

## **Access to Justice Summer Fellowship Program 2018**

**Purpose:** To survey and assess resources, needs, issues, and concerns that affect or impact court access in Indiana counties by incorporating into the process developed by Coalition for Court Access legal needs assessment team in selected Indiana counties.

**Process:** Applications due by April 6, 2018. Selections/notification made no later than April 16, 2018 (on Court or CCA letterhead).

**Law schools targeted to participate:** IU-McKinney, IU-Maurer, Notre Dame, Valparaiso (although other law students based in Indiana are also welcome to participate).

**Fellows assignment:** Fellows will be assigned in teams of three and incorporated in the legal needs study structure and framework developed by Victor Quintanilla and his team. The teams of Fellows will be supported by coaches (attorneys recruited to assist who will themselves be supported by the Quintanilla team's coaches from the legal needs study). As more fully described in the attached project outline, the legal teams will 1) undertake a review and summary of literature evaluating and reviewing statewide systems of civil legal assistance and 2) conduct system scans of legal need and legal aid within targeted counties with an emphasis on rural legal needs.

Fellows will develop and hone important lawyering skills including interviewing, research, and writing. Fellows will produce written memos concerning both their literature review and qualitative data collection and survey.

**Duration:** Fellows will commit to at least eighty (80) hours of work between May 10 and August 15, 2018. The hours will be flexible; Fellows may engage in employment or coursework during the course of the Fellowship.

**Training/Orientation:** All Fellows are expected to attend a mandatory training session in May. Fellows will have an opportunity to meet Indiana Supreme Court justices and members of CCA. A welcome lunch will be provided, there will be periodic meetings with the Fellows and an early evening reception will be held at the end of the summer. Fellows teams will meet regularly with their coaches. It is anticipated that funding will be available from the same sources as 2017 for these limited expenses.

**Funding Needs:** Aside from funding for mileage, if available in 2018 as in 2017, this project will be revenue neutral.

**Payment:** None

**Academic Credit:** None

**Incentives:** Participate in a project and process to improve the delivery of legal services to vulnerable Hoosiers, work with prominent members of the judiciary and CCA, obtain a reference letter for future use upon completion of fellowship, and attend recognition ceremony upon completion of project in late August in the Indiana Supreme Court.

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Administration, coordination, and oversight: Carl Pebworth and Monica Fennell will help oversee the project along with a number of CCA members expressing an interest in the program. Input as to the focus of the Fellows 2018 work will be solicited from CCA and its working groups. Other volunteers will be identified. Several Fellows coaches – younger attorneys with an interest in the CCA’s work – have already been prospectively recruited. The fellowship project will not use IBF or Indiana Supreme Court resources or personnel unless the CCA, IBF, or Indiana Supreme Court decides otherwise.

Outcomes: Continue collation of specific data to incorporate into a broader state-wide survey and inventory to assist in developing state-wide CCA access plan.

### Additional materials:

1. Fellowship application
2. Training materials (Victor Quintanilla has provided a lot of information, but more assistance in interviewing and data collection is expected – Judy Fox has identified several prospective resources, for example)
3. A template and format for incorporating Fellows’ findings and research

## **2018 CCA Summer Fellow Project Outline**

The 2018 Fellows will undertake work in two respects that will incorporate into the last phase of the Indiana legal needs and legal aid study. In the first element, CCA Fellows, organized into teams of three, will conduct literature reviews of effective statewide systems of civil legal assistance. The Fellows' analysis and findings will be summarized in memoranda that will have differing scopes and speak to a different attribute and aspect of a statewide system of civil legal assistance. In the second element of their work, the Fellows will conduct system scans of legal need and legal aid within targeted counties. To address each element in more detail:

### **I. Conducting Literature Reviews of Effective Statewide Systems of Civil Legal Assistance**

The Fellows' research will complement the overall work of the CCA, examine best and effective practices, and analyze potential innovation and strategies for enhanced access to Indiana courts and civil legal resources. More specifically, the Fellows will review literature with an emphasis on identifying evidence-based best practices of effective statewide systems of civil legal assistance that:

1. Increase awareness of rights, options, and services through coordinated, systematic, and comprehensive outreach and community legal education.
2. Facilitate access to legal assistance through a coordinated system of service delivery, coordinated advice and brief services, and accessible, flexible, and coordinate intake systems.
3. Provide a full range of civil legal assistance and related service to enable low-income persons to anticipate and prevent legal problems from arising, resolve their legal problems efficiently and effectively, protect their legal rights, promote their legal interests, enforce and reform laws, and improve their opportunities and quality of life.
4. Describe how diverse institutional and individual providers, including non-profit legal services programs, law firms, law schools, low-income advocacy organizations, human- services, community institutions, and governmental program can effectively and efficiently coordinate and work together to advance the above aims.
5. Describe how to improve the effectiveness of online portals and technology systems, including sharing referrals among stakeholders, to meet the above aims.
6. Describe how to best address gaps in service provision to rural communities.

These subjects are listed as examples, as the starting points for reflection. These subjects are broad, so the scope of each Fellow's memorandum will focus in particular areas.

The Fellows' research and analysis will modify the CCA legal needs' research team's ongoing work. In summer 2018, the research team will be transitioning from data collection and analysis to summarizing findings. The research team will have conducted interviews and surveys with key stakeholders in Indiana, quantitative analysis of legal needs in Indiana, conducted an intake census of legal-aid services provided, and conducted system scans and case studies within targeted counties. These data and results will be summarized in the legal needs study report to be completed in November 2018. The final stage of drafting the report would entail reviewing and summarizing potential best-practices in other jurisdictions.

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As such, a CCA Fellow literature review would enhance the research team's overall work and project and help serve as a springboard for the CCA's ongoing mission and work.

### **II. Conducting System Scans of Legal Need and Legal Aid Within Targeted Communities**

This aspect of the Fellows' work will address system scans of legal needs and legal aid within targeted counties with a projected emphasis on rural communities and counties. The system scan will seek meaningful insights into unmet legal needs of low-income community members in rural counties within the demographic groups identified by the Indiana Coalition for Court Access (e.g., low-income community members residing in a county of less than 50,000 (rural), immigrants, seniors, veterans, and homeless persons). The counties should be selected in an effort to capture essential information related to subsets of Indiana's low-income population located in rural communities across the state. Precisely how many counties can be targeted, on behalf of how many distinct demographic groups and communities, will turn on the number of Fellows accepted into the program.

These targeted scans would identify the commonalities and differences in challenges faced by individuals in identified communities and demographic groups affecting fundamental quality of life needs relating to access to courts and civil legal resources. These challenges may include, for example, challenges navigating the social service systems, community organizations, legal-aid providers, and public institutions seeking to minister to these communities.

The Fellows' qualitative assessments would identify the most important legal needs of low-income members of these communities, how clients' needs are currently addressed; and how to more effectively and efficiently meet these needs. The assessment would solicit and incorporate data regarding individual perceptions and experiences of needs, quality of services provided, and gaps in local and regional service provision.

The in-depth system scans of unmet needs and legal-aid may include:

- Interviews with social service / human-service providers
- Interviews and/or focus groups with low-income members of these groups
- Interviews with legal-aid and/or legal service providers
- Interviews with legal officials and/or city, county, or state officials who administer programs which relate to the needs identified
- Interviews with national experts who serve these low-income members of the community

The Fellows will be tasked with collecting and describing perspectives of identified communities, stakeholders and beneficiaries of the civil justice system through direct observation, interviews, conversations, surveys, and other forms of accessing experiences. These stakeholders include legal aid providers, social service providers, judges, court clerks, and attorneys who have experience serving low-income members of our community. The Fellows will identify potentially conflicting needs, desires, concerns, and goals as well as how individuals in stressed communities make meaning of their experiences when they construe their civil legal needs and navigate the civil justice system. The approach would examine how targeted communities make meaning of and

## **2018 CCA Summer Fellow Project Outline**

experience the courts and civil justice system and the experiential challenges identified in this study.

The second element of the Fellows' work will build on the current legal needs study, and the study research team will provide terms and context for this study, including providing direction about communities, counties, and systems to include in the Fellows' work.