

Community Lawyering September 2020

Introduction, Syllabus & General Information

[Community Lawyering](#) is a process through which lawyers contribute their legal knowledge and skills to support community identified initiatives that return power to the community and that support lasting changes that bring about social justice. The Community Lawyering approach stresses the importance of thinking beyond litigation (while retaining litigation as a vital tool) in addressing the kinds of structural problems low-income communities face. In this course, you'll learn how to garner and activate issues identified by the community, lead a successful advocacy and media campaign, and facilitate leadership. We'll share real-life examples from groups across the country.



Course Structure: The Community Lawyering course includes pre-training activities through the Shriver Center's online campus during the week of September 7th, 2020 and onsite activities on Wednesday – Friday, September 16 – 18, 2019.

Learning objectives: The Community Lawyering course will prepare advocates to:

- Articulate and apply the underlying values and purposes of community lawyering
- Develop a plan for learning about and building relationships with the communities you serve.
- Work with community members to identify their common concerns and translate those concerns into actionable issues that they can successfully address in ways that build relationships and energize them through success.



For economic and racial justice

67 E. Madison St., Suite 2000, Chicago, IL 60603
312.263.3830 | povertylaw.org

- Evaluate alternative methods for achieving specific community-identified goals and objectives and develop effective strategies and action plans for doing so.

Syllabus: This syllabus provides an overview of the initial online activities during the week of November 11 plus onsite sessions on Wednesday – Friday, September 16 – 18, 2020 in Indianapolis, IN.

**Online Activities
Week of September 7th**

Following is a list of all online course activities.

(By) when	Activity	Time
By Monday, Sept. 7th	Pre-Training Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete pre-training survey regarding 	10'
By Tuesday, Sept. 8th	Getting Started. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> View online course tutorials. 	15'
	Introductions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce yourself through the online Discussion forum. 	15'
	Introductory Materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and discuss introductory resources about Community Lawyering. 	30'
By Friday Sept. 11th	Case file. Download and review the case scenario in advance of the onsite training.	30'

**Onsite Activities
Wednesday, September 16th – Friday, September 18th, 2020**

Day One

Schedule	Overview
8:15 – 8:55	Registration
9:00 – 10:30	Welcome & Introduction This session provides an overview of Community Lawyering core competencies and practices.
10:30 – 10:45	Break
10:45 - 12:00	Community Understanding & Relationship Building Participants meet in small groups to introduce themselves to each other, reflect on opening themes presented in session one and review the range of methods for learning about and building relationships within communities.
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch
1:00 – 2:30	Community Lawyering Tools This session begins with an overview of what community lawyers “do” – e.g., provide their legal expertise but in context of a) helping groups build relationships; b) developing and sustaining good processes for making decisions and working together and; c) achieving results that bring

Schedule	Overview
	positive changes to their communities. We then introduce the case scenario to be used throughout the rest of the Community Lawyering training.
2:30 – 2:45	Break
2:45 – 4:30	Community Lawyering Tools Participants review selected materials related to the case scenario and then apply tools of stakeholder analysis, power-analysis and research planning.
4:30 – 4:45	
4:45 – 5:15	Relationship Building Tools & Day One Closure This session provides an introduction to and demonstration of the relationship-building tool of one-to-ones.
5:30 – 6:30	One-to-ones with assigned partners; Dinner on your own
6:30	Dinner on your own

Day Two

Schedule	Overview
8:45 – 9:15	Day 2 Overview & One-to-one debrief
9:15 – 10:15	Community Organizing, Leadership Development & Institution Building This session introduces key concepts and tools related to community organizing, leadership development and institution-building plus the roles of community lawyers in relation to each.
10:15 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 11:30	Policy Advocacy This session introduces policy advocacy as another community-lawyering tool to support community change initiatives.
11:30 – 11:45	Break
11:45 – 1:00	Policy Advocacy: In small groups, participants develop a policy advocacy approach to address issues related to the case scenario.
1:00 – 2:30	Lunch Working lunch for LSC-funded programs – This session provides an overview of LSC regulations as related to community lawyering work.
2:30 – 3:30	Strategic communications plan I This session presents an overview of strategic communications and essential components of an effective communications strategy.
3:30 – 3:45	Break

Schedule	Overview
3:45 – 4:45	Strategic communications Plan II: Framing and message development Using tools introduced in the previous session, participants work in small groups to frame a central message based on the case scenario.
4:45 – 5:15	Strategic Communications: Reports from small groups regarding messages developed.
5:15 – 5:30	Day 1 Close
5:30 – 6:30	Dinner on your own

Day Three

Schedule	Overview
8:30 – 8:45	Reflections on Day 2
8:45 – 10:00	Identity, Culture, Power & Difference: Participants examine issues of difference that arise within the community lawyering context and how to work effectively to respond to and address these.
10:00 – 10:15	Break
10:15 – 11:00	Panel on Selected Community Lawyering Topics.
11:00 – 11:45	Strategy Development: In this large group session, participants review a suggested approach for developing strategies to achieve community-identified goals.
11:45 – 1:15	Strategy Development & Working lunch: Working in small groups, participants develop a strategy plan based on the case scenario.
1:15 – 1:30	Break
1:30 – 2:00	Strategy Presentations: Small groups report back the product of their work developing a strategy to address issues raised in the case scenario.
2:00 – 3:00	Action Planning & Close: Participants identify concrete steps for bringing community lawyering tools and approaches back to their organizations and communities.