

# Clearinghouse REVIEW

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Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

## Letter from the Editor

CLEARINGHOUSE REVIEW: JOURNAL OF POVERTY LAW AND POLICY, an evolving multifaceted advocacy tool, offers legal analysis and advice to practitioners seeking to increase opportunity and justice for low-income people; it covers model practices and reports on achievements of Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law advocates. The Shriver Center's newly acquired Training Programs (formerly known as the Center for Legal Aid Education), the REVIEW, and the Advocacy department build up and support the advocates and attorneys who do this work nationwide. (See John Bouman's letter and the Shriver Center's 2012 National Training Programs on pages 380-83.) Many advocacy programs' staff members nationwide now enjoy access at their fingertips to our articles, archives, webinars, podcasts, and the like (through site licenses that we offer to advocacy programs).

REVIEW pieces include law-review-style yet practical articles, such as, in this issue, our continuing annual series of articles on the U.S. Supreme Court term's decisions on access to federal court, the lead article on the possibility of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) participants being subject to new identification requirements, and an article on using the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to challenge and prevent foreclosures. The transformation of home- and community-based services under health care reform, the lack of wage protections for home health aides, and the use of SNAP benefits at fast-food restaurants are among the client problems analyzed in this issue. In another article, the legal services organizations themselves and their difficulties, such as inadequate salaries, are discussed.

REVIEW readers are also interested in shorter advocacy stories that convey how a "case" developed from the time a client presented a problem until resolution and that contain legal analysis and multidimensional, nonlegal, and practical considerations. We invite you to share your advocacy stories with your colleagues around the country. In particular, attorneys are interested in affirmative advocacy, sometimes called "broad-based advocacy"—advocacy that is affirmative rather than defensive, often intends to benefit a group instead of just one client, and recognizes that even individual cases can have a major impact. We publish advocacy stories to highlight public interest work, but we want not only litigation stories but also other problem-solving ones: media campaigns on behalf of a cause, lobbying efforts to pass innovative legislation, successful negotiations of settlements, and reader-friendly journalistic accounts.

See, for example, the advocacy stories on pages 363-76:

- Advocates and Community Groups Defeat Punitive Housing Authority Proposals
- A Victory for Collaborative Advocacy: *Odems v. New York City Department of Education*
- Amending the Illinois Wage Payment and Collection Act: An Organizing Victory Against Wage Theft
- Left High and Dry: Water Utility Shutoffs and Tenants in Foreclosed Properties

We look ahead to your suggestions for advocacy stories—either your own work or ones that you learn about from others or the media. Please send them to [ilzehirsh@povertylaw.org](mailto:ilzehirsh@povertylaw.org). Thank you!

### Note on the Cover

The cover is a mock-up of an Electronic Benefit Transfer card that would conform with legislation that has been introduced in Arizona. It is not an actual card that is now in use.

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](mailto:ilzehirsh@povertylaw.org).

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and should not be construed as representing the opinions or policy of the organizations which employ them or of the Shriver Center.

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