotely. Please contact Marc Cote for more information at (206) 334-0731 cell or email [marc@parkviewservices.org](mailto:marc@parkviewservices.org)

**Intake Position (unpaid) at NJP is Now Available!**

Our NJP Legal Team is looking to fill a volunteer position at their offices in Pioneer Square in Seattle. Responsibilities:

- Assisting the legal team with client intakes, research, drafting pleadings and conducting discovery.
- No legal experience in foreclosure prevention required; however, strong client interviewing, issue spotting, research and writing skills, as well as a passionate desire to help distressed homeowners are a must!

Time commitment:

- 15-20 hours per week for a minimum of six months.

Benefits:

- One-on-one training and mentorship from our top notch legal team
- Opportunity to gain on-site experience with one of Washington state's premier civil legal aid law firms

Contact:

Interested volunteers should contact Lili Sotelo, Project Attorney, at (206) 464-1519 ext. 643 or [lilis@nwjustice.org](mailto:lilis@nwjustice.org)

## **Foreclosures In the News**

Flaws plague foreclosure relief program: Latest effort to save homes having only limited impact  
[http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35062033/ns/business-answer\\_desk//](http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/35062033/ns/business-answer_desk//)

No Help in Sight, More Homeowners Walk Away

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/02/03/business/03walk.html?hp>

U.S. foreclosures rise year-over-year in January; better numbers in Seattle area

[http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/businesstechnology/2011040516\\_apusforeclosurerates.html](http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/businesstechnology/2011040516_apusforeclosurerates.html)

### **CLE opportunities**

DOLLARS & SENSE OF DIVERSITY: THE VALUE OF DIVERSITY & HOW TO ACHIEVE IT

Thursday, February 25, 2010

Seattle University School of Law, 901 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sullivan Hall, Seattle, WA 98122

Registration 3:15pm - 3:30pm; Program 3:30pm - 5:30pm; Hosted Reception 5:30pm - 7:00pm

2.0 Ethics CLE Credits \$25 Per Person for the CLE

Diversity Week Reception is Hosted by SU School of Law - No charge

Register Now for this program! [www.regonline.com/Feb252010](http://www.regonline.com/Feb252010)

DEALING WITH RACIAL/ETHNIC BIAS IN THE COURTROOM

Friday, March 5, 2010

Seattle University School of Law, 901 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sullivan Hall, Seattle, WA 98122

Registration & Hot Breakfast Served Buffet Style 8:30am - 9:00am

Program 9:00am - 12:00pm

3.0 Ethics CLE Credits; \$60 SU Law Alumni --- \$90 General Admission (includes breakfast)

Register Now for this program! [www.regonline.com/Mar0510](http://www.regonline.com/Mar0510)

### **Advocacy Resources**

Making Home Affordable Program (MHA), Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP) and Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) FAQ:

[http://www.consumerlaw.org/fprc/content/counselor\\_qa.pdf](http://www.consumerlaw.org/fprc/content/counselor_qa.pdf)

Loan Modification Programs

Explores what the industry and the Obama administration are doing to combat the foreclosure crisis.

This section includes a handy chart summarizing the array of industry- and government-sponsored loan modification programs. [http://www.consumerlaw.org/issues/financial\\_distress/loan\\_modification.shtml](http://www.consumerlaw.org/issues/financial_distress/loan_modification.shtml)

Sample Documents and Practice Aids

<http://www.consumerlaw.org/fprc/fpc.shtml>

FDIC Loan Modification Program Guide – "Mod in a Box"

<http://www.fdic.gov/consumers/loans/loanmod/loanmodguide.html>

Follow the Paper Trail: Anatomy of Securitization

<http://www.consumerlaw.org/fprc/content/anatomy.pdf>

The Cost of Bad Lending in Washington

<http://www.responsiblelending.org/mortgage-lending/tools-resources/factsheets/washington.html>

### **WSBA Job Resources for New/Young Lawyers**

The Washington State Bar Association Lawyer Services Department has compiled some resources that may help new and young attorneys who are looking for employment or considering a job change.

- For audio recordings and information on a monthly job seekers' group, visit [www.wsba.org/lawyers/services/jobseeking.htm](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/services/jobseeking.htm).
- For job search resources, including tips on informational interviews, résumés, and the emotional challenge of unemployment, visit [www.wsba.org/lawyers/services/jobsearchresources.htm](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/services/jobsearchresources.htm)
- For a listing of job search websites, see [www.wsba.org/lawyers/services/jobsearchwebsites.pdf](http://www.wsba.org/lawyers/services/jobsearchwebsites.pdf)
- For the job opportunities page on the WSBA website, visit [www.wsba.org/jobs/default.htm](http://www.wsba.org/jobs/default.htm)

For questions or feedback on how the WSBA can assist new and young attorneys, contact Brian Halcomb, WYLD liaison, at [brianh@wsba.org](mailto:brianh@wsba.org).

### **Housekeeping**

#### Working on Case and Need Some Feedback or Assistance?

If you're actively volunteering with the project you should have been added to our WA foreclosure prevention advocate list serve. Don't forget to use it! Experts, mentors and other volunteers are standing by to exchange ideas and advocacy strategies. Unsure if you're on this list serve? contact Aline at [alinec@wsba.org](mailto:alinec@wsba.org).

#### Please Check Your Email Spam Filter!

Please make sure you are receiving email from Lili Sotelo and Colleen Mold, our Home Foreclosure Legal Aid Project legal team; their emails are [colleenm@nwjustice.org](mailto:colleenm@nwjustice.org) and [lilis@nwjustice.org](mailto:lilis@nwjustice.org) and [hflap@nwjustice.org](mailto:hflap@nwjustice.org). Almost all attorneys should have gotten a chance to accept at least one case. Anyone who has not received a request for case acceptance should contact Aline at [alinec@wsba.org](mailto:alinec@wsba.org) as soon as possible.

#### Really Eager to Get a Case?

Have you been really eager to get a case but feel like you haven't been quick enough on the draw when our legal team sends out volunteer opportunities? Have you been unable to handle a matter that's been offered but are still really interested in getting a case? If so, please email [hflap@nwjustice.org](mailto:hflap@nwjustice.org) and also let us know if you'd be willing to take matters in neighboring counties or statewide.

#### Too Busy Right Now to Take a Case?

If you are not currently able or believe that you will not be able to accept cases through the Home Foreclosure Project for the next six months, please take a moment to let us know so that we can remove you from our volunteer list. Please contact Aline at (206) 727-8204 or [alinec@wsba.org](mailto:alinec@wsba.org) to be removed from our volunteer list. You can always rejoin us when your schedule opens up.

### **Questions, Comments and Feedback: We want to hear from you!**

Please contact Aline at [alinec@wsba.org](mailto:alinec@wsba.org) or at (206) 727-8204.

Thanks again for doing your part to put an end to the foreclosure crisis and helping Washington state homeowners!