

Minnesota Supreme Court Legal Services Planning Committee Emerging Leaders Forum

Background: Minnesota has a strong history of civil legal services programs working collaboratively. Our legal services and pro bono programs have also enjoyed very solid leadership, including some directors who have served for more than 30 years. The Planning Committee has created the Emerging Leaders Forum to create opportunities for newer attorneys to build relationships so that the collaborative spirit can continue and to build leadership skills that will be needed as the current generation of leaders retires.

Project Description: The goals of the Emerging Leaders Forum are to 1) build peer relationships among attorneys passionate about civil legal services, 2) provide substantive training on leadership development and topics specific to the legal services delivery system in Minnesota, and 3) give participants opportunities to work on projects to improve access to justice in our state.

Meetings will include opportunities for members to know themselves better, learn about how people gain authority and credibility within a group, learn how to work collaboratively across independent organizations, and gain team building skills. There will also be CLE eligible topics on substantive areas chosen by the group (e.g., immigration, family, benefits, etc.) and training on working with legal services clients (e.g., mental health issues, limited English proficiency, etc.).

Participants will also be divided into four groups to work on projects to improve access to justice. Projects will include the creation and marketing of a statewide Access to Justice facebook page in collaboration with the bar association and the creation of a YouTube video promoting pro bono for new lawyers, as well as other projects to be initiated by the group.

The first meeting will be in April 2010. At the end of the 18 month commitment, the participants should feel confident in their leadership skills, have a strong understanding of legal services delivery, policy and funding in Minnesota, and have a concrete work product to show for their efforts.

Application Process: Any Minnesota attorney who graduated from law school within the past 15 years was eligible to apply. The Planning Committee received 35 very strong applications for 20 openings. The applicants were diverse in years of experience, type of practice (legal services, small and large law firms, and corporate counsel) and geographic representation throughout the state, in addition to racial and gender diversity. Assuming this first round is successful, there will be another Emerging Leaders class in 2012 and the applicants who were not accepted in the first round can participate at that time.

Budget: \$2500

- \$1000 - Consultant is providing reduced rate to deliver a Meyers Briggs assessment and spend two sessions working with participants on analyzing the results. Other presentations are by volunteers.
- \$1000 – Mileage reimbursement for the five participants who work outside the Twin Cities metro area
- \$500 – food and beverages for four meetings; additional meetings hosted (including food and parking) by metro law firms and law schools to save on costs

Minnesota Supreme Court Legal Services Planning Committee

Emerging Leaders Forum Application Form Instructions

The Legal Services Planning Committee (LSPC) is a Supreme Court committee tasked with reviewing available statewide data on the legal services delivery system, providing public education on the need for adequate funding of legal services, and discussing innovative, coordinated, and client-focused solutions to the problem of unmet civil legal needs. The Emerging Leaders Forum is a new project of the LSPC. The goals of the Emerging Leaders Forum are to:

- ❖ Identify lawyers with a passion for ensuring access to justice for the poor and disadvantaged and who have an interest in policy making and legal services planning;
- ❖ Provide those lawyers with substantive training in leadership skills, national standards for pro bono and civil legal aid, and the Minnesota civil legal services delivery system;
- ❖ Build relationships among peers to continue the Minnesota model of collaboration between stakeholders in to the future.

Appointment to the group requires a minimum one year commitment, with the ability to serve a three-year term. The group will initially meet every other month, and will change to quarterly meetings as needed. The size of the group will be limited to 30 participants.

Eligibility:

Applicants must be lawyers practicing in Minnesota who graduated from law school within the last 15 years.

How to Apply:

Please complete the attached application form and email as an attachment, along with your resume, to bridget.gernander@courts.state.mn.us.

Deadline:

Emails must be received by March 5, 2010.

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Emerging Leaders Forum Application Form

Applicant Name:

Applicant Email Address:

1. Briefly describe your pro bono or legal services experience, including clinical, law school or as a practicing attorney.
2. What aspects of civil legal service delivery would you like to know more about? This could include different delivery models (pro bono, judicare, etc.) or different substantive areas of law.
3. What would you expect to get out of your experience with the Emerging Leaders Forum in order to consider it a success?
4. Please provide the name and email of one person who can serve as a reference.

Thank you for your interest in the Emerging Leaders Forum. Please email this completed Application Form and a resume to bridget.gernander@courts.state.mn.us by March 5, 2010.