



President's Report

October 2017

Agenda

- 2017 Pro Bono Innovation Fund Grants
- 2017 Technology Initiative Grants
- Legislative Developments
- Private Funding Updates and Follow-Up
- Outreach and Education

2017 Pro Bono Innovation Fund Grants

- 15 grants totaling \$3.8 million in 11 states
 - 7 “Project” Grants
 - 3 “Transformation” Grants
 - 5 “Sustainability” Grants
- Issued national press release and 15 separate regional press releases
- 28 Members of Congress (21 Democrats and 7 Republicans) provided quotes for the press releases, including 9 Senators

2017 Pro Bono Innovation Fund Grants Samples

- **Project Grant:** Legal Services NYC will partner with global law firms and Fortune 500 companies including Goldman Sachs, Barclays, Starbucks, BNY Mellon, and Marsh & McLennan to provide monthly legal clinics and ongoing representation for low-income veterans.

Representative Daniel Donovan, Jr. (R-NY 11th):

“The assistance provided by Legal Services NYC, particularly to veterans who are in need of legal counseling, is incredibly valuable. As a former prosecutor, I know that navigating complex legal issues can be daunting. It’s a true service to the community that the less fortunate, including those who risked their lives for our country, can rely on Legal Services NYC.”



2017 Pro Bono Innovation Fund Grants

Samples (cont'd)

- **Transformation Grant:** Legal Services of Northwest Jersey will perform a comprehensive analysis of its pro bono program and seek input from stakeholders, including the client community, courts, attorneys, and service providers both in New Jersey and nationally.

Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ):

“The Pro Bono Innovation Fund is vital to helping organizations like Legal Services of Northwest Jersey increase access to legal representation and strengthen our justice system, and I thank them for their continued efforts.”



2017 Pro Bono Innovation Fund Grants

Samples (cont'd)

- **Sustainability Grant:** The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland will increase pro bono services by recruiting late-career and retired attorneys to perform a variety of pro bono roles, including in-house volunteers and traditional pro bono roles at clinics or in individual cases.

Representative Jim Renacci (R-OH 16th):

“Giving back to our community is the only way we can ensure success for future generations. Which is why I am pleased to see [that] The Legal Aid Society of Cleveland...was provided funding to continue helping break down legal barriers for those in need.”



Pro Bono Innovation Fund

Replicating the Pro Bono Innovation Fund in Florida

- Florida Bar Foundation introducing a transformation grant track
 - Will likely follow LSC's model and process
- LSC's Pro Bono Innovation Fund team will work with the Florida Bar Foundation to develop this track and tackle common issues

2017 Technology Initiative Grants

- 25 grants awarded to 22 programs in 18 states, totaling \$3,978,574
 - 20 Innovations and Improvements Projects
 - 5 Replication and Adaptation Projects
- Press releases will be released after the board meeting

2017 Technology Initiative Grants Samples

- Responding to LSC's statewide website evaluation:
 - Projects in FL, LA, ME, MT, and NY will enhance the navigation, usability, search, and mobile experiences of their websites.
- How legal aid programs can implement artificial intelligence and chatbots:
 - Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida will introduce artificial intelligence (AI) into the client intake process by building a prototype to analyze client input and spot consumer protection issues.
- Partnering with legal tech startups:
 - Philadelphia Legal Assistance Center will work with Upsolve.org to expand their online tool that helps people complete Chapter 7 bankruptcy forms to make it ready to deploy across the country with minimal customization.

Legislative Developments

House FY 2018 CJS Appropriations

- Bipartisan amendment to increase LSC funding by \$10 million
 - Introduced by Representatives Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Steve Cohen (D-TN)
 - Supporting statements on the House floor by:
 - Representative Susan Brooks (R-IN)
 - Representative José Serrano (D-NY), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies (CJS)
- Statement by Representative John Culberson (R-TX), Chair of the CJS Subcommittee
 - “I want to express my support for the work that Legal Services Corporation does. When we reach a budget agreement throughout Congress, Legal Services, we will work with you in conference to help make sure they have the funds they need to do their vital work to defend abused women, veterans, members of the military.... They do important work, and as soon as we find some extra room, I will work with you in conference to find them some extra support.”
- No amendment introduced to eliminate or reduce funding

Private Funding Updates and Follow-Up

Pew Charitable Trusts

- Considering new civil legal aid initiative
 - Focus on:
 - Online dispute resolution
 - Online legal assistance portals
 - Work with Microsoft and other key stakeholders to identify states in addition to Alaska and Hawaii where an online legal assistance portal can be implemented within five years

Private Funding Updates and Follow-Up

Ford Foundation Report Impact

- Pine Tree Legal Assistance at www.ptla.org
- LSC assessment of the site using Ford Foundation metrics pointed out many ways it could be improved
- PTLA staff worked with a local design team on a comprehensive retooling of the site
- Showcased for PTLA's Board of Directors at the 2017 Annual Meeting
- Positive feedback

Outreach and Education

Cleveland Radio and TV Show

ideastream®

- Ideastream (NPR/PBS collaboration in Northeast Ohio)
- “Courting Justice” series
 - A year-long initiative to engage criminal justice stakeholders and residents on the reforms needed and already underway to address the disproportionate impact of fines, fees, and bail on the poor
- Taping the final one-hour episode of the series on November 20
 - Will focus on the civil justice system
 - Led by a local NPR moderator
 - Televised on PBS in Northeast Ohio and streamed elsewhere
- Radio show on November 21

Outreach and Education Events with Members of Congress

August 28:

Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY)

At Legal Aid Society of Mid-New York – Utica



September 29:

Representative Dan Donovan (R-NY)

At Legal Services NYC – Staten Island



Outreach and Education

September 30: Board Training with LSC Staff

At Legal Services of North Dakota – Bismarck

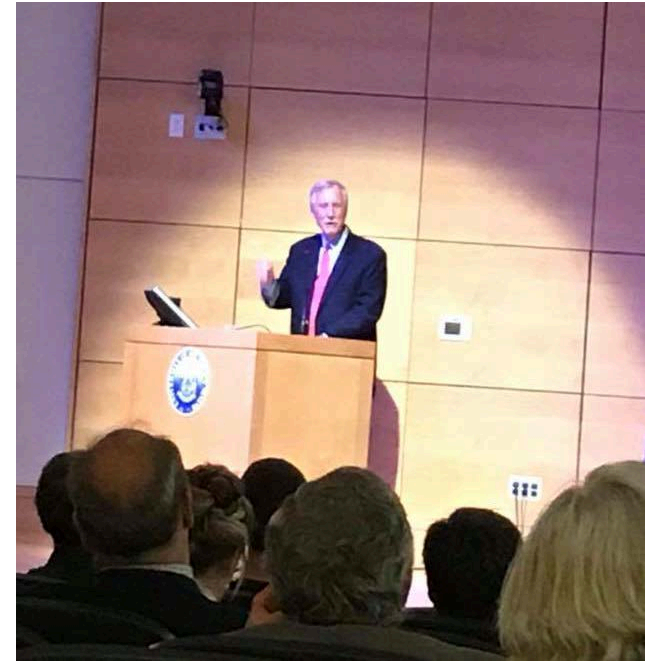
With Chief Justice VandeWalle of North Dakota



Outreach and Education

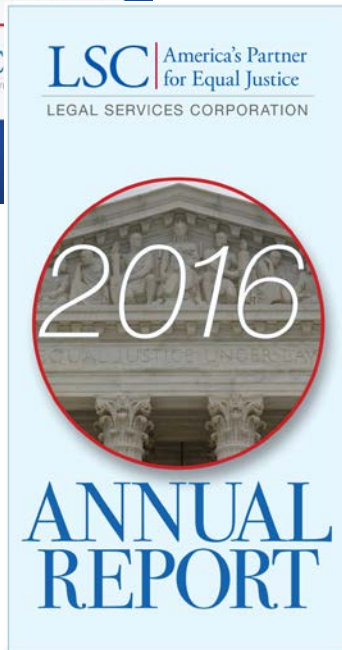
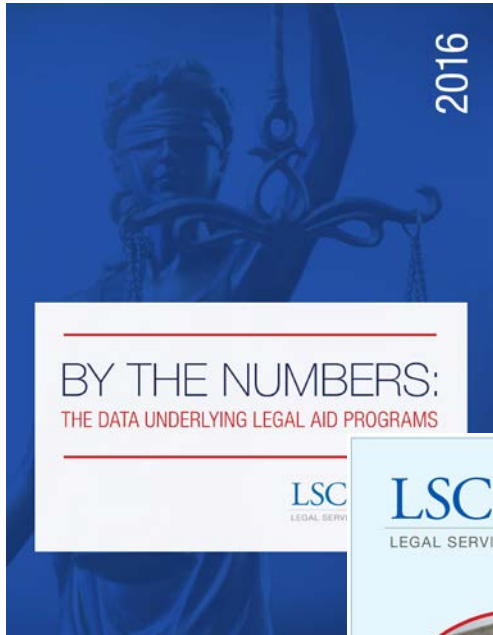
October 6: Governor Paul LePage (R) and Senator Angus King (I-ME)

At Pine Tree Legal Assistance – Portland



Outreach and Education

LSC Publications



- LSC By the Numbers
 - More comprehensive and user-friendly
 - Greater emphasis on data visualization
- 2016 Annual Report
 - Highlights new initiatives, including the Leaders Council, Rural Summer Legal Corps, partnership with Microsoft and Pro Bono Net to develop statewide access to justice portals, and LSC's Tech Download newsletter



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