



NEWS

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## **A Right to a Lawyer? CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW Special Issue on Right to Counsel in Civil Cases**

(Chicago)—The burgeoning movement to guarantee representation in civil cases for low-income people who face loss of basic rights is the subject of the July–August 2006 special issue of *CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW: JOURNAL OF POVERTY LAW AND POLICY*.

Planned and written in collaboration with the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel, this special issue highlights state-level strategies to achieve a right to publicly funded counsel for low-income people in civil cases. The right is also referred to as a “civil Gideon,” after the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright* to establish a constitutional right to counsel for criminal defendants.

“The time has come to ask why this right to counsel has not been extended to lower-income people facing equally serious civil legal problems—problems that can imprison one just as surely in poverty and despair as behind bars of steel,” writes American Bar Association President Michael S. Greco. Other authors ask and answer the following questions:

- How are advocates in Maryland, Ohio, Washington, and Wisconsin promoting a right to counsel for low-income people in civil cases? What state-law theories are they using? How are advocates in Canada working to guarantee counsel for low-income Canadians?
- What arguments for a civil right to counsel are available under the U.S. Constitution? How much of a barrier is the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1980 decision in *Lassiter v. Department of Social Services*?
- What state laws already confer a right to counsel in civil cases?
- What questions did experts wrestle with in drafting a model statute establishing a civil right to counsel, and how did they resolve these questions?
- What right to counsel is under international law?
- More than four decades after *Gideon v. Wainwright* established the right to counsel in criminal cases, what lessons can we draw from the implementation of that right?

As the premier national poverty law journal published since 1967, *CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW* serves those advocating on behalf of low-income people. Poverty law experts and practitioners view *CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW* as their forum of choice for reaching the audience of antipoverty advocates for social and economic justice.

To purchase a copy (\$30 for nonprofit organizations; \$60 for others), e-mail [nancycarey@povertylaw.org](mailto:nancycarey@povertylaw.org) or call 312.263.3830 ext. 223. Or take advantage of a special subscription offer that gives you a bonus copy of the recently published May–June 2006 special *CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW* issue on what the federal government must do to end poverty.

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*If you would like to schedule an interview with a legal editor or advocate, please contact Rikeesha Cannon at 312.368.2677. For more information on how you can subscribe to *CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW* and other Shriver Center publications, please visit our website at [www.povertylaw.org](http://www.povertylaw.org).*