

Clearinghouse REVIEW

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Close the Racial Wealth Gap

End Child Labor in America

Learn Adoption Assistance Guidelines

Enlist Private-Firm Lawyers to Volunteer

Form Medical-Legal Partnerships

Know Social Security Rules on Substance Abuse

Espouse Civil Gideon to Fulfill Shriver's Vision



Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

Clearinghouse REVIEW

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Letter from the Editor

Human rights, international or domestic, are increasingly useful in legal aid and public interest advocacy. Far from the merely theoretical or arcane, human rights arguments can produce positive results in your day-to-day practice. You can learn about this cutting-edge advocacy in *Claiming Our Role as Human Rights Lawyers: How a Human Rights Framework Can Advance Our Advocacy*, our forthcoming September–October 2011 CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW special issue.

Topics that will be covered in the special issue are, among many others,

- engaging with United Nations mechanisms to advance economic justice work;
- principles of a human right to health care and advocacy to achieve the right;
- how a human rights framework can alter the dynamics of litigation against a housing authority;
- a judge's perspective on applying human rights law in litigation; and
- the human right to economic security.

In case you did not have the opportunity to participate in the recent panel discussion sponsored by the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law previewing the special issue, the panel discussion is now available free of charge as a webinar recording at http://bit.ly//shrivercenter_humanrights. With Martha Davis, faculty director of Northeastern University School of Law's Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy and coeditor of *Bringing Human Rights Home*, as moderator, the panel of experienced advocates described successes and challenges in using human rights arguments in their own practices.

Experienced legal aid practitioners also contributed to the 2010–2011 update of the *Federal Practice Manual for Legal Aid Attorneys*, an effort led by Jeffrey S. Gutman, professor of clinical law, George Washington University Law School. Published by the Shriver Center and now available online, www.federalpracticemanual.org, the *Manual* covers all stages of federal litigation and continues to be an essential reference for legal aid attorneys. Available free of charge, the *Manual* has been updated with recent case law and legal developments and links to federal statutes, Supreme Court case citations, and relevant regulations; the *Manual* is searchable by keyword.

We look forward to hearing your feedback on these developments as well as the content of this July–August issue, which spans a broad spectrum of topics: the racial wealth gap, the evolution of medical-legal partnerships, child labor, adoption assistance, effective pro bono practices, and social security and supplemental security income disability cases involving alcohol or drug use. The final article reflects on the civil right to counsel's relationship to antipoverty advocacy—a response to an article in the last issue. Tell us what you think.

Ilze Sprudz Hirsh

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

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