

“The right to be heard would be, in many cases, of little avail if it did not comprehend the right to be heard by counsel.”

— *Powell v. Alabama* (1932)

“[T]his issue will not go away...The poor need a yes or a no.”

— *Frase v. Barnhart* (2003)

## **National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel**

The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel is a group of equal justice advocates who seek to promote recognition of a right to counsel in civil proceedings. The group is guided by the principle that access to the civil justice system is fundamental to the fair and orderly functioning of our society and that in many circumstances access is meaningless without effective representation.

The Coalition was started in December 2003 by advocates interested in encouraging the then-emerging local and national civil right to counsel efforts. Coalition activities presently include:

- Coordinating local legislation and litigation that seeks to expand access to appointed counsel in civil cases;
- Disseminating theories, strategies, and empirical information to assist advocates in raising civil right to counsel claims;
- Encouraging wider involvement in civil right to counsel efforts;
- Advancing social science research that explores the role of counsel in securing access to justice; and
- Monitoring local, national and international civil right to counsel developments;

For further information, or to be added to the Coalition’s secure listserv, please send an email including your name, title (if any), organization/employer, address, phone, fax, email, and a brief description of your work on or interest in a civil right to counsel to **nccrc@publicjustice.org**.

The coalition is coordinated by:

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Additional information will be available, we hope in April 2008, at **www.civilrighttocounsel.org**, maintained by the Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law.