

CLIENT UPDATE

W I N T E R 2 0 0 4

LSC Selects New President from the Field

Helaine M. Barnett, attorney-in-charge of the civil division at The Legal Aid Society in New York City, has been selected to become the next president of the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). Barnett succeeds John N. Erlenborn, a former congressman from Illinois, who is retiring. Her appointment to the post was announced by LSC on December 18, 2003 and she took office on January 20, 2004.

Barnett has devoted her entire career to providing legal services to the indigent as an advocate with The Legal Aid Society of New York City, the oldest and largest legal aid organization in the country. During her tenure, the civil division has grown into a nationally recognized legal services provider, whose staff provides high-quality legal representation to more than 25,000 individuals and families a year through a network of eight neighborhood-based offices and specialized city-wide programs. Under her leadership the civil division, which has approximately 240 employees including some 125 attorneys, has earned universal respect for its legal work, innovative projects, adherence to the highest professional and ethical standards and, most recently, for the delivery of critical legal assistance to New Yorkers in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks.

NLADA President and CEO Clint Lyons applauded the LSC board on its selection:

“Helaine is eminently qualified to lead the Legal Services Corporation. Exceptional management, vision and advocacy on behalf of the city’s civil client community have marked her tenure at the Legal Aid Society of New York City. NLADA has seen first-hand, through her participation on the association’s Civil Policy Group, what energy, dedication and professionalism Helaine can bring to the national legal aid arena. The Corporation’s board has made an inspired, exciting choice; we congratulate them and their new president.”

In announcing Barnett’s appointment, LSC Chairman Frank B. Strickland said, “The Corporation is fortunate indeed to have found someone of the calibre of Helaine Barnett to assume its presidency. Her personal and professional qualities make her an ideal choice for the position. We are delighted that she has agreed to join us, and are excited to have a leader of such remarkable experience, integrity, vision and dedication at the helm of LSC at this point in our history.”

Barnett’s many achievements include her involvement as a bar leader on the local, state and national levels. She is the only legal services attorney to serve on the American Bar Association (ABA) Board of Governors and on its Executive Committee. She has served on a host of other significant committees and commissions, including her most recent appointment by the chief judge of the state of New York to the Commission to Promote Public Confidence in Judicial Elections, of which she is a co-chair. She is also currently treasurer of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York and serves on its executive committee. She was recently appointed by the president of the ABA to serve on its Governance Commission, which is mandated to review its governance every 10 years.

“I am extraordinarily honored to have been selected to serve in this position,” Barnett said. “With the Corporation enjoying

bipartisan support in Congress, I am looking forward to working with the White House; the Congress; the Corporation’s new board of directors, each of whom is totally supportive of its mission; the dedicated staff of the Legal Services Corporation; the grantees, many of whom I have worked with and admired for years; the leaders of the American Bar Association and other bar leaders on the state and local levels; as well as with National Legal Aid & Defender Association, the state equal justice communities and members of the judiciary.

“I am both excited and humbled by the opportunity to help fulfill the mission of the Legal Services Corporation and to continue my lifelong commitment to providing legal assistance to the most vulnerable in our society,” Barnett added. “It will be an honor to work on the national level for an organization whose sole mission is to further the federal commitment to the goal of equal access to justice.”

For more information on Barnett, visit www.nlada.org/News/News_Articles/barnett.

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SAVE THE DATE

December 1–4, 2004
Annual Conference
Washington, DC

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Message from NLADA Client Policy Group Chair, Rosita Stanley

Greetings to each of you! I hope that the New Year finds all of you well. What a time we had at the Annual Conference in Seattle. Great training, beautiful scenery, fabulous hotel and a well-run conference! We had a great client community turnout, and are looking forward to seeing more client members at the 2004 Annual Conference in Washington, DC, December 1-4, 2004. So mark your calendars and notify your program directors of your interest in attending the conference. I also want to thank the entire NLADA staff for all of their hard work in planning the conference, the client reception and hospitality suite. We all appreciate your efforts.

During the March teleconference, we will begin planning the client-training track for the 2004 Annual Conference. Our goal is to build on previous training and to provide even better training than we did in Seattle. For those of you who were not present, you really missed a great opportunity. One of the conference highlights was the first-ever client track speaker, Divine Pryor, Ph.D. Visit the Client Section of the NLADA Web site at: http://www.nlada.org/Civil/Civil_Client/Civil_Client_Training to read his speech in its entirety. We thank Dr. Pryor for his inspiring words and look forward to his continued participation in NLADA events. Be sure to read his leadership article on page 3 of this edition. Another highlight of the training track was the technology session presented by Howard University School of Law Professor Gregory Berry. We thank Professor Berry for his contributions to the *Client Update* and for his efforts to open access to technology for the client community. Lillian Johnson and Harrison McIver have also been long-time supporters of the client leadership session. I thank you for your continued support as well as all who participated in developing the client sessions.

The NLADA staff has been working hard to improve the client section of the Web site. We sincerely appreciate this effort. Visit the site today at: www.nlada.org/Civil/Civil_Client.

The client community has been well served by the *Client Update*. We continue to be pleased with the quality and the timeliness of the newsletter. Elizabeth was a big help and we want to thank her and wish her well in her future endeavors.

I do want to update the community on the progress of the Kentucky Client work. They are still engaged in statewide organization and development. I will provide additional information in future editions.

Finally, I want to recognize the contributions of a hero in our community and loyal supporter of the client community. Clint Lyons, NLADA president and CEO recently celebrated 20 years of service to NLADA. The client community is truly indebted to Clint for his leadership.

We are excited to announce our membership recruitment contest. Enclosed in this edition is a membership application. I invite you to renew your membership and to recruit a new member to the NLADA family. Also, the NLADA membership department designed membership cards for the client members. Thank you Julie, Jane and Sara! For those of you who have not been receiving your NLADA mailings, or who like to have them sent to your home address, please contact the NLADA membership division at: membership@nlada.org.

I look forward to seeing you in the coming year. Remember recruit a new member today!

NLADA Client Policy Group Officers 2004

Rosita Stanley
Chair
Macon, GA

Lucille Logan
Vice Chair
Oklahoma City, OK

Harry Johnson
Membership and Section Committee Chair
Indianapolis, IN

Lucille Logan
Communications Committee Chair
Oklahoma City, OK

Rosita Stanley
Training Committee Chair
Macon, GA

NOCA AND THE NLADA CLIENT SECTION AND POLICY GROUP ANNOUNCE A MEMBERSHIP DRIVE!

Recruit the most members by November 1, 2004 and receive an award at the NLADA Annual Conference, December 1-4, in Washington, DC. Please make sure to write your name on the membership application to indicate that you recruited the new member.

Individual membership provides a host of member benefits and services, including national advocacy, training opportunities, publications, networking and professional development, publications and online resources, technical support and access to member-only discount programs.

If you would like to change your current mailing address, to have your NLADA mailings sent to your home address, please send an E-mail to: membership@nlada.org.

Become a Client Member Today!

Upcoming Client Policy Group Meetings

March 23 Teleconference
June 18 Washington, DC
Nov 30 Washington, DC

LEADERSHIP CORNER

Message from NOCA President Lucille Logan

Happy New Year! What an exciting year this is going to be! First, let me say it was good seeing so many members at the meeting. Each time we come together, I am struck by the dedicated clients and advocates that make up this organization. NOCA is grateful for your commitment and hard work. For those who had early flights out, you missed a productive NOCA Board/Training session. I hope everyone made it home safely and in good health.

The new committees have been set up. NOCA welcomes Monica Williams, Cincinnati, Ohio, as chairperson of the Ad Hoc Committee. This committee is going to look at our organizational status and determine if we can upgrade and get reinstated as a national group. Other elected chairpersons include Ann Leavenworth, Issues Committee and Peggy Santos who will co-chair the Ad Hoc Committee and work with Ann on the Issues Committee.

I would like to thank Cynthia Works, a member of the NLADA staff, for all the hard work she did in helping NOCA and the Client Policy Group with the hospitality suite. She went out of her way in making the necessary changes for our NOCA meeting and it was extremely helpful.

As NOCA looks to its future, we are going to continue strengthening the organization and encouraging growth. We have taken one step in beginning the search for a new agent, who has

to be located in Washington, DC. Harry Johnson, chair of the NLADA Client Section will coordinate that effort.

Another step will be taken at our next organizational meeting at the NLADA Conference in Washington, DC, December 1-4. The meeting focus will be on improving our organization. I am asking that all clients/client advocates bring ideas on continuing NOCA's efforts to be the top-quality organization I know it can be. We've come a long way with the merging of the Legal Services' programs. That process is almost at an end. It's time we go back to doing the work that is much needed in this day and time. Some areas I would like to see examined include improved methods of collecting dues, and assessment of our system to elect board members, setting up a national database, coordinating with other national groups (NLADA Client groups, etc.), and the formation of a national business office. These ideas are not to relieve us of our responsibilities on the grass roots level, but to enhance NOCA as a business organization and improve its' national capabilities.

Any member of NOCA - especially itsboard members and other leadership-must recognize the importance of respecting NOCA as a business, not a social club or popularity contest. I want our leadership to carry on the commitment to offer big returns for dues paid.

Again, I thank Cynthia Works, Peggy Santos,

NOCA OFFICERS

Lucille Logan
President,
Oklahoma City, OK

Charlie Morris
1st Vice President,
Memphis, TN

Mollie Gomez
2nd Vice President,
Norwalk, CA

Yvette Long
Secretary,
Philadelphia, PA

Lucinda Henderson
Parliamentarian,
Santa Ana, CA

Secret Henderson
Membership
Committee Chair,
Houston, TX

Pearly Blunt
Issues Committee Chairperson,
Houston, TX

Harry Johnson
Treasurer,
Indianapolis, IN

Monica Williams and Ann Leavenworth for their help in making this a first-class organization. I also thank all of our members for the fine job they have done in the past and thank them in advance, for what will be done in the future.

CLIENT NEWS

Vehicles for Families, A Program of Community Action Agency of Oklahoma City and Oklahoma/Canadian Counties, Inc.

By Pepper Kamas, Submitted by Lucille Logan

The Vehicle For Families (VFF) program was founded to eliminate transportation barriers for income-eligible, working families without a current household vehicle. The program sells quality, pre-inspected cars at a flat rate of \$750 to qualified clients. In addition, the program included a six-month warranty on the vehicle, a one-year paid membership to AAA, and a car care kit.

To assist clients, VFF develops partnerships with banks that will offer special loans to fit the families' budget and helps clients identify resources to pay for insurance, tags, title and taxes. Clients receive personal mentorship until the vehicle is paid in full and are required to attend both a vehicle maintenance class and a money management course.

To date, the program has sold nine vehicles to qualified families. VFF clients say

that they feel better about themselves having gained independence in owning a vehicle. They also report they are able to attend religious services more often, care for the sick, family and friends. Their children have also been able to become more involved in after school activities.

All individuals interested in the VFF program must meet the following

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TRAINING DIVISION NEWS

2003 NLADA Annual Conference Draws A Strong Turnout with More than 800 Attendees

By Cynthia Works, NLADA Director of Education & Training

On November 12-15, 2003, 850 legal aid advocates, public defenders and others committed to equal justice gathered for NLADA's 2003 Annual Conference in Seattle. During the conference NLADA celebrated the 40th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright*, the landmark Supreme Court decision granting the right-to-counsel, and paid tribute to NLADA President and CEO Clint Lyons for 20 years of service.

The conference began with a thoughtful keynote address by Chief Justice Gerry L. Alexander of the Washington Supreme Court who later joined the Moderately Talented (Yet Plucky) Repertory Theatre of Justice in a skit titled: *A Fiddler on the Courthouse Roof*.

300 ATTEND NLADA'S LEADERSHIP & DIVERSITY LUNCHEON

Another stellar event during the 2003 Annual Conference was the Leadership & Diversity luncheon on November 13, discussing the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling June 23, 2003 in *Grutter v. Bollinger*. The luncheon panel was comprised of attorneys from the legal aid, public defense, legal academy and judiciary, who shared their thoughts with the audience on the impact of *Grutter* on the future of educational diversity in our country.

Panelists included: Judge Mary Yu of King County Superior Court in Seattle; Professor Gregory Berry of Howard University School of Law, counsel for Howard University law students in *Grutter v. Bollinger*; Godfrey J. Dillard, Citizens for Affirmative Action's Preservation lead counsel for the Defendant Interveners in *Grutter v. Bollinger*; Lindsay Thompson, editor of the Washington State Bar Association Bar News; Michele E. Jones, state-wide advocacy coordinator, Columbia Legal Services; and Carlos J. Martinez, chief assistant public defender, Dade County Public Defenders Office. Moderator Jones, using an interactive style generated thoughtful and personal comments from the panelists, detailing both personal and professional experiences with diversity issues. Dillard provided us with an energized perspective on future actions and

encouraged the continued use of the judicial system to remedy past and current discrimination. Berry regaled us with humorous and intellectual banter, bringing the academic perspective to the discussion. Martinez discussed the problems of recruiting and retaining talented minorities and encouraged the audience to continue recruiting minority applicants. Thompson provided his personal viewpoints as an openly gay member of the bar and the issues relevant to his community. Judge Yu also echoed his sentiments and provided a view from the bench regarding leadership and diversity.

NLADA thanks the panelists and the cosponsors of this important event, the African American Project Directors' Association (AAPDA), the Project for the Future of Equal Justice and the Latino Advocates Association. We also acknowledge the tremendous efforts of Lillian Moy and Lillian Johnson towards the success of this panel and their untiring commitment to diversity and our community.

Joint Defender/Civil Track— Unraveling Mental Health Entanglements: Representing Mentally Disabled Clients

Hundreds of participants attended the joint defender/civil training track, Unraveling Mental Health Entanglements: Representing Mentally Disabled Clients. Recognizing that mentally disabled clients often need the help of both legal and medical professionals, this series of joint defender and civil sessions provided guidance for practitioners and program managers to help them avoid dead-ends and blocked pathways in the mental health system.

The track began with "Mental Health Issues in the Criminal Justice System & Beyond." This session discussed the problems encountered by counsel (criminal & civil) in dealing with defendants with mental illness. The next session, "Risk Assessment: Science or Quackery?" focused on the use of risk assessments in a wide range of judicial proceedings—e.g., sentencing determinations, sex offender commitments, psychiatric commitments. The third session "Mental Health Courts: Promise and Peril" focused on the inherent problems with such courts and discussed how the specific practices of certain courts raise

serious civil rights concerns. "Building Mental Health Systems that Work: Vision and Strategy" panelists and participants brainstormed on what an effective and legally defensible public mental health system looks like.

NLADA hopes that the efforts of the joint track will have an impact in the community and encourage the continued education of attorneys representing the mentally ill. This track would not have been possible without design team members Ira A. Burnim and Tammy Seltzer from the Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health and Stan Goldman, director of Mental Health Litigation, Massachusetts Public Defenders.

Vehicles for Families

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qualifications: 1) be employed at the same job for the previous four months; 2) have lived at their current address four months or longer; 3) have minor children living in the home; 4) have no other household vehicle; 5) have a valid Oklahoma driver's license; 6) be insurable and drug-free, and 7) have reasonably good credit without bankruptcy in the past five years.

To learn more about the VFF program, contact me at (405) 631-2368 or visit the Community Action Agency, at 1900 NW 10th Street, Oklahoma City, OK.



Individual Client Member Application

Please provide the information requested below and return your completed application and dues payment to: NLADA, 1140 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036. Questions should be directed to Member Services at (202) 452-0620, ext. 215.

MEMBER DATA

Recruited By: _____

Name _____ Title _____

Company _____

IMPORTANT: Please indicate your affiliation: Civil Defender Both
(This determines which mailings and publications you will receive from NLADA.)

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Work Phone _____

Fax _____ Home Phone _____

Individual Membership Dues Individual Client Member \$15
Voting Classification Individual Client Member

SECTION ENROLLMENT OPTIONS

Individual client members may participate as members of sections without paying section dues. You are especially encouraged to participate in the Client Section. The Client Section dues of \$5 is suggested but not required.

- Client Section - \$5 (suggested dues, not required)
- Farmworker Law Section - \$5 (36115)
- Student Legal Services Section - \$10 (36710)
- Death Penalty Litigation Section - \$10 (36150)
- Advocacy & Support Section - \$10 (36350)
- Technology Section
- Appellate Defender Section - \$10 (36100)
- Defender Trainers Section - \$15 (36110)
- Social Services Section - \$10 (36700)
- Native American Section - \$5 (36200)
- Latino Advocates Section

SUMMARY

- Yes, please enroll me as an Individual Member of NLADA.
- I realize that NLADA's success largely depends upon the generosity of private individuals and institutions. I'm enclosing my contribution for:
- \$5 \$ 10 \$ 20 Other \$ _____

PAYMENT INFORMATION*

Membership Dues \$ 15 _____
 Section Dues Enclosed \$ _____
 Contribution \$ _____
 Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Method of Payment

Check Enclosed Visa MasterCard

 Credit Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

 Signature

* NLADA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Membership Dues and contributions to NLADA are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. If you would like to join a membership section, please see the reverse side of this form. Please clearly indicate which section you wish to join and be sure to include any section fee with your membership fee above.



Return Application with Payment to:

**NLADA
1140 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036-4019**

**Questions? Contact us at: 202-452-0620, ext. 215 • Send e-mail to: membership@nlada.org
FAX 202-872-1031 • www.nlada.org**

(fold, tape and use as a self-mailer)

Place
Postage
Here

**NLADA
1140 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036-4019**

Leadership by Example: *Is Leadership in the Truest Sense of the Word*

By, Divine Pryor, Ph.D.

Communication is the currency of leadership and is the central process and tool for transacting the responsibilities of leadership, because practically every important executive task involves some form of communication. Thus, what you do, is equally as important as how you do it, where you do it and the manner in which those around you respond to the things you do. In essence, effective leadership is an ever conscious role that is mindful of the fact that it requires thoughtful, systematic planning, use of a variety of tools, is high impact and is ALWAYS administered with skillful delivery. So, here are some valuable tips:

- Contrary to popular belief, the role of a leader is to strive to become a "humble servant" and reinforce your humility in the presence of those who follow regularly.
- Encourage cooperation and competition simultaneously, assuring that all goals are set in harmony with everyone involved.
- Include people at all levels in as much planning, decision making and problem solving as possible and if not, at least, provide continuous feedback on major organizational activities.
- Be human, humane, humorous and most importantly humble whenever it is the most difficult time to do so, in order to build

character and maintain an accessibility at all times by visiting people and walking around.

- Listen to people one-on-one, in meetings and most importantly in exit interviews.
- Always conduct yourself with organizational integrity, treating EVERYONE fairly and objectively and maintaining consistency in your stances, i.e., a yes is a yes and a no is a no.
- Support decisions and actions that you believe are in the best interest of the organization, even if they don't rate high on the popularity list (Smile).
- Criticize privately and acknowledge positive contributions publicly.
- Help others develop confidence in their decision-making ability by lending your expertise and allowing them to make the final decision and support them if a decision they makes backfires by providing assistance in damage control.
- In other words, create a nonhostile, supportive environment that encourages a respectful exchange of ideas, debate on issues and constructive criticism and allow people to make mistakes.
- Encourage the sharing of information between people and departments and help them to view the sharing of information as an opportunity, not a burden.
- Always hold meetings on multiple levels to assure that everyone is receiving

instructions as they are directed without losing content.

- Be ever vigilant in protecting the interests of those who are not present or who do not have a formal voice in decisions that affect them.
- Remember, preserving your organization through succession planning is built on a foundation of trust which is earned by consistently displaying trustworthy patterns of behavior.

Divine Pryor is currently the Executive Director of the Association for Drug Abuse Prevention and Treatment, Inc., intimately known as ADAPT. He is a social justice advocate who came to his current position with a long history of community activism, professional and academic achievements and an undying commitment to the endless struggle for quality and excellence in the provision of services. Over the past few years, he has been extremely active working on harm reduction prevention strategies. His present work as an advisor on the development of the national organizing structure for the NuLeadership Policy Group represents the climax of his efforts as an activist in the area of policy reform in the criminal justice arena. His extensive involvement in public policy is a reflection of the evolution of his professional and scholarly development and is expressed by the many initiatives that he is currently engaged in on the local, national and international level.

CLIENT SECTION

NLADA Client Section Holds Third Meeting

The third annual meeting of the NLADA Client Section was held on November 15, 2003 at the Seattle Westin Hotel. Approximately fifty (50) persons attended the very productive meeting. Rosita Stanley, Chair of the NLADA Client Policy Group and Vice-Chair of the NLADA Board of Directors welcomed the group and gave an update on the issues raised at the last meeting. This year the Mary

Ellen Hamilton award was to have been presented to a client member. Unfortunately, no client name was submitted and thus, the award was not given this year. As a result, the Section will contact the NLADA board of directors to request that the award be given this year and on an annual basis. I am delighted to report that Peggy Santos will now serve as the Issues Committee chairperson. David Pearson

showcased his film "Equal access and the Law." He is also very eager to present a technology workshop at next year's Annual Conference. We are also very excited about the upcoming client membership drive and encourage all to participate and recruit new members. Finally, we want to thank Cynthia Works, the NLADA staff person for all the technical assistance provided to the Section in Seattle.

ABOUT THE CLIENT UPDATE

NLADA and the National Organization of Client Advocates (NOCA) jointly publish the Client Update newsletter for their members three times a year: Winter, Summer and Fall. If you have articles that you would like included, please send them to: Cynthia Works, NLADA, 1140 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036.

NLADA Client Section Statement of Purpose

The purpose of the NLADA Client Section is to promote the mission of NLADA by providing a forum for clients of legal aid and public defense programs to voice their interests and concerns as members of NLADA, as program board members, as customers of legal aid and as advocates for themselves.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Anger is often a big signpost that points us toward areas in our lives where we feel shortchanged.

By Lucille Logan

RECIPES



BREAD PUDDING WITH JACK DANIELS SAUCE

Submitted by Cynthia Works

PUDDING

3 (1 lb.) loaves bread of your choice	4 c Milk
8 Eggs	1/2 c Water
1 can (12-oz.) evaporated milk	3/4 c Butter
2 c Sugar	2 tbs. Vanilla
1 1/2 tsp. Cinnamon	
1 c Butter (cut into pieces)	

Cube bread. Set aside in a large mixing bowl. Combine all ingredients except 1-cup butter. Mix well and pour over bread. Soak bread in milk mixture for 15 minutes. Pour into a 13x9-inch buttered pan. Top bread mixture with cut up butter. Bake at 325 degrees for 60 to 90 minutes, or until bread pudding mixture has risen 1-inch. Serve warm sauce over bread pudding.

JACK DANIELS SAUCE

1/2 c Sugar	1/2 c Butter
1/2 c Water	2 oz Jack Daniel's (Black Label)

Mix sugar and water until dissolved. Add butter and simmer until melted. Cook over high heat for 2 minutes. Add Jack Daniels, and simmer for 3 to 5 minutes.



National Legal Aid & Defender Association

1140 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20036-4019

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