

Clearinghouse REVIEW

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Close the Racial Wealth Gap

End Child Labor in America

Learn Adoption Assistance Guidelines

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Know Social Security Rules on Substance Abuse

Espouse Civil Gideon to Fulfill Shriver's Vision



Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law



INFORMATION INTERACTION INTERCHANGE

National Employment Law Project's New Website Dedicated to Raising Minimum Wage

The National Employment Law Project has a new website, RaiseTheMinimumWage.org, http://bit.ly/nelp_min_wage, “dedicated to raising the minimum wage.” The website will contain the latest research and analysis on raising the minimum wage, track state and federal campaigns to raise wages, and show polling data, news clips, fact sheets, videos, and links to current campaigns. The new website is part of the project’s broader efforts to restore the value of the minimum wage, institute automatic annual cost-of-living adjustments to minimum wages, and raise minimum wages for tipped employees.

Updated Federal Practice Manual for Legal Aid Attorneys

The 2010–2011 update of the *Federal Practice Manual for Legal Aid Attorneys*, published by the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, is available online, www.federalpracticemanual.org. The *Manual* has been an essential reference for legal aid attorneys since the 1980s. It covers all stages of federal litigation, from drafting and filing a complaint to trial practice and limitations on relief; it also discusses state and administrative actions and nonlitigation advocacy. Free of charge, the *Manual* has been updated with recent case law and legal developments on matters such as pleading requirements, preemption, standing, implied causes of action, Section 1983, and Administrative Procedure Act actions. Jeffrey S. Gutman, professor of clinical law, George Washington University Law School, edited an earlier version of the manual and took charge of updating it again with the assistance of experienced legal aid practitioners. Gutman managed, analyzed, and reviewed the work of all contributing editors and continued to add the most recent case law, the Supreme Court cases handed down in June among them. The *Manual* links to

federal statutes, Supreme Court case citations, and relevant regulations and is searchable by keyword.

HUD's Notice on Public Housing Agencies' Equal Opportunity Obligations

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity and Office of Public and Indian Housing jointly issued on June 13 a notice reminding public housing agencies of their obligation to comply with key nondiscrimination and equal opportunity laws and implementing regulations. The June 13 notice reiterates published notices on nondiscrimination and accessibility for persons with disabilities and adds requirements on civil rights and environmental justice. The June 13 notice specifies guidance on the obligation “affirmatively to further fair housing” and spotlights environmental justice and limited-English-proficiency issues. See Notice PIH-2011-31 and FHEO-2011-1, Guidance on Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Requirements for Public Housing Agencies (June 13, 2011), <http://1.usa.gov/jWnkqR>.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities on States' Online Public Benefits Information

A Center on Budget and Policy Priorities paper finds that virtually all states have made basic program information on the five main state-administered low-income benefit programs—Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and child care assistance—available on the Internet. Many states also have printable application forms and pre-screening tools and allow applicants to check their application status, benefits, and other information. The sites also often have links to state agency policy and procedure manuals. The center’s paper has

links to state information available online for these benefit programs. See Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Online Services for Key Low-Income Benefit Programs: What States Provide Online with Respect to SNAP, TANF, Child Care Assistance, Medicaid, and CHIP* (June 29, 2011), http://bit.ly/cbpp_states_online.

Shriver Center Panel Discussion on Using a Human Rights Lens in Legal Aid Advocacy Now Online

“Claiming Our Role as Human Rights Lawyers: How a Human Rights Framework Can Advance Our Advocacy,” the panel discussion hosted by CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW on June 21, is now available free of charge as a webinar recording at http://bit.ly/shrivercenter_humanrights. Experienced advocates discussed why legal aid advocates should consider incorporating human rights principles into their day-to-day advocacy. Monique Harden, codirector of Advocates for Environmental Human Rights in New Orleans, discussed how she was using an international forum to argue that a toxic environment violated her clients’ human rights, while Cheryl Hystad, director of advocacy, Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, discussed how her organization used human rights principles in housing cases in state court. Martha Davis, faculty director of Northeastern University School of Law’s Program on Human Rights and the Global Economy, moderated. Also participating were Chandra Bhatnagar of the ACLU Human Rights Program and Sarah Paoletti, director of the Transnational Legal Clinic at the University of Pennsylvania School of Law. The discussion continues in CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW’s September–October issue—a special issue—on applying a human rights lens in legal aid practice.

Center for Law and Social Policy Audioconference on Bundling Work Support Services for Low-Income Families

The Center for Law and Social Policy hosted, last March, an audioconference on an integrated approach to the delivery of workforce, asset building, and work supports. The integrated service delivery system—called Center for Working Families and developed by the Annie E. Casey Foundation—helps low-income working adults navigate the various fragmented work support services. “Bundling” the

services maximizes the effectiveness of each service to low-income families. Receiving bundled services, families are three to four times more likely to achieve economic results. See Center for Law and Social Policy, *Audio Conference: Braiding Funding Streams to Support Integrated Service Delivery* (March 29, 2011), http://bit.ly/clasp_braiding.

Subsidized Employment Opportunities of the 2009 TANF Emergency Fund

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Emergency Fund, which Congress included in the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and which expired on September 30, 2010, gave states additional funds to subsidize employment, among other purposes. A Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and Center for Law and Social Policy paper looks at how states used the increased federal assistance in their subsidized employment programs, what the outcomes of those programs were, and what lessons were learned. Based on a survey, the paper concludes that flexibility was a key to the success of the emergency-funding-subsidized employment program and that such programs can be implemented at a reasonable cost and in a relatively short period. Subsidizing jobs for disadvantaged individuals benefits not only participating workers and businesses but also entire communities and society at large, the paper concludes. See LaDonna Pavetti et al., *Center on Budget and Policy Priorities & Center for Law and Social Policy, Creating Subsidized Employment Opportunities for Low-Income Parents: The Legacy of the TANF Emergency Funding* (Feb. 16, 2011), <http://bit.ly/dLadtr>.

Shriver Center to Cosponsor Affirmative Litigation Training with Center for Legal Aid Education

The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law and the Center for Legal Aid Education are cosponsoring this summer an Affirmative Litigation Training, a combination of Web-based and in-person learning activities (see *Center for Legal Aid Education, Affirmative Litigation Training* (2011), <http://bit.ly/hDSaKk>). In the larger context of broad-based advocacy, Affirmative Litigation Training teaches advocates essential knowledge and skills in rooting out the underlying causes of poverty and inequality and asserting, for that purpose, the unique and coercive power of litigation. With

the Shriver Center's *Federal Practice Manual for Legal Aid Attorneys* (www.federalpracticemanual.org) as a core resource, Affirmative Litigation Training offers a solid foundation for strengthening legal aid practice and moving the legal aid community toward a renewed focus on high-impact, change-oriented advocacy. Incorporating three weeks of Web-based and three days of in-person activities, the training will introduce advocates to prosecuting a complex affirmative case in federal or state court. The training is ideal for advocates seeking to bring about fundamental changes in the conditions of poverty for their clients.

National Disaster Legal Aid Website

The National Disaster Legal Aid website, www.disasterlegalaid.org, is a centralized national resource for legal aid, pro bono, and criminal defender attorneys across the country on legal issues related to all types of disasters. The site offers accurate and timely information on legal issues related to disasters as they affect low- and moderate-income people. Specific information is available for clients, legal aid attorneys, and pro bono volunteers.

General Accountability Office: More Oversight for "Ticket to Work" Program

The Ticket to Work Program, established in 1999, gives beneficiaries of Social Security Disability Insurance and Supplemental Security Income programs a "ticket" to use employment networks to gain and retain self-supporting employment. Participation remains low, with less than 1 percent of all ticket holders using them to seek employment. The General Accountability Office recommends that the Social Security Administration comply with the regulatory requirement to monitor or enforce ticket holders' progress toward self-supporting employment; comply with the statutory requirement that it establish performance measures for employment networks; and monitor ticket holders' progress to enhance program oversight. See General Accountability Office, GAO-11-324, *Social Security Disability: Ticket to Work Participation Has Increased, but Additional Oversight Needed* (May 6, 2011), http://1.usa.gov/gao_ssi.

Current Transit-Oriented Development and Low-Income People

Transit-oriented development is on the rise, and so are housing prices near transit stations. Researchers from the Center for Housing Policy and the National Housing Conference examine transit-oriented developments and conclude that, without changes by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and other federal agencies, these developments will be unaffordable to low-income people. Their report recommends action on developing sustainable and inclusive communities, ensuring long-term affordability, serving very low-income residents, and preserving and fostering affordable housing opportunities in the broader neighborhood. See Rick Haughey & Ryan Sherriff, *Challenges and Policy Options for Creating and Preserving Affordable Housing near Transit and in Other Location-Efficient Areas* (Dec. 2010), http://bit.ly/haughey_housing.

Chicago Bar Foundation's 2011 Anderson Fellowship Awarded to Todd Belcore

Todd Belcore, Equal Justice Works fellow and staff attorney in the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law, is the 2011 recipient of the Chicago Bar Foundation's Kimball R. Anderson and Karen Gatsis Anderson public interest law fellowship. The Anderson fellowship is awarded every year to one recent law school graduate who, according to the foundation's website, "demonstrates a commitment to public interest work, academic achievement in law school, and outstanding character and integrity." At the Shriver Center Belcore is, he says, "focusing on litigating, organizing, educating, and crafting legislation to ensure that individuals with criminal records are not unjustly denied employment or occupational licenses." At the Northwestern University School of Law he was president of a public service organization and the student bar association. The law school's Wigmore Key award to the one graduating student who has done the most to preserve the traditions of the law school went to Belcore. The 2009 PSLawNet Pro Bono Publico Award to one law student nationwide for pro bono contributions to society also went to him.



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Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
50 E. Washington St. Suite 500
Chicago, IL 60602

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