ABA / NLADA 2010 Equal Justice Conference

# LEGAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE HOMELESS

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**Brief Description: As a result of the current economic crisis, the number of homeless people has increased dramatically. Their legal problems have increased as well and cover areas such as quality of life or lifestyle crimes, issues surrounding child support, and an inability to access public benefits, including disability and veteran's benefits. Panelists will describe their programs and discuss initiatives that have successfully addressed the legal needs of their homeless clients in these areas.**

**Topical Outline:**

## I. Crisis Ministries Homeless Justice Project

a. Introduction of the Homeless Justice Project
   1. How the Homeless Justice Project was created
   2. Why a Legal Clinic for individuals who are homeless?
   3. Homeless Justice Project process
   4. Future of the Homeless Justice Project

b. Social Security Disability Issues
   1. Issues that impede the process for individuals who are homeless
   2. Strategies for dealing with impediments

## II. Minnesota Justice Foundation

a. Introduction of Minnesota Justice Foundation statewide law student pro bono model

b. Child support clinics for homeless and low-income veterans
   1. How it was started
   2. Pilot clinic structure and evaluation
   3. ABA/VA involvement
   4. Future of the model

## III. Public Counsel

a. Introduction of Public Counsel's Pro Bono model
b. Overview of Homeless Prevention Law Project
   1. Evolution of the Homeless Court
   2. ABA Resolution re: promotion of Veteran's Treatment Courts
   3. Homelessness prevention work in strategic models
      a. innovative Magnolia Place model
   4. Housing centered advocacy focused upon long-term homelessness
      a. Advocate Liaison model to eliminate bureaucratic barriers
   5. Homeless youth focused advocacy

**Bibliography & Website Links:**


1. Crisis Ministries: www.charlestonhomeless.org

2. National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty: www.nlchp.org

3. National Organization of Social Security Claimants Representatives:

   www.nosscr.org

4. SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR): www.prainc.com/SOAR

5. Public Counsel Law Center: www.publiccounsel.org

6. ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty: www.abanet.org/homeless

7. National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP):

   http://www.nadcp.org/learn/veterans-treatment-court-clearinghouse

8. Veteran's Justice Outreach Worker: http://www1.va.gov/HOMELESS/VJO.asp

9. Minnesota Justice Foundation: www.mnjustice.org

10. Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans: www.mac-v.org