

Directions for completing this form: Place the title of your workshop in the space indicated, followed by the name and contact information for each of the presenters. Provide a brief description of your workshop by placing the cursor on the line below “Brief Description” and commence typing. To complete the “Topical Outline”, place cursor next to each Roman numeral and begin typing. Then place the cursor next to the “a.” to begin listing sub-topics. To list more than one sub-topic, push “Enter” and “b.” should appear on the next line, and so on. Place the cursor on the line under “Notes” to begin providing your notes. To list bibliographic information, place the cursor next to “1.” and start typing. Push “Enter” to move on to “2.” and etc.

ABA / NLADA 2009 Equal Justice Conference

LSC-Funded Programs Harness Private Bar Resources: A Spotlight on Innovative Models to Advance Economic Justice.

Stephanie Edelstein
Program Counsel, Office of Program Performance
Legal Services Corporation
3333 K Street NW, Washington DC 20007
edelsteins@lsc.gov

David Hall
Executive Director
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid
300 South Texas Boulevard
Weslaco, Texas 78596
dhall@trla.org

Ellena Simmons
Supervising Coordinator, Equal Justice Volunteer Program
Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas
600 E. Weatherford, 2nd Floor
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
simmonse@lanwt.org

Klaus Sitte
Executive Director
Montana Legal Services Association
304 North Higgins Ave.
Missoula, Montana 59802
ksitte@mtlsa.org

Brief Description:

Volunteer attorneys are a valuable resource for legal services programs struggling to serve clients in today's economy. This workshop will focus on the recruitment, support and utilization of volunteer attorneys who assist LSC-funded program clients with wage claim and other employment issues, and with bankruptcy. It will include discussion of the LSC Program Letter on Private Attorney Involvement, which provides guidance on the integration of private attorneys into the work of LSC-funded programs.

Topical Outline:

- I. Brief Overview of Projects and Initiatives
 - a. LSC Program Letter
 - b. TRLA Wage Claim and Unemployment Projects
 - c. Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas Employment Law Clinic
 - d. Montana Legal Services Association Bankruptcy Clinic

- II. Project Start-Up
 - a. Identifying a need
 - b. Basic program structure
 - c. Program staff involvement
 - d. Volunteer recruitment
 - e. Informing the client community

- III. Ongoing Volunteer Support
 - a. Training and mentoring
 - b. Providing opportunities
 - c. Meeting Expectations
 - d. Recognition

- IV. Practicalities
 - a. Client access – geography, language, other
 - b. Successes?
 - c. Ongoing challenges?

- V. Future Plans

Notes:

Bibliography & Website Links:

1. LSC Program Letter on Private Attorney Involvement, www.lri.lsc.gov
2. Montana Legal Services Association, www.mtlsa.org
3. Legal Aid of NorthWest Texas, www.lanwt.org
4. Texas RioGrande Legal Aid, www.trla.org