

# CLIENT UPDATE

F A L L 2 0 0 4

## Divine Pryor to Keynote Client Training Track at NLADA Annual Conference

By Laura Johnston

With a name like Divine, a life of success, and godlike strides would seem predestined. That superhuman calling coming behind the bars of New York State prison system would seem unconventional; however, the situation brought motivation and a divine purpose to Pryor. A formerly incarcerated man, himself, now stands a tall, polished, well-dressed, man with two college degrees—both which he earned while in prison under former jail time education privileges (most education benefits are no longer available in most state prison systems). He goes to work every day in the Brooklyn borough of the Big Apple. He carries himself with the voice of confidence that only an educated man, a distinguished man, a changed man who turned his life around can.

Like many other men in high-powered New York, Divine is a co-founder and vice president of a progressive crusade. He heads the New Leadership Policy Group, that promotes fellowship, scholarship, research, public policy, and community development among and between formerly incarcerated professionals, community activists. The group concentrates on mainly members and allies who are all interested in changing the way in which poor people and the

formerly incarcerated are listened to and perceived. He has a distinction unlike many of his director and executive counterparts. He's a formerly incarcerated person, who has succeeded; but his success is rooted in making sure others in his past life do the same.

"...The policies that are in place practically assure your return back to prison," says Pryor.

At the same time, he's a minority in the statistics of positively reformed and successful in the formerly incarcerated demographic. But his passion is unending because he knows the struggle of so many in and out of the system. This native New Yorker is a man who's fought for everything he's accomplished, because he hasn't always enjoyed such freedoms.

Pryor's main mission is to educate people about the extent of our prison system and its long term consequences. He wants to reach out to the greater population to reform their views of the formerly incarcerated, but also to work with the prison, judicial and housing, employment and healthcare markets to ease the transition for these people.

"There are a lot of things that we do to perpetuate and support this very unjust system... We refer to each other as 'ex-cons' and 'ex-prisoners' and 'felons'... when you use terminology that continues to perpetuate negative images of yourself and others like you, then you give legitimacy to injustice because when you begin to promote the whole idea that these ex-cons and ex-felons and all of these ex-prisoners are violent predators and so forth and so on as they've been traditionally depicted, then you justify their mistreatment," said Pryor.

It's a system that most of us take for granted and claim is unjust when we really don't understand the true meaning of injustice. Pryor has built a life on helping people who are in the same shoes he wore years ago; lobbying the systems to reform and rehabilitate; advocating re-entry programs; educating society on just treatment of the formerly incarcerated.

He says, we need to re-educate the community and it needs to realize that all of their protests against providing housing, against providing employment, against providing education, "against providing all of those things that are necessary for successful re-entry, is not contributing to the solution; it's actually contributing to the problem."

Instead Pryor and his New Leadership Policy Group intends to help the community see the advantages in embracing re-entry. "It's to the advantage of the community to make sure you got a job, to make sure you got a decent place to lie, to make sure you got access to healthcare, to make sure you got access to education because it will make it less likely that you'll commit crime, it'll make more likely that you successfully integrate... become productive, law abiding... that you can begin to be engaged in community development, rather than community destruction"

"The system has gone from treatment and rehabilitation to punishment and retribution... and as a result of this shift, there has been a somewhat legitimacy to the mass incarceration of particular people," said Pryor.

Pryor's main quest is to help all those formerly incarcerated, but also to reform society by "rehumanizing" the face of form-

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## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### 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

## Message from NLADA Client Policy Group Chair Rosita Stanley

Greetings! I hope each of you had an enjoyable summer.

In June, in Salt Lake City, Utah, NLADA presented their first ever leadership training for civil legal aid advocates: Civil Impact Leadership 2004. We attended as client community representatives, but were treated as if we were full-fledged participants in the leadership movement. For this, I thank all the employees at NLADA who helped make this training possible. Be sure to read the articles written by Lucille Logan and Harry Johnson recapping the training in this edition of the Client Update. As a part of the client-training track, we will incorporate leadership training for clients.

In July, I attended the NLADA Substantive Law Conference in Los Angeles, CA. I co-presented a leadership training session with Chuck Wynder, Jr. the senior counsel for justice leadership at NLADA. Chuck is the attorney leading the civil leadership movement and was responsible for pulling the Civil Impact Leadership 2004 Conference together. We are so fortunate to have a young, dynamic leader in Chuck. Thank you Chuck for doing what you do so well.

The Annual Conference this year will be held in Washington, DC. We are very excited that Harvard Law Professor Charles

J. Ogletree, Jr. will provide the keynote address. The conference theme this year is entitled: Breaking Barriers to Equality & Justice: Commemorating the Spirit of Brown. This is the 50th anniversary of the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision.

Additionally, Divine Pryor will return to deliver the keynote address for the client track. From the front-page article, you can see that as you can see from the description of the client-training track, we will design our programming around this theme. Please contact your program director and solicit their support for your attendance at this year's conference now! You won't want to miss what promises to be a fabulous conference.

Our membership recruitment contest is wrapping up. Please remember to RENEW your membership and RECRUIT new client members. Also, if you do not receive your client mailings in a timely manner, please contact the NLADA membership division at: [membership@nlada.org](mailto:membership@nlada.org) or call Jane at (202) 452-0620. We want to make sure that we have the correct addresses so that you can receive information in a timely manner.

I look forward to seeing you in December in DC!

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

Recruit the most members by November 1 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](mailto:membership@nlada.org).

**Become a Client Member Today!**

### WHO WILL SPEAK FOR THE UNDERREPRESENTED By Rosita Stanley, Chair, NLADA Client Policy Group

The U.S. Supreme Court decision *Gideon* promises a lawyer to all persons facing imprisonment in criminal cases. Often in our communities there are frequent cries of injustice because some clients who cannot afford to pay for an attorney, don't meet until the date of trial in the hallway of the courthouse. I tell you as an advocate of justice in my community, that questions are often asked about the quality of representation provided. Many times on appeal, we've learned that if the

attorney shows up in court then you have been afforded your legal right to representation. My question is what happens to those who never see or speak to an attorney and go to court without any representation at all? Who will be the voice for these persons and ensure *Gideon's* promise is really carried out? It is illegal and unjust to subject anyone to the possibility of incarceration without a qualified lawyer. NLADA promises it will continue to work to fulfill the promise of *Gideon*.

## LEADERSHIP CORNER

### Message from NOCA President Lucille Logan

**G**reetings NOCA members! We are well on our way to becoming a vital organization. To enhance the leadership role in that process, Harry Johnson, Rosita Stanley, and I recently attended the NLADA *Civil Impact Leadership 2004: Unleashing Our Power*, in Snowbird, Utah. This excellent training focused on empowering leaders to identify and embrace effective leadership practices to ensure leaders will be able to better inspire, enlist, organize and mobilize others.

Charles Wydner, the senior attorney for justice leadership at NLADA, works to expand the organization's capacity to provide training, technical assistance and information. Those who know me know that I am a pretty laid-back person; I am more of a listener than a participant and note-taker. However, by the time I left this training, I was very motivated to meet with my committees and NOCA members.

The trainings provided by Badi Foster and Doug Krug had significant impressions on me and gave me valuable insight. Dr. Foster spoke on power and how to use it in a positive way. He emphasized asking for help, not trying to do everything alone, and about holding people accountable for commitment. He also talked about being excited about what you do; if you don't believe in your own work, how can you ask

others to be excited about a project? Dr. Foster outline the difference between power, influence, and authority and described the two faces of power: overt (open) and covert (secret). I gained more knowledge and skills working with both small and large groups. I also came away with a better understanding of diversity. Like almost everyone else, I saw diversity as being race-related, but it simply means difference. That takes in more than race and can include sex, accent, talent, age, personality, etc.

Doug Krug, founder of Enlightened Leadership International and author of the best-selling book, *Enlightened Leadership: Getting to the Heart of Change*, gave an excellent workshop. He impressed me with the fact that he knows what he is best at and that he did not let not having a college degree stop him. (Does that remind you of someone?) Overall, the training focused on change. There are always going to be changes; the world is changing every day. As a leader, you have to be open to change for the betterment of the organization.

There were many trainers, but these had the most impact on me. We also heard testimonies of people who had succeeded in spite of others. They kept their eyes on their goals and persisted with purpose.

I am thankful to Charles Wydner, Bonnie Allen, Camille Holmes, Jo-Ann Wallace, and the NLADA staff

### 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

for inviting clients and advocates to participate in their management training.

Clients and client advocates have a friend at NLADA who isn't given enough credit for all she does: Cynthia Works. During Cynthia's time with NLADA she has demonstrated that we can call on her and that she really cares how we feel. I have been involved in the legal service community for a number of years and I have never been so completely comfortable calling NLADA asking for help. Cynthia always comes through. Bless you Cynthia! The clients are lucky to have you. Keep up the good work.

# 2004 NLADA Annual Conference

## BREAKING BARRIERS TO EQUALITY AND JUSTICE: COMMEMORATING THE SPIRIT OF BROWN

December 1 - 4 — Washington, DC

On May 17, 1954, the landmark decision of *Brown v. The Board of Education* overturned the doctrine of "separate but equal" established in *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1857. The decision in *Brown* marked the beginning of a journey toward the desegregation of public schools, public accommodations, public life and led to an expansion of civil rights benefiting every American and, indeed, America as a nation. December 1, 2004 civil legal aid, indigent defense professionals, civil rights activist, clients and other equal justice advocates will gather at NLADA's Annual Conference committed to *Breaking Barriers to Equality & Justice: Commemorating the Spirit of Brown*.

The spirit of *Brown* transcends the victory ending de jure segregation in public education for African-Americans. It also affirms the value of all people, whether of African, Asian, European, indigenous, or Latino descent. Education was, and is, the key to empowerment, economic security, civic participation and democracy. The spirit of *Brown* reminds all of us in the civil, criminal and client communities to act tenaciously to ensure that the doors of justice and the pathways to equality remain open to everyone.

NLADA's Annual Conference offers advocates the latest knowledge and professional skills to enable them to creatively and effectively meet the legal needs of low-income people. The conference also provides equal justice advocates with opportunities to meet and exchange ideas with colleagues from across the country and to fulfill continuing legal education requirements.

### Client Track

#### "Developing Dynamic Client & Community Advocates for The Next 50 Years"

The NLADA Client Policy Group and the design committee for their training track are preparing a series of sessions designed to meet the needs the hundreds of conference participants who serve as client board members of civil legal aid or defender programs, or who are advocates in their local communities. The sessions are designed to build upon the promise of *Brown*. The following are proposed topics:

- Empowering Residents in Their Own Communities
- Access to Empowerment: Computers & Technology
- Developing Your Leadership Style: Reflections of *Brown*
- Making a Contribution to Excellence in Organizational Development

### Client Events

Client Reception . . . . .December 2 - 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Client Section Meeting . . . . .December 3 - 6:00 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

NOCA Meeting . . . . .December 4, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 noon

**Leave Empowered to Make a Difference in America!**

*[www.nlada.org/Training](http://www.nlada.org/Training)*

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# 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) nonprofit 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 • E-mail [membership@nlada.org](mailto:membership@nlada.org)  
FAX (202)872-1031 • [www.nlada.org](http://www.nlada.org)**

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

Place  
Postage  
Here

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

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## Keynote Training Track

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erly incarcerated folks. It's in the language, it's in societal stereotypes, and it's in societal laws and mistreatments that he says society works against their acceptance and reform.

For many, once they are released from prison, a sad and dangerous story unfolds where they realize so much is against them. "They can't get an education...can't get housing...can't get employment...can't get benefits...and entitlements...can't get healthcare...may as well turn around and go back into prison," says Pryor.

With limitations on healthcare, education, and so many of society's benefits restricted, and the stigma of labeling people ex-cons, society encourages an ill cycle leading them back to prison. Pryor notes research that finds "the more education you have, the less likely you are to commit a crime or recommit a crime." Somehow it's the people reaping the benefits of education, of money and power that cannot see things from the top down. "You've got to understand that people with wealth and power don't spend their nights and days thinking about how to give us their wealth and power. But people who don't have wealth and power spend all of their days thinking about how to get it."

Pryor is working to bridge these gaps and reach out to the most unlikely allies. He wants to end the cycle putting the formerly incarcerated back in jails, but also to reform society's acceptance and nurturing the transition to a healthy lifestyle once out of prison.

"The cycle breeds itself even with the most minor offenses ballooning into another stay in the prison system. Many of them are being stopped for minor traffic violations, many of them have little babies out there, but what is really happening to them is that they get put in jail because they owe child support. When they do get out of jail, they can't pay the tickets, they're back in jail again and it goes on"

So Pryor has made a quest to help prisoners still serving jail time. He's working to get sponsorship for New Leadership Policy Group chapters around the country. He's working to raise awareness to these issues by speaking out against them, and by soliciting help from the community,

## CLIENT NEWS

### Client Section News

By Harry Johnson

The Client Policy Group met on June 18 in Washington, D.C., to plan for the Client Policy Group, the Client Section, and the NOCA meetings during the upcoming NLADA Annual Conference on December 1-4, in Washington, D.C.

The Client Section will meet on Friday, December 3, at 5:00 pm. The Issue Committee Chairperson Peggy Santos will receive all issues and present them to the membership at our section meeting.

We would like to remind our members to renew their NLADA Individual Membership. We ask them to encourage their programs to enroll all client board members on their legal service program. The dues are \$15.00 per year for client members.

The Civil Impact Leadership Conference 2004: Unleashing Our Power was held in Snowbird, Utah on June 3-5, 2004. Two other NLADA client members, Rosita Stanley and Lucille Logan, attended the conference with me. Ovita Thornton, Georgia Client Council director, and Terrence Dicks, Georgia Client Council president also attended.

I left the conference with many "take-aways" to make use of. The two and a half days were filled with expressions of unity within the legal services community. Directors, attorneys, and the client advocates worked on teams as equal partners. This was one time I felt the entire legal service community was connected. I thank Chuck Wynder for the conference faculty, and the teaching styles they used. After the welcome, introductions, "Why Leadership" seminar, and conference overview, we established the ground rules for the conference.

especially from the formerly incarcerated to open chapters of the New Leadership Policy Group around the country.

He wants to see more people turn their lives into success stories like his. With a man like Pryor, a name like Divine, a story like his, and a voice that's inspiring and bringing important issues to light, he is on

The self-leadership practices inventory was designed to identify one's own behavior, whether it was inspiring a shared vision, challenging the process, enabling others to act, modeling the way, or encouraging the heart. We learned about the sources of power: primary and secondary; and the differences as power: managing diversity and change management. Badi Foster, a facilitator and speaker at the conference said, "The imperative of generating alliances and partnerships quickly expand the influence of legal aid and legal services organizations if such partners are increasingly diverse and place higher value on effective diversity management; then they are most likely to want to work with others who share their perspectives."

One very interesting section was "Leading Change without Resistance: Getting More Done Quicker, Better and With Less Stress" led by Doug Krug. He told directors there's always a solution and a better way. "We have a choice of focusing our attention and energy on all the reasons we cannot achieve the results we want or on how to create the results we want to accomplish. Whether people become part of the problem or part of the solution relates directly to the way we ask questions of others and ourselves," said Krug.

In small groups, participants applied the "markers" tool. Our group worked on identifying and training new leaders as advocates in the client community. We plan to identify and train two new client leaders in each of the nine regions as per the National Organization of Client Advocates of Regions. We used markers to draw our plan of action. Stanley, Logan and myself all worked together in this small group. We were presented certificates at the closing plenary and the fellowship ended on a high note.

his way to reforming the system. He wants everyone to see this, the formerly incarcerated, the agencies working against them, and those who are unaware of the situation. "...You can turn stumbling blocks into building blocks into stepping stones that no matter how bad a situation gets, there's always hope," says Pryor.

## 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: NLADA Client Update, 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

Happiness that is store bought won't cut it. Small Acts that make other people's lives better will expand your ability to receive goodies from others and from the world.

## RECIPES



## CHERRY CHICKEN SALAD

4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts  
 1 can (16 oz) pitted tart cherries, drain reserve juice and divide to reserve 1/3 cup cherries for garnish  
 3 cups cooked wild rice  
 1 cup chopped apple  
 1/2 cup chopped celery  
 3/4 cup chopped walnuts

### DRESSING

1/2 cup cherry juice  
 1/2 cup light oil  
 1/8 tsp garlic powder  
 1/8 tsp pepper  
 1/8 tsp basil  
 1/8 tsp oregano  
 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese  
 3 Tbsp sugar

Drain cherries reserving 1/2 cup of juice for dressing. Add water to remaining juice to make 1 1/2 cups. Put into a large sauce pan with the chicken & cook about 15 minutes or until chicken is done. Remove the chicken and dice into small pieces. Combine with all chicken ingredients in a large bowl, mixing well, cover & chill at least one hour. To prepare dressing combine all ingredients into a bowl with a lid (or jar), shake well to mix, chill. To serve place salad on plates, add reserved cherries (garnish), add dressing to taste. **SERVES: six**



**National Legal Aid & Defender Association**

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

T: (202) 452-0620 • F: (202) 872-1031 • Web site: [www.nlada.org](http://www.nlada.org)