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THE MEDICAID EXPANSION

OF 2014

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**SHRIVER
CENTER**

Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Shriver Center Introduces National Training Programs

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The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law joined forces, on September 30, 2011, with the Center for Legal Aid Education—a combination that promises a resourceful future for the national equal justice community. The expanded organization operates as the Shriver Center and remains headquartered in Chicago. The former Center for Legal Aid Education, based in Boston, functions as the Shriver Center’s Training Programs.

The Center for Legal Aid Education (CLAE) was established as an independent national organization in 2006. It grew out of the pioneering work of the Legal Services Training Consortium of New England, a project of the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, established in response to the loss of state, regional, and national support centers in the mid-1990s. Its mission was to “create a more just and equitable society by providing advocates with the full range of education, training and leadership development resources they need to obtain justice for their clients.” In its nearly six years of operation as an independent organization, CLAE offered more than sixty multiday or multiweek courses—ranging from “Basic Lawyering Skills,” “Community Lawyering,” and “Affirmative Litigation” to “Board Development” and “Essential Skills for Hotline Supervisors”—to more than 2,100 lawyers, staff members, and volunteers from forty states. CLAE created a yearlong Leadership Institute; between 2006 and 2011 CLAE conducted four such institutes, with 120 advocates participating as fellows and mentors. To provide training access to a broader audience nationwide, CLAE pioneered in developing cutting-edge Web-based courses and tools, including an online campus.

The Shriver Center and CLAE first “met” when John Bouman, Shriver Center president, served as a faculty member for CLAE’s “Affirmative Litigation Training” in 2007 and for “Community Lawyering” in 2008. Soon after those initial encounters and recognizing the many ways the two organizations’ missions complemented each other, CLAE and the Shriver Center began discussing possibilities for further collaboration. One thing led to another, and this past fall the unification became official in what one colleague has called “a marriage made in nonprofit heaven.”

Accomplishing More Together Than Either Could Alone

The Shriver Center has long promoted the interests of low-income people and communities through its two-pronged advocacy and communication programs approach. The Shriver Center’s advocacy program—which encompasses legislative and policy advocacy, litigation, public education, the Poverty Scorecard, coalition building, among others—strengthens the capacity of low-income communities and public interest lawyers, service providers, advocates, and others who serve them. The Shriver Center’s communication programs—CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW, *Federal Practice Manual for Legal Aid Attorneys*, and various advocacy blogs—are a national information hub through which equal justice advocates share best practices and strategies. Training Programs complete the Shriver Center’s portfolio, enabling the Shriver Center now to “teach the work” done by its advocates and described in its publications. For CLAE, joining the Shriver Center is in many ways a homecoming, allowing it again to situate its training and leadership development programs within the day-to-day work of a larger, multifaceted advocacy organization. The Shriver Center’s leadership in such areas as community justice, economic security, housing, and health care justice, among others, offers Training Programs the map to understanding and reflecting better in various courses the national equal justice community’s work.



The ACT Model: Advocacy, Communication, and Training

Unique and comprehensive, the Shriver Center’s new three-pronged approach—Advocacy, Communication, and Training (ACT)—constitutes a greatly needed resource to support and strengthen the national equal justice community. ACT’s goals are to inspire and support high-quality, high-impact advocacy within individual states, regions, and nationally. Training Programs accomplish these goals by offering a progression of courses through which equal justice lawyers, staff members, and volunteers develop the knowledge and skills they need to obtain justice for their clients; Training Programs also enable them to reconnect to the importance of what they do each day and to the larger vision of social, economic, and racial justice that energizes their work.

The Shriver Center’s Training Programs would not be possible without the active involvement of the many talented and experienced advocates who serve as faculty volunteers and members of training design teams. The presence of dedicated full-time training attorneys and other staff members ensures quality and the creation of more effective, replicable training programs.

Building and Sustaining “Learning and Action Communities”

Beyond offering its core advocacy skills courses, the Shriver Center is also committed to using its training programs to build ongoing learning and action communities. Its cutting-edge Leadership Institute, conducted over a yearlong period and including a mix of multiday in-person retreats, Web-based learning activities, and leadership initiatives, exemplifies this action learning approach. The Shriver Center’s new Racial Justice Institute, expected to launch in 2013, will train and support civil legal aid and equal justice advocates in engaging in affirmative, results-oriented racial justice advocacy. It will use a similar action learning model. The Shriver Center will also continue to work with the New England legal aid community by supporting the community’s New England Training Consortium and its panoply of training and leadership development programs and advocacy symposia.



Through its enhanced Advocacy, Communication, and Training capacity, the Shriver Center provides ever greater resources to support the capacity of equal justice advocates to take action with and on behalf of the clients and communities they serve. Learn more about the Shriver Center’s 2012 National Training Calendar, learning communities, and other training resources at www.povertylaw.org/training. CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW subscribers receive additional discounts on national training courses.

COURSE NAME	2012	LOCATION
Affirmative Litigation	March 5–23 online; March 27–29 in-person	San Francisco area, California
Essential Skills for Hotline Supervisors	May 14–June 1	Online
Board Development: The Legal Aid Context	May 16	Jacksonville, Florida
Community Lawyering	June 13–15	Chicago, Illinois
Basic Lawyering Skills	October (to be announced)	To Be Announced
Affirmative Litigation	October 1–19 online; October 23–25 in-person	Greater New York City area
Board Development: The Legal Aid Context	December 5	Chicago, Illinois



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