

Clearinghouse REVIEW

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ADA Amendments Act of 2008

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Help for Foster Youths

Asset Building and Domestic
Violence Survivors

Women Who Are Poor
in Retirement

Expanding Health Care Access



Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Clearinghouse REVIEW

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About This Issue

As foreclosures, health care reform negotiations, unemployment rate increases, and deliberations about a "postracial" America continue, many low-income families are hungry, losing their jobs, homes, or public benefits, and making do with inadequate health care and job training. These families may turn to concerned legal aid lawyers for help in solving problems and identifying opportunities to move forward and out of poverty. Lawyers assisting individual clients as well as advocates seeking broader policy solutions to their clients' systemic problems can find innovative strategies and valuable information in this and other CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW issues (found at www.povertylaw.org) and the various Web tools offered by the Shriver Center.

The recently promoted "produce the note" defense by residents of foreclosed properties seeking to challenge the standing of parties bringing postforeclosure eviction proceedings against them, along with other possible defenses, is analyzed in the lead article of this issue. The second article proposes that courts creatively apply equitable principles to prevent foreclosure where statutes or common law would not. Keeping low-income people in their homes is also the goal of community-based initiatives in Los Angeles and Philadelphia, recently discussed in a REVIEW-hosted webinar; the presentations and webinar materials are found on the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law's website at <http://tinyurl.com/ClearinghouseReviewWebinar>. Consider joining the postwebinar discussion by becoming a "fan" of the Shriver Center's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/shrivercenter and visiting the discussion forum <http://tinyurl.com/Webinardiscussion>.

Disadvantaged groups such as persons with disabilities, domestic violence survivors, and older women have greater obstacles to overcome than others in securing and retaining employment and economic self-sufficiency. An article on the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act of 2008 and employment offers practical strategies and up-to-date information on how to handle disability cases for advocates representing disabled clients. Presenting various case studies in her article, a Shriver Center attorney recommends integrating asset-building strategies into domestic violence advocacy. And the call for special attention to older single women's and minority women's economic security is emphasized by an article on sources of support and income for women in retirement.

As I write, national health care is not yet reformed, and access to health care remains difficult for many low-income communities. Expanding and improving access require not only applying traditional lawyering skills but also the use of multiple and multiforum strategies that influence the courts and policymakers in the executive and legislative branches of government. In his article Shriver Center President John Bouman discusses three Shriver Center initiatives using a multipronged approach to achieve systemic change and expand low-income people's access to health care. Are these articles helpful? Join a discussion board on the Shriver Center's Facebook page or e-mail me at ilzehirsch@povertylaw.org. I look forward to hearing from you.

Ilze Sprudz Hirsch



Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW encourages the submission of articles from legal aid field staff and others. Send articles to Ilze Sprudz Hirsch, editor and vice president of communication programs, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, 50 E. Washington St. Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60602; ilzehirsch@povertylaw.org.

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of the organizations which employ them or of the Shriver Center.

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