



NLADA 2002 ACHIEVEMENTS

- ★ NLADA successfully advocated for an **additional \$9.5 million in funding for Legal Services Corporation (LSC) grantees** for fiscal year 2003. The additional funds were distributed among those service areas in 26 states whose LSC funding had been decreased due to shifts in low-income populations reflected in the 2000 census.
- ★ The expanded **NLADA defender research & evaluation division** provided evaluation services and technical assistance in California, Pennsylvania, Nevada, Louisiana, Texas, Maryland and North Carolina. In Maryland, NLADA was instrumental in a successful education and lobbying campaign that resulted in the Office of the State Public Defender obtaining an 8.4 percent budget increase, allowing the office to hire 59 new positions.
- ★ NLADA, together with AARP and other organizations, filed an **amicus curiae brief in support of the Interest on Lawyers' Trust Accounts (IOLTA) funding** in the victorious U.S. Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Legal Foundation of Washington*. The ruling upheld the legality of IOLTA programs, which operate in all 50 states and provide \$147 million to support civil legal aid programs.
- ★ For the first time ever, NLADA brought the **nation's top defender executives (the American Council of Chief Defenders) to Capitol Hill** to discuss the effect of disparities in the distribution of federal resources on public defense, and to educate key congressional leaders about student loan forgiveness for public defenders.
- ★ NLADA convened a broad-based advisory council to build a vision and structure to foster a strong and diverse cadre of equal justice leaders. The advisory council issued *Leaders for Justice*, a report detailing the steps for creating a **National Civil Justice Leadership Initiative**.
- ★ NLADA completed a **groundbreaking study for the Department of Justice**, which proved that quality control standards for public defense representation, such as case-load limits, are an effective means of ensuring competent counsel.
- ★ NLADA reintroduced the **Litigation and Advocacy Directors Conference** for the first time in nearly a decade, drawing more than 120 senior advocates of legal aid programs to examine key issues, advocacy strategies and prospects for collaboration around the critical problems facing low-income clients and their communities.

National Legal Aid & Defender Association

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- ★ NLADA launched the **Defending Immigrants Partnership**, a joint initiative to develop the first nationally based training and resource center focused on the often life-altering connections between immigration status and even the most minor criminal convictions. The Partnership is developing a manual to educate defense attorneys on the immigration-related consequences flowing from criminal prosecution, and has provided training to over 1,000 federal and state defenders.
- ★ The **SPAN Access to Justice Network**, a joint project of NLADA and the Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants (SCLAID) of the American Bar Association, produced a report that contains the latest information on partnerships to improve and expand civil legal assistance in every state in the country.
- ★ NLADA's **National Defender Leadership Institute** held two groundbreaking seminars designed to focus on providing public defenders with a set of leadership and management skills to deploy in their day-to-day work.
- ★ The Project for the Future of Equal Justice, an NLADA and Center for Law and Social Policy initiative, implemented the second phase of the **Campaign for Equal Access: Bringing Justice Home**, developing statewide communication strategies in the pilot states of Iowa, Texas and Pennsylvania.
- ★ NLADA launched the **on-line Forensics Library**, a Web-based clearinghouse of information on forensic science, providing a network for defenders to share information and deal more effectively with scientific evidence.
- ★ NLADA created the **Indigent Defense Communications Tool Kit** to help public defenders build support and increase funding for indigent defense at the community and state levels. Defenders have used the kits to write and place op eds, prepare legislative testimony and presentations to community groups, develop press packets and organize media events.



NLADA – Working for Equal Justice

Since 1911, the National Legal Aid & Defender Association (NLADA) has proudly been the only national membership organization devoted exclusively to advocating equal justice for all. Representing legal aid and public defender programs, as well as individual advocates, NLADA serves as a national voice in public policy and legislative debates on the many issues affecting the equal justice community and provides a wide range of services to its members to expand effective legal assistance to those who cannot otherwise afford counsel.