

MINNESOTA Justice Foundation

MJF's Curriculum Efforts

The Project

Legal Scholarship for Equal Justice (LSEJ) is a committee formed to encourage scholarly work by Minnesota law professors and students that helps disadvantaged people and contributes to equal justice for all. Its members include deans and faculty from the four law schools, a Supreme Court justice, the state public defender, the director of the Minnesota Legal Services Coalition, the executive director of Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance, representatives of the state bar association, directors of other legal service organizations, and the Minnesota Justice Foundation.

LSEJ is working to encourage a wide variety of legal scholarship that has practical results for people with low incomes – including law review articles and notes, independent research projects, term papers, amicus briefs and draft legislation. The goal is to make academic work more fruitful by facilitating collaboration and information sharing between the law schools and practitioners. As part of its work, LSEJ maintains a list of research topics of vital importance to disadvantaged people for use at the four law schools.

Equal Justice – Applied Research Course

One of LSEJ's projects is a class co-sponsored by the four Minnesota law schools. This spring, Professor Carol Chomsky is leading a seminar of students from the four schools in the class on applied legal research addressing issues with major impact on people with low incomes. The students will choose their research topics from the list compiled from practitioners by LSEJ. Students will be paired with practitioners (generally the person who submits the topic). The practitioner will help the student to understand the issue and its real world implications. If you are not interested in working with students in this way, you may wish to work with LSEJ to find another practitioner to serve as the contact person for the issue.

In fall 2003, Professor Eric Janus taught the first Equal Justice-Applied Research course. Students in the class wrote seminar papers on the following equal justice topics: Proposed Legislation to Recognize Traditional Hmong Marriage; Standing of Advocacy Organizations in Federally Assisted Affordable Housing Preservation Litigation; Rights of Inmates to Mental Health Treatment; Preemption Issues in "Strict Liability" Public Housing Evictions; The Effect of Traffic Fines on Poverty; and Learning More About Evictions. The completed works are available at www.lsej.org.

Other Uses of the LSEJ Research Topic List

In addition to its use in the annual seminar, the LSEJ Research Topics are posted on our web site at www.lsej.org and are made available to all faculty and students at the four schools. LSEJ will encourage faculty and students to consult the list in thinking about topics for law review articles, notes, term papers, independent studies, and any other legal research and writing they are undertaking. In its beginning years, LSEJ anticipates more student involvement than faculty: there are many more students than faculty, and the students' research agendas are not as predetermined. The hope, however, is to gradually influence faculty toward these and related topics. For both faculty and students, an issue will be particularly attractive if a practitioner will be available for some level of collaboration. LSEJ will screen the issues for appropriateness and may work with the person submitting the issue to edit it.

**MINNESOTA Justice Foundation
Law School Public Service Program
Law Student Volunteers 2001-2002**

| Legal Service Provider | Subject Area | Tasks Performed | Location | Students | Clients | Hrs |
|--|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| MN Acorn | Consumer | Legal Intern | St. Paul | 3 | 36 | 79.75 |
| 1000 Friends of Minnesota | Housing | Research and analysis | St. Paul | 5 | NA | 12 |
| AccountAbility MN | Tax | Assist with forms | | 42 | 276 | 606 |
| All Parks Alliance for Change | Manufactured home parks | Hotline referral | St. Paul | 2 | 43 | 54 |
| Asian Women United of Minnesota | Domestic abuse, family | Compile resource library | St. Paul | 3 | 25 | 64 |
| Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project | Domestic violence | Legal research, writing, client interviewing | St. Paul | 3 | 1 | 51 |
| Bolder Options | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | St. Paul | 1 | 17 | 5 |
| Catholic Charities Law Center | Family | Research | St. Paul | 3 | 2 | 69.5 |
| Center for Education Law | Education, juvenile | Assist office | St. Paul | 1 | 5 | 18 |
| Center School | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | Minneapolis | 2 | 10 | 20 |
| Central Minnesota Legal Services - Minneapolis | Family, custody | Client Intake, research | Minneapolis | 6 | 36 | 51 |
| Centro Legal, Inc. | Immigration & Family | Intake, interviewing, research, writing, observation, investigation | St. Paul | 5 | 182 | 227 |
| Children's Law Center | Various | Legal research, writing | Metro | 5 | N/A | 40 |
| Cornerstone | Various | Research | Bloomington | 1 | 5 | 20 |
| Council on Crime and Justice | Criminal, civil | Answer crisis hotline | Minneapolis | 14 | 165 | 641 |
| Disability Law Center | Disability related, mental health | Client intake, interviewing, research | Minneapolis | 10 | 65 | 150 |
| Dispute Resolution Center | Housing | Court mediation | St. Paul | 13 | 188 | 281 |
| Domestic Abuse Service Center | Criminal, family | Advocate | Minneapolis | 1 | 20 | 85 |
| Duluth Alternative Learning Center | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | Duluth | 5 | 121 | 96 |

| Legal Service Provider | Subject Area | Tasks Performed | Location | Students | Clients | Hrs |
|--|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| Faegre & Benson - High School Clinic | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | Minneapolis | 6 | 86 | 162 |
| Family Violence Network | Domestic abuse, family, women's issues | Interviews, gathering evidence, research | Lake Elmo | 3 | 25 | 111 |
| Farmer's Legal Action Group | Bankruptcy, credit, farm | Assist attorneys with clients | St. Paul | 1 | N/A | N/A |
| Harriet Tubman Center - Legal Program | Domestic abuse, family, women's issues | Client interviewing, gathering evidence, research | Minneapolis | 13 | 69 | 231 |
| Hennepin County Child Protection | Juvenile, family | Fact investigation, research, writing | Minneapolis | 1 | N/A | 90 |
| Hennepin County Children & Family Services | Juvenile, family | Research, client intake | Minneapolis | 2 | 25 | 57 |
| Hennepin County District Court | Family | Evaluation of clinic, educational materials | Minneapolis | 7 | 34 | 85 |
| Hennepin County Guardian ad Litem Program | Juvenile, family | Advocacy | Minneapolis | 5 | 17 | 162 |
| HOMELine | Housing | Answering hotline | St. Louis Park | 64 | 1094 | 934 |
| Housing Discrimination Law Project | Civil, human rights | Research | Minneapolis | 5 | 58 | 167 |
| Hubert H. Humphrey Job Corps Center | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | Minneapolis | 6 | 99 | 152 |
| Immigrant Law Center | Immigration | Interview, intake, research, writing | St. Paul | 26 | 265 | 513 |
| Indian Child Welfare Law Center | Family, juvenile | Intake, interview, investigate, research | Minneapolis | 1 | 3 | 28 |
| Internal Revenue Service-VITA | Tax | Assist with tax forms | St. Paul | 32 | 81 | 199 |
| Jewish Community Relations Council | Civil/human rights, education | Research | Minneapolis | 1 | 12 | 36 |
| Judicare of Anoka County | Bankruptcy, credit, family, housing | Client intake, research, courtroom observation | Blaine | 3 | 43 | 99 |
| LEAP - Legislative Efforts for Animal Protection | Tax, nonprofit, animal | Research nonprofit tax | Edina | 4 | N/A | 44 |
| Legal Aid Service of NE MN - Duluth | Benefits | Research, writing | Duluth | 2 | -- | 4 |

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|--|-------------------------|---|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| Legal Aid Service of NE MN-Grand Rapids | Administrative, housing | Research, writing | Grand Rapids | 21 | 2 | 6 |
| Legal Aid Service of NE MN - Virginia | Administrative, housing | Research, writing | Virginia | 1 | N/A | 15 |
| Legal Assistance of Olmsted County | Housing | Answer hotline | Rochester | 2 | 15 | 23 |
| Legal Assistance of Washington County | Family | Intake, interviewing, courtroom observation, fact investigation | Stillwater | 2 | 94 | 91 |
| Legal Assistance to Minnesota Prisoners | Criminal | Research | Minneapolis | 6 | 40 | 565 |
| Life's Missing Link | Juvenile, ADR, criminal | Restorative justice circles | Minneapolis | 1 | 121 | 14 |
| Lindquist & Venum - High School Clinic | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | Minneapolis | 1 | 300 | 20 |
| Management Assistance Program for Nonprofits | Nonprofits, housing | Legal research and writing, client intake | St. Paul | 1 | 1 | 16.75 |
| Menlo Park Alternative | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | Minneapolis | 2 | 21 | 7 |

Mid-Minnesota Legal Assistance:

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|-------------|----|-----|-------|
| Legal Aid Society of Minneapolis | Family, real estate, seniors, health, housing | Intake, interview, research, representation, Health Care Directives | Minneapolis | 26 | 206 | 701.5 |
| Legal Aid-Northside | Various | Courtroom observation and data collection; intake; law-related edu. | Minneapolis | 4 | 28 | 32 |
| Legal Aid-Southside | Housing, family, health, juvenile, mental health, criminal, CHiPs | Intake, research and writing; education, interviewing, research | Minneapolis | 5 | 41 | 28 |
| MN Advocates for Human Rights | Asylum, refugee | Research, intake, drafting letters | Minneapolis | 9 | 48 | 195 |
| MN Age and Opportunity | Health law, seniors, wills & trusts | Legal forms, research, intake, interviewing | Minneapolis | 1 | 57 | 68 |
| MN Aids Projects | Employment, family, housing | Fact investigation, research, writing | Minneapolis | 17 | 257 | 619.2 |
| MN Attorney Generals Office | Various | Research and writing | St. Paul | 35 | 16 | 179 |
| MN Center for Environmental Advocacy | Environment | Courtroom observation, advocacy, research | St. Paul | 1 | 61 | 42 |
| MN Civil Liberties Union | Civil, human rights | Client intake, fact investigation, | St. Paul | 8 | N/A | 71 |

| Legal Service Provider | Subject Area | Tasks Performed | Location | Students | Clients | Hrs |
|---|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| | | interviews | | | | |
| MN Coalition for Battered Women | Domestic , family | Client intake | St. Paul | 3 | 120 | 75 |
| MN Disability Law Center | Disability related, education, mental health | Research, client intake and interviewing | Minneapolis | 7 | 105 | 58 |
| MN Environmental Fund | Environmental | Research | St. Paul | 1 | 1 | 28 |
| MN Legal Services Coalition | Consumer, family, housing | Law-related education, research, writing | St. Paul | 3 | N/A | 48 |
| MN Public Interest Research Group | Environmental, Housing, Consumer | research, writing, legislative advocacy | Minneapolis | 2 | N/A | 50 |
| MN State Bar Association | Consumer, Bankruptcy | Research, forms, education | St. Paul | 5 | 4 | 23 |
| Neighborhood Justice Center | Criminal, juvenile | Courtroom observation, fact investigation, intake | St. Paul | 20 | 98 | 228 |
| Ombudsperson for Asian Pacific Families | Domestic violence, family, juvenile | File review | St. Paul | 1 | 1 | 12 |
| OutFront Minnesota | Civil rights, GLBT | Client intake and interviewing, research | Minneapolis | 3 | 34 | 72 |
| PRIDE | Criminal, women's issues | Legal research and writing | Minneapolis | 5 | -- | -- |
| Project 504 | Housing | Research, community education | Minneapolis | 5 | N/A | 12 |
| Pro Bono Attorneys | Civil rights, criminal | Legal research and writing, forms | Depends | 7 | 5 | 130 |
| Public Defender - Second District (St. Paul) | Criminal | Intake, interviewing, courtroom representation | St. Paul | 7 | 174 | 220 |
| Public Defender - Tenth District (Anoka) | Criminal, juvenile | Client representation | Anoka | 6 | 302 | 153 |
| PYC | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | Minneapolis | 5 | 40 | 192.5 |
| Ramsey County Guardian ad Litem Juvenile Svc. Ctr | Family, domestic violence, juvenile | Client intake, interviews, fact investigation, forms | St. Paul | 12 | 51 | 492.5 |
| Somali Community of MN | Immigration, family, criminal, housing | Client intake, interviews, fact investigation | Minneapolis | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| South St. Paul Jr. High | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | St. Paul | 5 | 199 | 174 |
| St. Paul Tenants Union | Housing, consumer | Intake, interviewing, law-related education | St. Paul | 9 | 228 | 97.5 |

| Legal Service Provider | Subject Area | Tasks Performed | Location | Students | Clients | Hrs |
|---|--|--|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------|
| Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services: | | | | | | |
| Immigration & Citizenship | Immigration | Intake, interviews, legal forms | St. Paul | 2 | 13 | 80 |
| Mankato | Family, domestic violence, housing | Intake and interviewing, courtroom observation | Mankato | 1 | 3 | 36 |
| Prior Lake | Consumer, family, housing | Intake and follow-up | Prior Lake | 2 | 4 | 10 |
| St. Paul | Civil rights, health, seniors, consumer, employment, family, housing | Intake, interviewing, follow-up, research, investigation, Health Care Directives | St. Paul | 24 | 226 | 450 |
| The Center for Victims of Torture | Civil/human rights | Fact investigation, research and writing | Minneapolis | 6 | N/A | 107 |
| The City Inc. | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | Minneapolis | 6 | 69 | 118 |
| Volunteer Lawyers Network | Family | Intake, interviews, court observation, research | Minneapolis | 5 | 35 | 73 |
| WATCH | Criminal, domestic, juvenile | Courtroom observation | Minneapolis | 24 | 122 | 378 |
| Wave South | Various | Teach fundamental legal rights, responsibilities and resources | Richfield | 5 | 281 | 190 |
| Western Minnesota Legal Services | Immigration | Various | Willmar | 7 | 53 | 135 |
| WOMB | Juvenile | Client intake | Minneapolis | 1 | -- | 15 |
| YMCA | Juvenile | Various | Minneapolis | 6 | 192 | 129 |
| Youth Law Project | Juvenile | Intake and interviewing | Minneapolis | 3 | 24 | 145 |