

International Legal Aid Group

Newsletter & Information Resource for Academics, Researchers & Policymakers

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Editorial

Welcome. This edition contains a specially written assessment of Greater Boston Legal Services, the first in a series of original pieces looking at a particular provider of legal services. The next edition should contain the second: a piece on one of Ontario's specialty clinics. If you think that your legal aid scheme, organisation or programme would merit more publicity and would benefit from coverage in the newsletter then please contact me: I will write (and take editorial responsibility for) the piece, you just have to check my facts and help with contacts. The special January issue covered the ILAG-based research on digital developments and legal information and advice. This is an issue, which is very much of its time. An English foundation has funded further work in this field and its report is due in the autumn. Stay tuned for more coverage and, again, if you know of a project of which those interested in legal aid should be aware then do get in touch. Also covered in this edition is a short review of a Canadian study on access to justice. This is one of a number of such studies in various jurisdictions: it bears testimony to the continuing relevance of the topic and the increasing strain that it faces in a time of pretty universal financial austerity.

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Greater Boston Legal Services: Best in Class?

Roger Smith

Greater Boston Legal Services (GBLS) is one of the great granddaddies of legal assistance to the poor, tracing its origins back to the Boston Legal Aid Society founded in 1900. As one would expect, such a venerable institution has been through a number of incarnations over the last century. It survives as what must be one of the most impressive geographically based, systemically focused legal services providers. As, however, one might also anticipate, a brilliant history and present success give no immunity to current challenge.

GBLS is large for a single legal aid office. It currently has 111 employees, of whom 59 were attorneys and 19 paralegals. Its main office is situated in downtown Boston, which it bought twenty years ago, with another one

servicing Cambridge, and Somerville. It has had both more staff and more offices during previous good years but reductions in funding have led to cutbacks both in staff and work. It now works in seven main areas - consumer rights, elder health and disability, employment, family, housing, immigration and welfare. In addition, there are a number of specifically funded special programmes, among them Asian Outreach, Criminal Offender Record Information (working for the rehabilitation of offenders) and Mental Health and Children's Disability rights. The largest two areas of work (between them providing almost half the clients) are housing and immigration - the latter no doubt accounting for a third of the clients being either Asian or Pacific Islands with a second third African

American. Two thirds of the clients are women.

The current budget is around \$13m (£7.75m, 9.4m euros). GBLS has the luxury of a diverse funding base, a legacy of its origins. Like much civil legal aid in the United States, a major source of funding is interest on lawyers' trust accounts (known as client accounts in the UK). Together with a state grant from Massachusetts, this contributes just under a quarter of the total. The largest single source is, however, donations, both individual and from the legal profession. This reflects GBLS's impressive fundraising work among Boston's relatively prosperous and liberal legal profession. In 2013, GBLS received \$5m in such donations and over \$3m in grants and project funding.

Missing from GBLS's portfolio of givers is anything from the Legal Services Corporation, the source of federal grants. This is no accident. In the 1980s and 1990s, federal funding became increasingly contentious. Strong Republican influences that included President Reagan in the White House and Newt Gingrich in Congress led to major cuts and restrictive conditions. By 1996, LSC grantees were prevented even from using non-LSC money, let alone their LSC grants, to undertake work for a whole range of causes such as undocumented immigrants, class actions, and lobbying. A number of those who had been receiving LSC money, particularly those with alternative sources of state and other income, broke with the programme and went solo without LSC grants. Bob Sable, then GBLS director, reported, 'We went through a five to six month period of working out how to respond. On the one hand, probably only about 10 per cent of our activity was actually going to be affected. On the other, we felt that this some of our most important work. In the end, we gave up the money; split functions and divided roles, predominantly with two other existing organisations, the Volunteer Lawyers Project (VLP) and the Legal Advocacy and Resource Centre (LARP) that undertook respectively pro bono assistance and intake.'

VLP and LARC took the LSC money with its restrictions: GBLS floated free, protecting itself from some of the sharper potential financial consequences with a rather shrewd agreement that it alone would continue to

raise money from the private profession. Professional fundraising had always been profitable for GBLS, which, in its earlier incarnation as the Boston Legal Aid Society, had been closely associated with the Boston Bar. Private lawyers' commitment to funding legal aid for poor Bostonians continued apace even after the merger (and effective takeover) of the venerable legal aid society by the Boston Legal Assistance Project. This was a pushy upstart founded in the excitement of the late 1960s enthusiasm for law allied with more politics. The result is that GBLS is dependent on government-influenced or financed funding (IOLTA, state appropriation and various government grants) for less than half of its overall income.

Americans do fundraising with an enthusiasm that makes Europeans look particularly effete. If you want to give money to GBLS then it has a variety of ways to help you. It even has its own Marshall Plan, named after retired Chief Justice Margaret Marshall whose commitment to GBLS has raised \$2.5m and counting. Run a commercial firm of any size in Boston? Prepare for heavy arm-wrestling to join various circles of giving based on a range of per capita giving up to over \$700 a head. Behold your name proudly presented in GBLS's literature. It is an operation to die for and which outsiders – say from London – can look at only with awe.

All, however, is not entirely well on the financial front even in Boston. In common with other civil legal aid programmes, GBLS has been hard hit by the nose-dive of interest rates and the reduction of commercial activity which has slashed the income from interest on lawyers trust accounts. There are other problems too. Globalisation is impacting on Boston's commercial firms. Some, once based wholly in Boston and subject to its local culture of giving, now have head offices elsewhere that have traditionally not been so generous. Donations are increasingly at the mercy of national committees and demanding clients who like seeing their lawyers supporting their favourite causes. In Boston, as elsewhere, there is much more competition for funds than ever there used to be. The result is a cloud that hangs over GBLS's funding for next year and beyond - to which we will return. GBLS's record gets it a lot of support. The judicially led Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission has publicly

supported its work. And, indeed, it can make a pretty good pitch for funding based on what it delivers. This, in its own words, is a combination of 'critical legal advice and representation to low-income people' and 'systemic advocacy' through litigation in the courts and advocacy within government.

Most of GBLS's work is basic, individual services and that is what most of its lawyers are doing most of the time. Inevitably, however, it is the big cases that get GBLS most public attention - probably not a little to the annoyance of those down in the boiler rooms. However, some of the strategic cases have been pretty impressive: they can also indicate the textbook way in, which the routine can morph into the strategic with the right frame of mind (and freedom of resources). An iconic example is *Joanne Daniels-Finegold et al v Massachusetts Bay Transport Authority*, one of a series of cases in relation to the issue of disability and the contradiction between chaotic delivery of services and the clarity of legislative principle (no discrimination) in statutes such as the national Americans with Disabilities Act. The case is interesting both legally and organisationally. Its origin lay in training that a GBLS staff lawyer, Taramattie Doucette, did for people living in two Boston neighbourhoods. She said, 'I did the trainings for my community, low-income people of colour. This is where the case truly originated'. From these, she realised the difficulties that people with a disability had with public transport:

During my trainings, no matter what the official topic was, the problem of individuals not having access to safe and reliable transportation constantly came up. The community of people with disabilities had already taken much action to address the problems they constantly encountered with the T [Transport Authority]. They wrote letters, they protested and, in November 2001, they held a meeting with the MBTA's former general manager. However, their efforts to resolve the problems using normal advocacy tools just did not work.

be improved, new public address systems must be installed and emergency call boxes must be working and accessible; there must be continuous, uninterrupted elevator service during all running hours; over the next five years, the T will spend \$122 million to improve escalators and elevators; the T must be operated in a way to provide assistance to passengers with disabilities in emergencies and during breakdowns; a new administrative position must be created, Assistant General Manager for System Accessibility to ensure compliance with the agreement and improve accessibility. The Court will appoint an independent monitor, who may use undercover testers on

As a legal response to this impasse, GBLS developed a class action taken by individuals and with the support of the Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) to challenge the MBTA's failures in maintaining lifts and other ways in which people with a disability could use public transport (including the mundane issue of drivers avoiding the use of ramps with which they were provided). The case involved large expenditure up front as GBLS obtained technical reports on lifts and BCIL sent out observers to document and film what happened in practice. Former executive director Bob Sable reported: 'We were able because of our size to advance substantial sums for consultants reports before litigation.' According to Dan Manning, litigation director, the cost risked upfront reached close to \$1m. The risk - and four years of litigation - paid off, however, in spades. MBTA eventually opted for a mediated settlement and a retired Supreme Court judge was appointed to monitor implementation. The result is a slow but comprehensive programme of improvement, still in progress, and a substantial payment towards costs.

Taramattie Doucette's summary of the settlement indicates the sheer breadth of what was negotiated: 'Buses and trains must be accessible and usable; with accessibility equipment maintained in good condition and frequent maintenance checks. Drivers must be required to follow accessibility rules such as pulling to curbs, operating lifts and making stop announcements; over the next six years, the T must replace the approximately 400 buses with lifts that are still in services with new low-floor buses; new "mini-high" ramps and platforms must be installed at certain above-ground Green Line stations; all new stations, and certain stations identified as "key," must be readily accessible and usable by people with disabilities. They must be clean, well lighted and free of safety hazards. Warning strips must be properly maintained. At these stations, T workers must be available to help passengers with access problems; signage and other navigation systems must

accessibility issues, at the T's expense; GBLS will be reimbursed for its time and other costs in the case, amounting to \$2.5 million dollars.' The last has been a handy addition to GBLS's income.



A Celebration of Victory

Success spawns success and the MBTA case led to another involving health care in Boston where BCIL and GBLS alleged three areas of discrimination against people with disabilities: architectural with rooms which were not wheelchair accessible; medical equipment which was similarly inaccessible such as lack of accessible scales or examination tables; and policies that failed to give staff adequate training. GBLS has also sued, in *Harper v the Department of Transitional Assistance*, for lack of assistance to those with a disability in claiming benefits. Ms Harper had cognitive and physical impairments. She needed to be reminded of meetings; to have messages read to her rather than just posted; and home visits rather than appointments at the DTA office. She was the lead litigant in a class action, which was eventually sent to mediation. The ultimate result was victory by a mile. Lisbeth Ginsburg, a staff attorney in

GBLS's benefits unit, said: 'After two and a half years, DTA agreed to a programme of measures to assist disabled claimants. They agreed to screen for disability; to appoint client assistance coordinators, record information about disability on electronic records, programme its system to flag for reasonable accommodations for disability; adopted negotiated guidelines on written materials, monitoring and so on.'

For all its success in transport, the largest single area of GBLS's work has traditionally been housing. Its great success in the 1970s was to put the Boston Housing Authority into receivership on the issue of failure to maintain the adequate repair of its properties. Of its current concerns, Jay Rose, the head of its housing unit, said: 'Many of the current problems relate to "gentrification" in one way or another, particularly where landlords are

seeking to take housing out of public use and to sell up for the capital gain.' One of his contemporary big successes is in the neighbourhood of Mission Main, a formerly rundown and crime-ridden area adjacent to the major medical area, where landlords could see the potential profit from clearing out the old residents and replacing them with those with more wealth. GBLS successfully fought for the return of tenants after renovation; their involvement in decision-making on the redevelopment; and the creation of a successful area of mixed housing. Again, it was a textbook co-operation with activists on the ground. 'I am most proud,' summed up Jay Rose, 'of the work that we do with feisty tenant leaders willing to put in hundreds of hours without pay to protect their neighbourhoods'.

Litigation is linked to political advocacy. Several GBLS staff are registered state lobbyists, among them Monica Halas who runs GBLS's small employment unit. This has been hit by the need for financial prudence and, to her chagrin, has now taken the decision to take no further discrimination cases. Unions, she reports, as elsewhere, have a declining influence but, supplementing them in support of immigrant labour are a number of migrant workers centres that provide a focus for workers who come from countries abroad with a greater tradition of organised labour. She is working on advocacy for a domestic workers bill of rights for Massachusetts, something on which the UN has just agreed a convention, which has been followed within the US by action in a few other states such as New York, California and Hawaii.

GBLS's commitment to the strategic is impressive. You might, if of a skeptical turn of mind (and feeling a little worn yourself), expect an organisation that has been proclaiming its strategic credentials for so long perhaps to begin to look tired; be complacent and to rest on its reputation. That, genuinely, does not seem to have happened. And the interesting question is why the kind of cynicism that might be expressed by advocates of private practice would be misplaced. Bob Sable puts up three reasons for GBLS's continuing success. First, it is the 'result of a leadership that started their careers in the late 60s and early 70s when

legal services seen not as part of the Bar but as part a war on poverty'. Second, 'We have had a stream of victories both in case and litigation that keep our expectations high. For example, we played a major role in what became the Michael Bianco case and a raid by US immigration on New Bedford. That really energised everyone.' As did the MBTA case. And other successes. Third, 'We live with the consequences of the strategic decision in 1994 as to how we would respond to Gingrich inspired restrictions to the use of LSC funding ... The decision was difficult but once we took it we felt good about it and we got support from unlikely sources. Even the Bank from whom we had a mortgage for our building expressed support. That put doing strategic work at the core of our mission.'

Jacquelynne Bowman, the current executive director, sets out the challenges facing the organisation. Unsurprisingly, first out of the box is funding. Next year is, as yet, unclear but, if no new income sources are found, cuts could be significant - perhaps, in a worse case, more than a quarter. However, GBLS has produced rabbits out of the hat before and could do again. There is a related issue: the age profile of the staff. One third are over 60 a further third over 50 and the older the staff, the less diverse they are, something of particular concern to Ms Bowman who is herself an African American. In good workerist mode, the staff are unionised - with the United Auto Workers - which has a strong commitment to a last-in-first out policy. If layoffs come, GBLS will be hard pressed not to eat its young - in fact, actually its early middle aged as recent lean hiring years mean that there is already almost no-one under 30 on the staff. Dan Manning points out that redundancies are even more problematic than they used to be (and GBLS is old enough to have weathered previous waves of layoffs) because of the reduced job opportunities in the legal world more generally at the present time. In any event, and without regard to funding problems, the passage of time means that GBLS will inevitably lose over the next few years the experience of a leadership, which has been forged, in many cases, over the last forty years - the leadership that Bob Sale identified as holding it together in its strategic approach.

A further issue is the legacy of the 1990s deal to deflect the Gingrich cuts. This has worked well over the last twenty years but leads to a somewhat clumsy structure. It entails GBLS physically housing its intake provision, the Legal Advocacy Resource Center, but being divorced from its management. The result is a somewhat messy divide - sometimes difficult to express in principle - between cases that are dealt with by the Center and those that arrive directly to GBLS. An outside observer - unencumbered by the constraints of history, practicality and personality - would advise a rationalisation that might amount to reincorporation of the intake and advice-giving function. No doubt, it will not be so easy to sort out the contortions of history. That links to a concern that strikes an observer from a jurisdiction, which has historically placed less attention on the strategic and more on the individual. The US developed strategic approaches specifically because there was never the money to meet all the individual need. GBLS is a good example of the

successes of such a prioritisation. But, necessarily in the process, space is made for the strategic by limiting the access of the individual - something that is probably an insoluble and continuing dilemma.

So, future management of GBLS is not without its problems. But there can be little doubt that it stands as a pretty good example of the US model of strategic delivery. And that salaried public provision can keep at the cutting edge over decades in the delivery of legal services - albeit in Massachusetts, a very particular environment where a flourishing private legal profession practises in a traditionally liberal state. The globally relevant question is whether you can bottle GBLS's essence and recycle it elsewhere. That depends on how much of GBLS' success depends on its individual circumstances. But, whatever short term funding problems it faces, there can be little doubt that GBLS will be in there pitching for some time to come.

Canadian Access to Justice Study: Advocating a Comprehensive Approach

An access to justice committee chaired by a Judge (Justice Cromwell) has produced a report that advocates a holistic approach (*Access to Civil and Family Justice: a roadmap for change*). It begins from the premise that the Canadian civil and family justice system is failing Canadians by its expense, exclusiveness and lack of access. A flavour of its approach - which could well double as a manifesto for ILAG - can be seen from the following extract from its own executive summary:

A. Innovation Goals

1. Refocus the Justice System to Reflect and Address Everyday Legal Problems
2. Make Essential Legal Services Available to Everyone
3. Make Courts and Tribunals Fully Accessible Multi- Service Centres for Public Dispute Resolution
4. Make Coordinated and Appropriate Multidisciplinary Family Services Easily Accessible

B. Institutional and Structural Goals

5. Create Local and National Access to Justice Implementation Mechanisms
6. Promote a Sustainable, Accessible and Integrated Justice Agenda through Legal Education
7. Enhance the Innovation Capacity of the Civil and Family Justice System

C. Research and Funding Goals

8. Support Access to Justice Research to Promote Evidence-Based Policy Making
9. Promote Coherent, Integrated and Sustained Funding Strategies.

The report can be downloaded from: http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org/sites/default/files/docs/2013/AC_Report_English_Final.pdf

News

The news items shown below are largely compiled from articles on the internet, found on the basis of a simple search for terms such as 'legal aid', 'access to justice' and 'pro bono'. Therefore, readers must, just as buyers, beware of authenticity. The links worked at the time of writing but some will obviously fail after a period of time.

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If you would like to suggest or write an article for inclusion in this newsletter or the ILAG website, please contact Paul by emailing paul.s.ferrie@strath.ac.uk. Paul can also be contacted via Twitter (@psferrie) – and LinkedIn (<http://goo.gl/I9cmNd>).

Angola

[Portugal available to support justice reform of Angola](#) - ANGOP

Australia

[Access to justice in the criminal justice system for people with disability](#) – Australian Government

[Indonesia and Australia support access to justice for people with disabilities](#) – Australian Embassy

[Family Court Chief Justice speaks out over Legal Aid cuts](#) – Australian Bar Association

[Cutting legal aid to refugees, dangerous and short-sighted](#) - WN

[Legal Aid offices in WA may close due to budget pressures](#) – ABC News

[Australian government scraps refugees' rights to legal aid](#) – WSWS

[Program combats legal confusion among refugees](#) – ABC News

[Productivity Commission Report on Access to Justice released](#) – Just Connect

Bangladesh

[Partnership in legal aid](#) - The Daily Star

[245 cases in last seven years saw no justice](#) – The Daily Star

Canada

[Modernizing the justice system starts at law school](#) – University of Calgary

[Mounting student debt means less access to justice](#) – Canadian Lawyer Mag

[‘Flip Your Wig’ campaign raises awareness about access to justice](#) – Marketing Mag

[Ontario’s financial eligibility standard for legal aid: falling behind the rest of Canada](#) – Legal Aid Ontario

[Legal Aid Ontario looks to help more First Nations in north](#) – CBC News

[Access to justice can be impeded by cost of court transcripts, judge says](#) – The Vancouver Sun

[Access to justice issues are pervasive](#) – Obiter Dicta

[Canadian ATJ Report is a Model for the World](#) - Richard Zorza's Access to Justice Blog

[Legal Aid faces cuts without another \\$8 million each year](#) - CBC News

[How the Ontario budget allows more people to qualify for legal aid](#) – Global News

[Edmonton law day provides access to justice system](#) – Edmonton Sun

China

[Harsh government test denying needy legal aid, Bar Association says](#) – South China Morning Post

[Lack of transparency on legal aid decisions criticised](#) – South China Morning Post

[New programme provides access to justice in remote parts of China](#) – Danish Institute of Human Rights

England & Wales

[Access to Justice: employment tribunals at a crossroads](#) – Institute of Employment Rights

[Barristers call off walkout after legal aid cuts suspended](#) – The Guardian

[Legal aid cuts leave family courts in chaos, experts say](#) – The Guardian

[Legal aid cuts: six lawyers on why they will damage our justice system](#) – The Guardian

[Civil legal aid: access denied](#) – Law Society Gazette

[Is the gateway to access legal aid funding opening for victims of domestic violence?](#) – The Lawyer

[Criminal barristers vote 2:1 to accept government legal aid deal](#) – Legal Futures

[University launches new Legal Advice Centre](#) – Liverpool John Moores University

['Legal aid cuts will help public school boys get to the top', says top female judge](#) – The Telegraph

[Why should the innocent pay for justice?](#) – The Telegraph

[Legal aid is not for foreigners to fight cases through British courts, says justice minister](#) – The Telegraph

[Legal aid exceptional case funding statistics published](#) – Family Law

[Legal Aid for mediation announced for Hague Convention cases](#) - Marilyn Stowe

[Unjustified judicial review reforms restrict access to justice](#) - Justice

[Legal aid row leads to halting of serious fraud trial](#) – BBC News

[Legal aid row: Who is going to blink?](#) – BBC News

[More legal aid reform needed for victims of domestic violence](#) – Wales Online

France

[Access to Justice for Children report released](#) - CRIN

Ghana

[Expansion of free legal aid with UN donation](#) – Ghana Monitor

India

[Sebi to exclude class action suits from legal aid fund](#) – Business Standard

[The future of legal aid in India: Lessons from Mewat, Haryana](#) – My Law

[Free legal aid clinic for under trials inaugurated](#) – Times of India

[Lawyers for free legal aid to poor](#) – Times of India

[Ground-breaking Report on Claiming Justice for Dalits in India](#) – International Dalit Solidarity Network

[Ensure access to justice for all: Ex-Chief Justice of India](#) – Daily Observer

Japan

[A cut-out-and-keep guide to getting legal advice in Japan](#) – The Japan Times

Kenya

[Free legal aid centres lined up for counties](#) – Africa Business Daily

[Githu says Legal Aid Bill key to accessing justice](#) – The People

[Cost of legal aid raised by 30pc](#) – Daily Nation

Liberia

[Injustice At Justice – Poorly Planned Plot to Oust Tah From EJS Government](#) – All Africa

[Dukuly roots for access to justice for all](#) – Liberia News Agency

Malawi

[Malawi Prisons Department to have a new Strategic Plan](#) – UNDP

[Malawi Project goes from Strength to Strength](#) – Irish Rule of Law

[New Court Fees Implemented](#) – The Nation

[Kasungu People Applaud CCPJ for Access to Primary Justice Program](#) – All Africa

[Chiefs Hail CCJP Primary Justice Project](#) – Nyasa Times

Malta

[Malta still bottom of justice scoreboard](#) – Times of Malta

[Justice reform vital to Malta's economy](#) – Times of Malta

[AG pays for the defence in legal aid court cases](#) – Times of Malta

Namibia

[LAC and EU launch Access to Justice Project](#) – The Namibian

Northern Ireland

[Lawyers slam David Ford's plan to cut legal aid budget](#) – Belfast Telegraph

[NI lawyers furious over legal aid budget cuts](#) – Global Legal Post

[Legal aid and coroners' courts bill introduced into assembly](#) – Dept. of Justice

Pakistan

[Access to justice fundamental right of every citizen: UNDP official](#) – Financial Daily

[UNDP mission visits KP to help promote peace, justice](#) – Dawn

[RFP For Strengthening Access To Justice Through Streaming Legal Aid In Pakistan](#) - Devex

Philippines

[Judge Sees Anti-Corruption and Access to Justice Gains via Judicial Reform](#) – America Bar Association

[Lawyers Help Tacloban Rebuild After the Super typhoon](#) - Choose Philippines

Republic Of Ireland

[High Court grants legal aid to alleged 'world's largest facilitator of child porn'](#) – Breaking News (i.e.)

Scotland

[Civil court reforms will damage access to justice, warn legal bodies](#) - Holyrood

[Lawyers predict fee bonanza if Scots go it alone](#) – Law Society Gazette

[New help for families with children facing debt and money problems](#) – SLAB

[Solicitors campaign to help Africa's poorest find justice](#) – Herald Scotland

[Scottish Government delay Criminal Justice Bill](#) – Herald Scotland

[IS partners with Scottish Legal Aid Board to improve information and advice services](#) – IS

[Confusion over introduction of changes to legal aid fees](#) – Herald Scotland

United States Of America

[The Limited License Legal Technician: Washington State's Paralegal Law Practice](#) – Legal Talk Network

[Innovative Technology Projects Are Connecting Pro Bono Lawyers with Clients](#) – The Shriver Brief

[Low Wage Workers are Finding Poverty Harder to Escape](#) – New York Times

[The Betty Crocker Era in Legal Services](#) – Legal Executives Insights

[Preserving Legal Aid Funding](#) – Connecticut Law Tribune

[The right to counsel: a tool for fighting and preventing poverty](#) – Public Justice Center

[Richard Zorza, ambassador for self-represented litigants, receives NCSC Distinguished Service Award](#) - NCSC

[Creative Ways to Provide Access to Justice](#) – New York Law Journal

[Pro Bono via Limited Engagement](#) – Center for Pro Bono

[Supreme Court, Access To Justice Commission Honored](#) - The Chattanooga

[ABA to honor South Dakota Chief Justice David Gilbertson for promoting access to justice](#) – American Bar Association

[Progress in three states on non-lawyer access innovations](#) - Richard Zorza's Access to Justice Blog

[Panel pursues ideas to fund legal services for poor](#) – California Bar Journal

[Language Access Fund enables pro bono representation of non-English speakers](#) – Texas Bar Blog

[Mandatory pro bono: an idea past due](#) – The Baltimore Sun

[Message from Attorney General Eric Holder and Director of the Domestic Policy Council Cecilia Muñoz](#) – US Dept. of Justice

[Suggestions for an Expansive and Popular Definition of "Civil Legal Aid"](#) - Richard Zorza's Access to Justice Blog

[Help Legal Services help people](#) – The Hill

[Time To Serve Clients Of Modest Means](#) - Connecticut Law Tribune

[Boston Bar Association Applauds Nomination of Ralph Gants as Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court](#) – Boston Bar Association

[Why you should care about access to justice \[VIDEO\]](#): Andrew Pilliar at TEDxRenfrewCollingwood

[In New Haven, Gov. Malloy pushes need for more legal aid](#) – NH Register

[Law Dean Doug Blaze Tapped to Chair Access to Justice Commission](#) – University of Tennessee

For more information about the work of the *International Legal Aid Group*, please visit our website which can be found at <http://ilagnet.org/>.