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INFORMATION INTERACTION INTERCHANGE

Justice Department Adds HIV/AIDS Section to Its ADA Website

To mark the one-year anniversary of the release of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy, the U.S. Department of Justice launched a new section of its Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) website, <http://www.ada.gov/aids>. Persons with HIV (human immunodeficiency virus) and persons with AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome) are covered by the ADA, which gives federal civil rights protections to persons with disabilities in public accommodations, employment, and state and local government services. Persons who are discriminated against because they are regarded as being HIV-positive are also protected. The new Web page contains information and resources related to combating discrimination on the basis of HIV/AIDS. The Justice Department has also a blog, <http://blog.aids.gov/>. You can learn more about the Justice Department's efforts to enforce the ADA at www.ada.gov.

Washington State Access to Justice Board Publishes Guide to Representation as an Accommodation in Administrative Hearings

The Justice Without Barriers Committee of the Washington State Access to Justice Board published, last May, a guide to the representation of persons with disabilities as an accommodation in the administrative-hearing setting. The guide has best practices, a protocol, and model regulations. Administrative judges can use suggested best practices in assessing a person's need for representation as an accommodation. The guide is aimed at administrative law judges as well as advocates seeking representation for clients as an accommodation. See *Ensuring Equal Access for People with Disabilities: A Guide for Washington Administrative Proceedings*, http://bit.ly/washstate_disab_guide.

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty Grades U.S. Compliance with Requirements of International Human Right to Housing

The United States is facing a housing crisis not seen since the Great Depression. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights includes the right to housing, but until March 2011, when the Obama administration stated that homelessness implicated the human right to housing, the United States had not recognized a right to housing. The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty assesses the level of compliance by the United States in fulfilling the human right to housing in the context of homelessness in a June report, *"Simply Unacceptable": Homelessness and the Human Right to Housing in the United States 2011*, http://bit.ly/nlchp_housing_rt. A report card grades the United States on its response to each of the seven elements of the human right to housing and issues failing grades in more than one category. See also Eric S. Tars and Déodonné Bhattarai, *Opening the Door to the Human Right to Housing: The Universal Periodic Review and Strategic Federal Advocacy for a Rights-Based Approach to Housing*, 45 CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW 197 (Sept.–Oct. 2011), <http://bit.ly/tVmOJV>.

National Consumer Law Center Has National Elder Rights Training Project Webinars Available

The National Consumer Law Center's website contains National Elder Rights Training Project webinars from 2009 to the present. The National Elder Rights Training Project is part of the National Legal Resource Center, a collaboration of organizations sponsored by the Administration on Aging. Prepaid public benefits cards, due process protections in Supplemental Security Income nondisability appeals, smart meters, Veterans Administration benefits, a toolkit for serving diverse communities, and undue influence on elders were, among others, webinar subjects this year. See http://bit.ly/nclc_elder_webinars.

Justice Department Issues Technical Assistance Guide to *Olmstead* Compliance

The Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice issued, last June, a technical assistance guide on complying with *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999). The guide reaffirms the Justice Department's "commitment to vindicate the right of individuals with disabilities to live integrated lives under the American with Disabilities Act and *Olmstead*." Statement of the Department of Justice on Enforcement of the Integration Mandate of Title II of the American with Disabilities Act and *Olmstead v. L.C.*, http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/q&a_olmstead.pdf, is designed to assist individuals in understanding their rights under Title II of the ADA and its integration mandate and to assist state and local governments in complying with the ADA. The guide notes the substantial litigation regarding the implementation of *Olmstead* and uses a question-and-answer format to explain the positions that the Justice Department has taken in its *Olmstead* enforcement. One question discussed, for example, is, What is the most integrated setting under the ADA and *Olmstead*? The Justice Department also maintains a website, <http://www.ada.gov/olmstead/>, dedicated to *Olmstead*.

Urban Institute Reports on Child Care Choices of Low-Income Working Families

With significant resources going toward child care for working families, and the availability of high-quality child care being a must, policymakers need to know what factors influence child care decisions. Child care options and choices vary but are particularly limited in low-income communities. The Urban Institute studied the child care choices of eighty-six low-income working families in two urban communities and found that the parents' limited resources, inflexible work schedules, and lack of information and child care choices made finding good-quality care challenging. The Urban Institute in its January 2011 report recommends policies, discusses the Child Care and Development Fund and other programs, and promotes parental access to affordable and high-quality care. See AJAY CHAUDRY ET AL., URBAN INSTITUTE, CHILD CARE CHOICES OF LOW-INCOME WORKING FAMILIES, http://bit.ly/urban_inst_childcare.

National Consumer Law Center Creates "One-Stop Shop" Website on Mortgage Issues in Consumer Bankruptcy Cases

The National Consumer Law Center has established a website that will collect resources for dealing with mortgage issues in consumer bankruptcy cases. The site organizes and makes accessible more than 500 local rules, forms, general orders, and court opinions relating to mortgage issues in bankruptcy cases. The "one-stop" shop site is aimed at courts, trustees, attorneys, mortgage services, academics, consumers, and others in the bankruptcy community and can be used in shaping new programs for alternatives to foreclosure. Organized by topic, the website is searchable by state, subject, court location, or document type. Some of the topics are loss mitigation and mediation, cure plan requirements, stay relief requirements, and model Chapter 13 plans. See Bankruptcy Mortgage Project, http://bit.ly/nclc_mortgage_site.

PolicyLink Takes a Closer Look at Strategies to Improve Access to Healthy Food in Low-Income Communities

Several studies have found a strong correlation between the absence of full-service grocery stores in communities and those communities' high rates of obesity and related health problems such as diabetes. PolicyLink discusses four strategies that it believes are the most promising for reducing obesity, creating jobs, increasing profits, and revitalizing distressed neighborhoods. These strategies are developing new grocery stores, improving local corner stores, starting and sustaining farmers' markets, and connecting local farmers to low-income consumers. PolicyLink suggests a number of ways to realize these strategies, for example, using dedicated financing for grocery stores, reducing the financial risks and costs of corner stores, and encouraging collaboration. See Rebecca Flournoy, PolicyLink, Healthy Food, Healthy Communities: Promising Strategies to Improve Access to Fresh, Healthy Food and Transform Communities, 2011, http://bit.ly/policylink_healthfood. See also PolicyLink, Improving Access to Healthy Food, http://bit.ly/policylink_hffi.

National Priorities Project's Interactive Map Tracks Federal Spending and Outcomes by State and County

The National Priorities Project's Federal Priorities Database, <http://data.nationalpriorities.org/>, allows users to search the database to map federal expenditures and state outcomes. For example, the user can map federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) expenditures and compare them to indicators such as state monthly SNAP benefit levels, and state food insecurity rates. Information at the county and school district level is also available. Expenditures are listed by category and subcategory. Categories are food, housing and community, income security and labor, health, and education, among others.

Center for Law and Social Policy Assesses State Poverty Task Forces

In response to the Great Recession, twenty states have created poverty and opportunity task forces, some with poverty reduction targets. The Center for Law and Social Policy examines the task forces in four states—Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio—to determine whether they actually can make a difference in state antipoverty efforts. The center reports personal accounts by legislators and advocates on the successes or limitations of their particular task force. The center's account may aid states seeking to establish antipoverty task forces, allowing them to make effective use of scarce resources to focus on the most effective strategies. See Jodie Levin-Epstein et al., Center for Law and Social Policy, *Poverty and Opportunity: What Difference Can a Task Force Make?* (July 2011), http://bit.ly/clasp_taskforce.

Mission Statement

"The mission of the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law is to provide national leadership in identifying, developing, and supporting creative and collaborative approaches to achieve social and economic justice for low-income people. The Shriver Center fulfills its legal advocacy and policy development mission by (a) representing low-income people on welfare, workforce, housing, and community development issues through legislative and administrative advocacy, collaboration with public and private entities, and, where necessary, impact litigation and (b) managing communication and knowledge services on poverty law and policy-related information through CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW and the Shriver Center's other publications, the Shriver Center's website, training sessions, and the Shriver Center's Poverty Law Library."

—Board of Directors, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law



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