



Access to Justice Board Agenda

Friday, September 6, 2019 – 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

WSBA – 1325 4th Avenue, Suite 600, Seattle

1-866-577-9294; Access: 52140#

Recognizing that access to the civil justice system is a fundamental right, the Access to Justice Board works to achieve equal access for those facing economic and other significant barriers.

4 min	Welcome and Introductions	Sal Mungia		
1 min	May Board Meeting Minutes	Sal Mungia	Action	pp 3-4
5 min	Chair's Report	Sal Mungia	Report	2019 ATJ Board Annual Report
10 min	Northwest Immigrant Rights Project Update	Jorge Barón	Report	
15 min	Columbia Legal Services Update	Merf Ehman	Report	pp 5-9
15 min	Northwest Justice Project Update	Cesar Torres	Report	
15 min	Public Defender Association Report	Prachi Dave and Tarra Simmons	Report	
10 min	2019 ATJ Conference Debrief	Sal Mungia and Diana Singleton	Report	
5 min	Justice for All Grant Update	Diana Singleton	Report	
	Committee Updates:			
10 min	• Delivery System Committee	Sal Mungia and Alex Doolittle	Report	
10 min	• Rules Committee and RPC 6.5	Judge David Keenan and Catherine Brown	Action	pp 10-15

10 min	Equal Justice Coalition Update	Andy Sachs and Will Livesly-O'Neil	
	Funding Reports		<i>pp 16-20</i>
5 min	• Private	Caitlin Davis	Report
5 min	• Campaign for Equal Justice	Natalia Fior	Report
1 min	Other Updates, Upcoming Events	All	Report
	• Check out the Alliance calendar		



Access to Justice Board Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2019, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Washington State Bar Association, 1325 4th Ave, #600, Seattle, WA 98101

Call: 1-866-577-9294; Access: 52140#

Present: Judge Laura Bradley, Esperanza Borboa, Hon. Fred Corbit, Hon. David Keenan, Michelle Lucas, Lindy Laurence, and Terry Price

WSBA Staff: Diana Singleton, Bonnie Sterken

Guests: Merf Ehman, Sart Rowe, Cesar Torres, Vanessa Hernandez, Christopher Brunetti, Jerry Kroon, Omid Bagheri, Jennifer Werdell, Denise Diskin, Natalia Fior McMahon, Will Livesley- O'Neill, Catherine Brown, Eva Wescott, Nick Larson, Jorge Baron, Emily Van Yuga, Andy Sachs, Morgan Mentzer and Luke Savot

Minutes: The April minutes were approved without edits.

Chair's Report: Laura reported that the ATJ Conference is coming up in June. She provided a recap of the Board's trip to the Tri-Cities.

Staff's Report: Diana encouraged people to register for the conference and encouraged people to book hotel rooms. She also summarized the tracks at the conference and the pre-conference activities.

Diana also reported that we are collected survey responses from Alliance members regarding their progress on the state plan. She encourage organizations to fill out the survey.

NWIRP Updated: Jorge reported on their work regarding the right to counsel for students in deportation hearings. They recently received a ruling that did not go in their favor regarding the right for counsel, and they continue to look for other options. They are also trying to advocate for timely banc hearings but recently received a ruling that asylum seekers aren't entitled to banc hearings at all. This will have national repercussions.

Updated Technology Principles: Terry reported on the recent JISC meeting. He noted that one conversation reflected that there is not a standard statewide database and it has been a challenge at the local levels. Regarding the Technology Principles, he reported that JISC did not approve the principles. JISC indicated that they would not approve them until there is a preamble that says the principals are aspirational only. The Technology Committee is taking up drafting this preamble.

Client Intake Workgroup: Catherine reported on the purpose of the workgroup to analyze the statewide intake system. They have decided they want to look at intake by talking directly with client communities. They have found that the workgroup does not have the capacity to handle all of the necessary pieces. Eva added the NJP is planning to do some work internally. The workgroup is discussing whether to work with a consultant to move the process forward.

Race Equity Toolkit: Jen and Omid shared about the race equity toolkit and REJI and how the Board can engage with both.

Lavender Rights: Morgan Mentzer and Luke Savot presented about the work of Lavender Rights Project.

EJC Update: Andy and Will shared about the progress made during the legislative session. They shared a handout summarizing the session and showing that the legislature provided about half of what was asked for. The EJC continues to grow allies at the state and federal levels. Andy also shared about the DC trip to meet with 12 members and/or their staff. Andy noted Kirsten Barron is stepping in as Chair this fall. They are still recruiting for the legislative relations committee and are putting together an advisory board for the EJC. Cesar noted that the increased FTEs will be distributed by region and not necessarily by NJP office. He also noted the need to look at pay equity for specialty programs. The Board and others discussed the need for more money. There will be an EJC stakeholder meeting in the summer.

Federal Budget: Cesar reported we are losing 10 VOCA positions over the next three years. He gave an update on LSC, which is currently asking for 5.93mil. We anticipate cuts overall.

Other Matters:

Laura announced the GR 24 stakeholder meeting on May 29th.

Diana reported that the Technology Committee will host a technology summit early next year.

Adjourned at 12:02pm



Our “Why”

Since our founding, Columbia Legal Services (CLS) has **advocated for laws that advance social, economic, and racial equity for people living in poverty**. Our focus has always included serving the needs of people who are incarcerated or who do not have U.S. immigration status and using the powerful legal tools of **policy advocacy** and **class action** litigation.

Our new strategic direction focuses more explicitly on community-centered advocacy to create a world where every person enjoys full human rights and economic opportunities. Through our **community-led legal advocacy**, we hold ourselves, government agencies, institutions, and other actors accountable to address the root causes of racism and their manifestation in unfair treatment and inequitable access to resources, power, and opportunities based on race.

We will primarily focus our advocacy on dismantling and transforming two of the key racialized systems that perpetuate poverty, injustice, and dehumanization: **mass incarceration** and the impacts of the **immigration system**.

Why These Two Systems?

- Every aspect of our systems of punishment and accountability – from foster care and school discipline to policing and prosecution to conviction and sentencing and to imprisonment and reentry – is deeply racialized. While we no longer have explicit Jim Crow laws, their legacy continues to reverberate. **Mass incarceration** results in exclusion of people, disproportionately people of color, from societal structures, including education, employment, housing, financial institutions, public spaces, health care, and the social safety nets.
- Likewise, our **immigration laws and system** are designed to exclude certain groups from access to protections and benefits promised by law. As a result of their immigration status, many people lack basic employment protections, health care, housing and public benefits, and, increasingly, are targeted for civil and criminal sanctions through our legal and justice systems. Many face increasing discrimination in most aspects of civic life.

“We have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.”
- Michelle Alexander

These systems are about who belongs and who does not on every level.

Why Community-Centered Advocacy?

We believe that to achieve justice, all communities should have a voice in the creation and implementation of the policies, laws, and legal systems that impact them. While we acknowledge individual needs for services, we focus our resources, legal skills, and knowledge to support and advance the **collective power of communities** and social movements to create institutions and laws that are designed and implemented by those most directly impacted.

Our “How”

Mass Incarceration and Immigration Advocacy

- Remedying inhumane conditions in jails, prisons, and the immigration detention center for youth and adults
- Advancing policies to address the overuse of incarceration and financial penalties
- Challenging the laws and practices that target, exclude, and criminalize people based on their immigration status or previous justice system involvement
- Fighting to ensure full employment protections for all workers, regardless of immigration or incarceration status
- Working toward an inclusive health care system that does not exclude people based on their immigration or incarceration status
- Dismantling pipelines to prison for youth, including reforming the foster care system and juvenile detention practices

Policy Advocacy for People Living in Poverty

We continue to undertake policy advocacy outside of our focus areas to support or reject legislation identified as a priority or problem by Alliance for Justice and community partners where there is a critical need, no one else can do it, and it impacts people living in poverty. This includes

- Protecting low-income consumers by relieving the burdens of debt and garnishment, including student loan and medical debt
- Working to preserve access to public benefits for all families
- Supporting expanded rights for tenants and defending against bad housing bills

We recognize that history frames our present and future. We are conscious of the racism that is deeply embedded in our legal framework and acknowledge our own complicity in perpetuating these harmful systems, while also aspiring to become an anti-racist organization.

CLS is part of the **Alliance for Equal Justice**, a network of Washington State organizations that work together in a collaborative way to coordinate strategy and delivery of civil legal aid to people and communities that experience poverty and injustice.

The Road We Took – 2018 Strategic Planning

When the board hired Merf Ehman as the new executive director of Columbia Legal Services (CLS) in June 2017, they requested that Merf lead a strategic planning process for the organization. This planning was necessary because there had been significant changes at CLS and for our client populations since our last strategic plan in 2011, including (1) relentless attacks on immigrant and poor communities and communities of color by the federal administration, (2) decreases in funding, and (3) significant turnover in staff and leadership. CLS staff, board, and key stakeholders undertook extensive data gathering to gain a comprehensive view of external trends that impact our organization, as well as internal issues for the organization to address.

Primary Themes from Stakeholder Analysis

1. Address shifts in the political landscape and social movements

In our current political and social climate there is an expressed need for more dramatic, faster change because new federal policies are having devastating impacts for many families in our state. Anti-immigration rhetoric and policies increasingly target immigrant communities – particularly people who are undocumented. Privately-controlled immigration detention centers are filling up and mass incarceration continues to devastate families and communities.

2. Connect with community power

Use of a strong race equity lens is paramount as people and communities talk about racial justice in explicit ways. Communities of color are leading and organizing to change the systems that limit their rights and opportunities. CLS must consider how to best to work in relationship with and meet the needs of these activated communities.

3. Create a strong mission focus and not waver from it

At CLS, we aim to disrupt and change these oppressive systems and we are passionate about making a difference in race and other equity and justice issues. CLS has a strong history and reputation, but many of our Alliance and community partners pointed out that the organization has had too many different prioritized areas without a central focus. This resulted in a diffused organizational impact. Moreover, there was confusion on how to access CLS services and the parameters CLS used for identifying and accepting advocacy.

The Road Ahead – Changing Course

Based upon our listening process and analysis of what we learned, we developed a new set of core organizational principles that reflect our unique role in the delivery of legal services in WA.

CLS's Strategic Focus

Through community-led movement lawyering and a systemic approach, we are supporting communities and movements by bringing deep legal expertise that is grounded in – and strongly guided by – an understanding of race equity. We do this by serving those who are disenfranchised by our racialized economic systems, **with a focus on mass incarceration and the broken immigration system**. Our advocacy includes investigating and documenting harm, class action/impact litigation, and policy reform.

Specifically, we will focus on dismantling systems of mass incarceration including failed criminal legal policies such as the overuse of incarceration and financial penalties, inhumane conditions in jails, prisons, and detention centers for youth and adults, and the criminalization of immigration. We will also advocate for the rights of immigrants and people who are undocumented to ensure that they enjoy full human rights.

Values

Community. Our work is directed by the communities we serve. We contribute our legal knowledge and skills to support initiatives that are identified by the community to enhance the community's power.

Race Equity. We hold ourselves accountable to principles of race equity and human rights. Through our community-led legal advocacy, we hold government agencies, institutions, and other actors accountable to address the root causes of racism and their manifestation in unfair treatment and inequitable access to resources, power, and opportunities based on race.

Justice. We believe that to achieve justice, all communities should have a voice in the creation and implementation of the policies, laws, and legal systems that impact them. We believe that our legal system must be held accountable by the people most impacted by it.

Following this work, we underwent a process to *align our current advocacy with a strategic focus* by asking the following questions:

1. Is work in this area currently focused primarily on one of our special populations (incarcerated or undocumented people)?

2. To what degree does the advocacy address a racialized system?
3. To what degree does this advocacy aim to achieve an outcome aligned with our strategic focus and values?
4. To what degree is this advocacy community-led?
5. To what degree would this work require us to use our specialized expertise (class action, policy, nonduplicative of others)?

As a result of this close analysis, our current work on some issues will shift to align with our new strategic focus. **We will be reaching out to our Alliance and community partners in the coming weeks to discuss how to best work together as we transition some of our current advocacy.** We hope that, together, we will transform CLS into a more impactful, nimble, and community-based organization going forward.

We will either not continue the advocacy listed below or we will engage in the work only to the extent it impacts our mass incarceration or immigration work:

- Consumer or foreclosure
- Education
- Foster care
- Housing and homelessness advocacy
- Public benefits advocacy
- Senior specific work (end of 2019)
- Reentry clinic and individual reentry work
- No individual cases, with very limited exceptions:
 1. CLS may take individual cases when they are related to a larger systemic effort (the two systems we are focusing on) and provide an investigative or professional development opportunity.
 2. CLS works with partner agencies to ensure there are no other resources available, and the cases otherwise meet our strategy screen.

We will take on some limited proactive Alliance partner or community requests on issues that may not touch on our two priority communities where the need is critical and no one else can do it. In such cases, we will utilize our advocacy criteria listed above to inform our decisions. Over the next two months we are creating a work plan to prioritize work within our strategic focus on people impacted by the broken immigration system and mass incarceration. We will share that document when it's complete.

Thank you for helping us move forward in a more focused, strategic, and impactful way so, together, we can achieve justice and equity for all.

GR 9 COVER SHEET

Suggested Amendment to RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT (RPC)

Rule 6.5 -- NONPROFIT AND COURT-ANNEXED LIMITED LEGAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Submitted by the Pro Bono Council

A. Name of Proponent:

Pro Bono Council. As a subcommittee of the Washington State Access to Justice Board, the Pro Bono Council is a convening body that supports and advocates for the sixteen volunteer lawyer programs across the State.

B. Spokesperson:

Catherine Brown
Pro Bono Council Manager
1200 Fifth Avenue, Suite 700
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 267-7026

C. Purpose:

To obtain a clarifying comment to Rule of Professional Conduct (RPC) 6.5 allowing a limited legal service program to provide notice, as described in paragraph (a)(3) of the Rule, at the time an individual applies for service, regardless of whether an actual conflict exists at that time.

RPC 6.5 allows non-profit and court-annexed limited legal services programs to offer short-term legal services to clients whose legal interests may be in conflict by exempting such representation from RPCs 1.7, 1.9(a), and 1.18(c), unless a participating lawyer has personal knowledge of a conflict and the conflict cannot be mitigated by specific screening measures. This exemption maximizes the limited resources of limited legal service programs and participating lawyers (pro bono and staff) to provide free legal help to eligible persons. A limited legal service program must utilize effective screening mechanisms to ensure confidential information is not disseminated to an attorney who is disqualified from assisting a client with competing interests because of a known personal conflict.¹ A limited legal service program must provide each client with notice of the conflict and the screening mechanisms used to avoid the dissemination of confidential information relating to the

¹ RPC 6.5(a)(3)(i)

representation of the competing interests.² Finally, a limited legal service program must also be able to demonstrate by convincing evidence that no material information relating to the representation was transmitted to the opposing client's attorney.³

Neither the rule nor the comments prescribe how the notice is to be provided. In a known conflict situation, providing individualized notice of an actual conflict creates the potential for inconsistency with the duty of confidentiality codified in RPC 1.6. Further, in many of the cases handled by limited legal service programs in Washington State, providing individualized notice of a conflict can create safety issues for actual and potential clients.

Client safety issues in limited legal services programs often arise in cases involving domestic violence. Protection from domestic violence is an area of significant legal need across the country and in Washington. This is borne out by the Washington State Supreme Court-sponsored Civil Legal Needs Study Update of 2015 (Study). The Study found that 71 percent of low-income households in Washington face at least one civil legal problem during a 12-month period.⁴ Further, 76 percent of persons living in poverty who have significant legal needs in Washington cannot get the legal help or representation they need to resolve the problem.⁵ More importantly for purposes of this proposed comment, the Study confirmed that victims of domestic violence and/or sexual assault experience the highest number of legal problems per capita of any group: low-income Washingtonians who have suffered domestic violence or been a victim of sexual assault experience an average of 19.7 legal problems per household, twice the average experienced by the general low-income population.⁶

Several limited legal service programs, including volunteer lawyer programs, offer legal advice clinics for survivors of domestic violence (DV). If a DV survivor seeks legal aid services while their abuser is a current or former client of that program, under RPC 1.7 or 1.9 there could be a conflict of interest. As described above, RPC 6.5 allows a limited legal service program to provide short-term limited assistance to the conflicted client, who may be the victim/survivor, through the mechanism of screening any personally conflicted attorney(s) from the case and notifying both parties. The process raises the immediate concern that providing individualized notice of the actual conflict to each party creates an imminent risk of harm to the victim by alerting an alleged DV perpetrator that their victim is seeking legal advice. This notice could, thus, put the safety of the victim/survivor in greater jeopardy. As a collateral matter, RPC 1.6 counsels the exercise of caution when disclosing client information that is likely to result in imminent harm to a third-party.⁷ As a result of the lack of clarity on this issue, some limited legal service programs opt instead to follow a strict policy of not accepting clients where there is a known conflict, which then results in the

² RPC 6.5(a)(3)(ii)

³ RPC 6.5(a)(3)(iii)

⁴ 2015 Washington State Civil Legal Needs Study Update, p. 5, at https://ocla.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CivilLegalNeedsStudy_October2015_V21_Final10_14_15.pdf.

⁵ *Id.* at p. 15.

⁶ *Id.* at p. 13.

⁷ See RPC 1.6 Comment [6].

opposite outcome to the underlying goal of RPC 6.5: to increase access to free limited legal services for low-income Washingtonians.

The proposed comment to RPC 6.5 provides important clarity regarding the notice requirement. This guidance will enable any non-profit or court-annexed limited legal service program that satisfies the provisions of RPC 6.5(a) to serve clients who face compounding challenges to seeking legal assistance and who might otherwise be barred from obtaining the help they need due to barriers unwittingly posed by the RPCs. At the same time, limited legal service programs are able to help keep those clients safe during the course of their legal matter without fear of increasing their risk of harm. The suggested comment will allow limited legal service programs to notify ALL actual and potential clients at the time an individual applies for help of the potential for conflicts and information about the screening mechanisms. This fulfills RPC 6.5's goal to maximize the accessibility of legal aid to as many individuals as possible while still protecting an individual client's interests, safety and confidentiality within the bounds of attorneys' professional duties.

Further, providing notice of the potential for conflicts and the screening mechanisms to all applicants for short-term legal services creates an opportunity for applicants to immediately opt out of receiving services if they feel doing so would be in their best interests. Providing notice only after an actual conflict arises allows no opportunity to opt out or raise objections before the conflict arises.

D. Hearing:

A hearing is not requested. The Pro Bono Council has conducted stakeholder outreach on this issue. Please see the attached supporting materials.

E. Expedited Consideration:

Expedited consideration is not requested.

F. Supporting Materials:

- a. Letter of Support from Access to Justice Board
- b. Statement regarding stakeholder outreach conducted by Pro Bono Council

1 **SUGGESTED RULE CHANGES**

2 **RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT**

3 Recommended by the Pro Bono Council

4
5 **Proposed Additional Comment to Rule 6.5:**

6 [8] Nonprofit and Court-Annexed Limited Legal Service Programs may provide notice, as
7 described in paragraph (a)(3), at the time an individual applies for service, regardless of whether
8 an actual conflict exists at that time.



October 15, 2019

Clerk of the Supreme Court
Temple of Justice
P.O. Box 40929
Olympia, WA 98504-0929

Re: Stakeholder Outreach for Proposed Comment to Rule of Professional Conduct 6.5

Dear Honorable Members of the Washington State Supreme Court:

MEMBERS

ELOISE BARSHES, CO-CHAIR
ELIZABETH FITZGEARLD, CO-CHAIR
MAREN ANDERSON
LORI BASHOR-SARANCIK
QUINN DALAN
ANNE DALY
LAURIE DAVENPORT
CHRIS GRAVES
MICHAEL HEATHERLY
JERRY KRÖON
VEANEY MARTINEZ
SHAUNA ROGERS MCCLAIN
RACHAEL LUNDMARK
BARB OTTE
KRISTINA RALLS
GAIL SMITH
JOANNE SPRAGUE
EVA WESCOTT

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The Pro Bono Council is a convening body to represent and advocate for the network of sixteen individual Volunteer Lawyer Programs (VLPs) in Washington. The VLPs provide free, high quality, efficient, and innovative civil legal assistance to low income people through the recruitment, training, supervision, and support of volunteer lawyers. Each VLP is affiliated with a county bar association and is governed by a board of directors or steering committee comprised of local attorneys, social services providers, and other community members. Finally, each VLP coordinates local attorneys and other volunteers to provide pro bono help at legal clinics and other client service delivery models.

The Pro Bono Council is committed to increasing access to justice for as many eligible Washingtonians as possible. The proposed comment to Rule of Professional Conduct (RPC) 6.5 furthers access to free legal help by allowing pro bono volunteers to rely on a legal services program's screening mechanisms to avoid direct conflicts of interest at legal clinics.

To support the proposed comment to RPC 6.5, members of the Pro Bono Council reached out to the Washington State Access to Justice (ATJ) Board and the community of civil legal services providers through the ATJ Board's Delivery System Committee. The Delivery System Committee includes representatives of legal aid organizations such as Benefits Law Center, Columbia Legal Services, Lavender Rights Project, Legal Foundation of Washington, Northwest Justice Project, Office of Civil Legal Aid, Seattle University School of Law Access to Justice Institute, Solid Ground Benefits Assistance Center, Sexual Violence Law Center, TeamChild, Tenant Law Center, Unemployment Law Project, and many more. At the Delivery System Committee's March 2019 meeting, the Pro Bono Council explained the need to propose a comment to RPC 6.5 and asked for feedback from the community of legal services providers. Committee members expressed that the comment is a move in the right direction and offered no ideas for additional outreach to organizations who could be impacted by the comment.

Please contact Pro Bono Council Co-chairs, Eloise Barshes or Elizabeth Fitzgearld, or Pro Bono Council Manager, Catherine Brown, should you have additional questions or comments.

Sincerely,

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Pro Bono Council Co-Chair
edvas@nwi.net
(509) 663-2778

Elizabeth Fitzgearld
Pro Bono Council Co-Chair
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DRAFT



MEMORANDUM

1325 Fourth Avenue
Suite 1335
Seattle, WA
98101-2509

Ph: (206) 624-2536
Fax:(206) 382-3396

To:	LFW Partnership Grantees
From:	Caitlin W. Davis, Executive Director
Date:	August 14, 2019
Re:	Mid-year Update from LFW

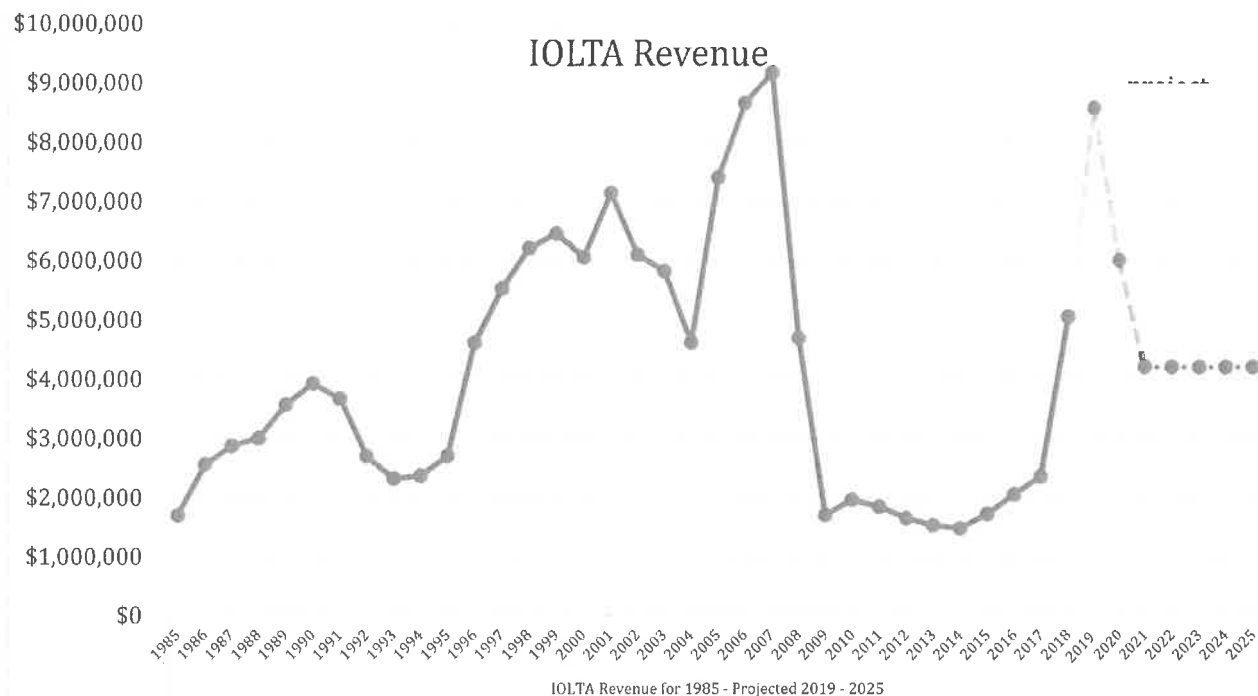
Greetings from LFW! I hope you are enjoying the summer. As is the custom, I am writing to you now—a month away from the deadline for our annual Partnership Grants—to give you an assessment of LFW's revenue for the current year, and other factors that may impact the LFW grants process.

Revenue Summary

As you know, LFW draws on several revenue sources to support annual Partnership Grants, which provide stable operating support for legal aid programs around the state. The primary source of LFW's revenue is the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Account (IOLTA) program. We also receive state funds through our partnership with Northwest Justice Project and the Office of Civil Legal Aid, and occasionally we receive residuals from settlements and class action lawsuits. The last portion of our income comes from the generous support of our donors and Alliance partners through the Alliance's statewide fundraising program (the Campaign for Equal Justice and the Endowment for Equal Justice).

IOLTA revenue is largely determined by the Federal Funds rate. The Federal Funds rate refers to the interest rate that banks charge other banks for lending them money. It is a key benchmark that banks use to determine interest rates, including the amount paid on IOLTA accounts.

Due to increases in the federal funds rate in 2018, we are pleased that this year's IOLTA receipts increased significantly from previous years. However, late last month, the Federal Funds rate was cut by .25%, and more cuts are anticipated in the next year. Here is a visual depiction of IOLTA revenue in Washington over time, and what we project moving forward:



One of LFW's values is to provide stable operating support for our Partnership Grantees regardless of revenue fluctuations. While our revenue is not very predictable, we aim to keep grants as steady as possible year over year. Given that we expect the 2019 increase in IOLTA to be a spike, not a plateau, it is likely that the LFW board will choose to save the one-time revenue increase from IOLTA, rather than award it in the form of grant increases that cannot be sustained over time. During the recession, LFW significantly drew down on its grant reserves. By replenishing our "rainy day" fund, we will be able to provide an additional degree of certainty that our grants are sustainable during future economic downturns.

What to Expect from LFW in 2020

While applications for next year are not due for another month, it is reasonable for our partnership grantees to expect stable funding through 2020.

Factors that LFW will consider between now and the end of the year include the following:

Salary Equity

Salary equity among legal aid providers is an issue of key importance to LFW. Last year we were pleased to partner with the Legislature to add additional funds to the salaries of pro bono program staff. While the amount we were able to come up with fell far short of what is needed to establish true equity, it is a goal in progress and we will continue working with our partners to pursue salary parity for pro bono staff and similar salary enhancements for some of the specialty legal aid providers.

Race Equity

LFW continues to expand its understanding of what it would take to live in a state where poverty or race is not an impediment to justice. In addition to making internal policy changes, getting additional feedback from the community, and exploring participatory grantmaking models, this year we launched a new Race Equity grants program. A panel of community members recommended ten grants totaling \$75,000 to organizations in our states for projects aimed at eliminating structural racism and oppression. LFW plans to continue this program in the future. Please look for a feature on this new grant program in the next installment of The Brief, LFW's bimonthly newsletter.

Please feel free to contact me at (206) 957 6288 if you have any questions. On behalf of LFW's board and staff, we remain so grateful for the work the Alliance does on behalf of people who experience poverty and marginalization and who need justice in our state—thanks to every one of you for all that you do.

Organization Name	Amount Requested	Project Name	Project Synopsis
Center for Justice	\$7,500.00	Smart Justice	Smart Justice is a multi-faceted project that addresses racial inequities in criminal justice and law enforcement through a combination of policy and advocacy efforts, law clinic days, community lawyering, and post-conviction/re-entry services.
Columbia Legal Services	\$7,500.00	Washington Parole Coalition	Building a coalition of community members who are directly impacted by mass incarceration, survivors of violence, grassroots organizers, and civil legal aid providers to come together and organize for comprehensive parole reform/legislation.
Cowlitz Wahkiakum Legal Aid	\$7,500.00	Building Capacity for Program Analysis, Community Outreach, and Community Training	The requested funds will pay the fees for an Americorps Member who will analyze the agency programs, attend Community Outreach Events, and help coordinate the second and third classes in our series of Race Equity Community Training Events.
Disability Rights Washington	\$7,500.00	Community/Movement Lawyering for Disability Rights in Communities of Color	Disability Rights Washington (DRW) seeks funds to train staff and develop an action plan to integrate community/movement lawyering into organizational practices to better serve people with disabilities in communities of color.
Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties	\$7,400.00	Equal Access to Family Mediation	The Dispute Resolution Center of Yakima and Kittitas Counties seeks to increase access to Yakima County Family Court by providing bilingual mediators and culturally responsive materials, where needed, for parenting plan and dissolution mediations.
Entre Hermanos	\$7,500.00	Building Volunteer Capacity through Legal Clinics for LGBTQ Immigrants	QLaw Foundation and Entre Hermanos will partner in delivering legal clinics for Latinx LGBTQ immigrants, building cultural competency for QLaw volunteer attorneys and increasing Entre Hermanos' capacity for direct representation of asylum seekers.
Seattle Clemency Project	\$7,500.00	Seattle Clemency Project Refugee Pardon Program	This project is focused on serving refugees who are at risk of being deported and separated from their families due to prior criminal convictions, for which they have already served time.
Tenants Union of Washington State	\$7,500.00	Tenant Organizing Project	The Tenants Union's Tenant Organizing Project works for Just Cause, Rent Control, and other essential tenant protections by building the power of low income renters of color most impacted by racial inequity in housing policies and practices.
West African Community Council	\$7,500.00	West African Community Council's Immigration Legal Program	The West African Community Council requests funding to increase our ability to address the growing number of Limited English Proficient community members seeking our assistance to gain legal status and/or permission to work in the United States.
What's Next Washington	\$7,500.00	NonProfit Leadership Collaborative	The Nonprofit Leadership Collaborative (The Collaborative) provides nonprofits, led by the directly impacted, the skills, support and resources they need to lead the transformation of the criminal justice / legal system

Show the Debugger Trace Report

CAMPAIGN for
**EQUAL
JUSTICE**



ENDOWMENT for
**EQUAL
JUSTICE**

UPCOMING FALL EVENTS

beer + justice *wine & justice*

**JOIN US FOR A HAPPY HOUR EVENT
TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CIVIL LEGAL AID**

All events
5-7pm

**SEPTEMBER 26
WENATCHEE
BEER & JUSTICE**
Featuring Judge Kristin Ferrera

**OCTOBER 2
OLYMPIA BEER & JUSTICE**
Featuring Justice Debra Stephens

**OCTOBER 16
YAKIMA
BEER & JUSTICE**

**OCTOBER 24
BELLEVUE
WINE & JUSTICE**
Featuring Kathy Surace-Smith, VP
& General Counsel, NanoString

**NOVEMBER 13
MOUNT VERNON
BEER & JUSTICE**



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A CONCERT BENEFITING
THE ENDOWMENT FOR EQUAL JUSTICE**

**FEATURING
THE PAULA BOGGS BAND**

**THE TRIPLE DOOR | 216 Union St, Seattle
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 19 5:30 TO 8:00PM**

Tickets \$100



CHARLES A.
Goldmark 2020
Award Luncheon

**Friday, February 14, 2020
Noon - 1:30pm | The Westin Seattle**

**CHARLES A. GOLDMARK
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDEE**
Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst, WA Supreme Court

KEYNOTE BY
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