



For economic and racial justice

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

Community Lawyering

Introduction, Syllabus & General Information

Fall 2023

Community Lawyering is a process through which advocates contribute their legal knowledge and skills to support initiatives identified by directly impacted people and community groups that enhance their power. The Shriver Center's Community Lawyering training brings a new mindset to legal aid and public interest law advocacy and provides concrete steps to build and sustain strong relationships with and among community members. In this course, you will learn how to activate issues identified by the community, support a successful advocacy campaign and facilitate community leadership.

Course Structure (all activities are online):

- In Week 1, participants attend one webinar (1 hour) and complete a number of self-paced activities (1.25 hours) via the course site.
- In Weeks 2-6, participants attend interactive live sessions and small group activities where they have opportunities to apply new knowledge to prepared scenarios, share challenges with other participants and faculty, and practice specific community lawyering skills.
- Participants complete weekly between-session assignments. They also participate in weekly peer support meetings to share experiences applying new content and skills in their work with communities.
- **Time Commitments:** This training involves a significant time commitment. Since the training takes place over 6 weeks (see table below for details), it is essential that you clear your schedule for the scheduled sessions so you can participate in all activities. This is particularly important since many of the activities involve small groups and paired exercises that require involvement of all participants.

SCHEDULE (All times Eastern (ET)); (All activities online)

| Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 | Week 5 | Week 6 |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Oct 2 – 6 | Oct 9 – 13 | Oct 16 – 20 | Oct 23 – 27 | Oct 30-Nov 3 | Nov 6 – 10 |
| 2.25 hours | 6 hours | 6 hours | 6 hours | 6 hours | 5 hours |
| Week 1 Webinar | Large + Small Group Sessions | Large + Small Group Sessions | Large + Small Group Sessions | Large + Small Group Sessions | Large + Small Group Sessions |
| Tues, Oct. 3 | Tues. Oct 10 Thur. Oct 12 | Tues. Oct 17 Thur. Oct 19 | Tues. Oct 24 Thur. Oct 26 | Tues. Oct 31 Thur. Nov 2 | Tues. Nov 7 Thur. Nov 9 |
| (12:30-1:30 ET; 9:30-10:30 PT) | (12:30-3:00 ET; 9:30-12:00 PT both days) | (12:30-3:00 ET; 9:30-12:00 PT both days) | (12:30-3:00 ET; 9:30-12:00 PT both days) | (12:30-3:00 ET; 9:30-12:00 PT both days) | (12:30-3:00 ET; 9:30-12:00 PT both days) |
| Readings and Videos (1+ h) | Application of Skills & Concepts (1h) | Application of Skills & Concepts (1h) | Application of Skills & Concepts (1h) | Application of Skills & Concepts (1h) | |

- **Overview of Activities:** Following is an overview of course activities.
- Send your questions re: assignments or course site to: coursehelp@povertylaw.org

Week 1: October 2 – 6, 2023

Live Session: 12:30 – 1:30 ET | 9:30 – 10:30 PT

| Session Overview | Time |
|--|-------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Community Lawyering: Introduces community lawyering – what it is, why an essential approach for legal aid and public interest law advocates to use, how it relates to mission, and potential impacts we can have as a result of these approaches. | 1 hour |
| ON YOUR OWN | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro survey (10') • Readings & Videos (55') | 65mins |
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Week 2 – Day 1: Tuesday, October 10, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Session Overview | Time |
|--|-----------|
| Community Lawyering Stories | 2.5 hours |
| Break | |
| Community Lawyering – Case Example 1: Experienced community lawyer shares story from their practice that exemplifies community lawyering values and practices. | |
| Break | |
| Community Lawyering Tools: Relationship Building & Issue Selection – PART 1. Introduces the case scenario that participants will work with throughout the remainder of the course and specific tools that advocates use to turn large “problems” into discrete actionable “issues”. | |
| ON YOUR OWN | |
| Readings + Application of Week 2 – Day 1 Content & Skills | 30 mins |

Week 2 – Day 2: Thursday, October 12, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Session Overview | Time |
|--|-----------|
| Community Lawyering – Case Example 2: Experienced community lawyer shares story from their practices that exemplifies community lawyering values and practices. | 2.5 hours |
| Break | |

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| Community Lawyering Tools: Relationship Building & Issue Selection – Small Group Application | |
| Break | |
| Community Lawyering Tools: Relationship Building & Issue Selection – Small Group Application (cont’d) | |
| Week 2 Evaluation & Preparation for Week 3 | |
| ON YOUR OWN | |
| Readings + Application of Week 2 – Day 2 Content & Skills | 30 mins |

Week 3 – Day 1: Tuesday, October 17, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Session Overview | Time |
|---|-----------|
| Week 3 Start-up & Action Learning Partners: Participants meet in small groups with their assigned “action learning partners” to review experiences applying new concepts and skills introduced during Week 2. | 2.5 hours |
| Break | |
| Community Lawyering Tools – PART 2: Introduces power-mapping, a tool for identifying institutions and individuals who have power in relation to an issue identified by community groups, how these institutions and individuals are related to each other, what their networks look like, and how we can leverage these relationships to achieve the community’s desired result. | |
| Break | |
| Community Lawyering Tools – PART 2 | |
| ON YOUR OWN | |
| Readings + Application of Week 3 – Day 1 Content and Skills | 30 mins |

Week 3 – Day 2: Thursday, October 19, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Session Overview | Time |
|---|-----------|
| Relationship Building Using One-to-Ones: Introduces practice of one-to-ones and framework for conducting a one-to-one. | 2.5 hours |
| Break | |
| Relationship Building Using One-to-Ones (cont'd) | |
| Break | |
| Relationship Building Using One-to-Ones (cont'd) | |
| Week 3 Evaluation & Preparation for Week 4 | |
| ON YOUR OWN | |
| Readings + Application of Week 3 – Day 2 Content and Skills | 30 mins |

Week 4 – Day 1: Tuesday, October 24, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Session Overview | Time |
|--|-----------|
| Week 4 Start-up & Action Learning Partners: Participants meet in small groups with their assigned “action learning partners” to review experiences applying new concepts and skills introduced during Week 3. | 2.5 hours |
| Break | |
| 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. | |
| Break | |

| Session Overview | Time |
|---|---------|
| Identity, Culture, Power & Difference (cont'd) | |
| ON YOUR OWN | |
| Readings + Application of Week 4 – Day 1 Content and Skills | 30 mins |

Week 4 – Day 2: Thursday, October 26, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Session Overview | Time |
|---|-----------|
| Start-up | 2.5 hours |
| Identity, Culture, Power & Difference – PART 2: Participants examine issues of difference that arise within the community lawyering context and how to work effectively to respond to and address these. | |
| Break | |
| Lawyers & Organizers Working Together. Introduces methodology and core practices that organizers use to build power and take action to address issues identified by impacted communities. Also explores opportunities and challenges that legal advocates and organizers face when working together. | |
| Break | |
| Lawyers & Organizers Working Together (cont'd) | |
| Week 4 Wrap-up & Preparation for Week 5 | |
| ON YOUR OWN | |
| Readings + Application of Week 4 – Day 2 Content and Skills | 30 mins |

Week 5 – Day 1: Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Overview | Time |
|--|-----------|
| Week 5 Start-up & Action Learning Partners: Participants meet in small groups with their assigned “action learning partners” to review experiences applying new concepts and skills introduced during Week 4. | 2.5 hours |
| Break | |
| Policy Advocacy: Introduces policy advocacy as a tool for the community lawyer to supplement legal, organizing and media tactics to advance the community’s goals. | |
| Break | |
| Policy Advocacy: Participants use the policy advocacy action plan to develop a policy campaign to address goals identified in the case scenario. | |
| ON YOUR OWN | |
| Readings + Application of Week 5 – Day 1 Content & Skills | 30 mins |

Week 5 – Day 2: Thursday, November 2, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Overview | Time |
|--|-----------|
| Strategic Communications – Part 1: Introduces framework for strategic framing and communication using VPSA model – Values, Problem, Solution, Action. | 2.5 hours |
| Break | |
| Strategic Communications – Part 2: Using VPSA model, participants work in small groups to frame the central message based on the case scenario. | |
| Break | |

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| Strategic Communications – Part 2 (cont’d) | |
| Week 5 Wrap-Up & Preparation for Week 6 | |
| ON YOUR OWN | |
| Readings + Application of Week 5 – Day 2 Content & Skills | 30 mins |

Week 6 – Day 1: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Overview | Time |
|--|-----------|
| Week 6 Start-Up & Action Learning Partners: Participants meet in small groups with their assigned “action learning partners” to review experiences applying new concepts and skills introduced during Week 5. | 2.5 hours |
| Panel presentations and discussion addressing community lawyering questions that have arisen during the training. | |
| Break | |
| Strategy Development: Introduces a suggested approach for developing strategies to achieve community-identified goals. | |
| ON YOUR OWN | |
| Readings + Application of Week 6 – Day 1 Content & Skills | 30 mins |

Week 6 – Day 2: Thursday, November 9, 2023

Live Sessions: 12:30 – 3:00 ET | 9:30 – 12:00 PT

| Overview | Time |
|--|------|
| Strategy Development – (cont’d): Introduces a suggested approach for developing strategies to achieve community-identified goals. | |

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| Break | 2.5 hours |
| Action Planning & Close: Participants identify concrete steps for bringing community lawyering tools and approaches back to their organizations and communities. | |
| Break | |
| Action Planning & Close (cont'd) | |
| Wrap-up | |