



NLADA
National Legal Aid &
Defender Association

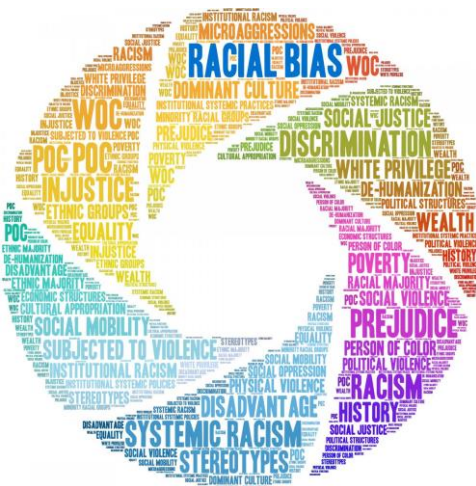
snapshot

of corporate engagement

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Summer 2020 | Corporate Engagement eNews

Welcome to the summer edition of Snapshot—the National Legal Aid & Defender Association’s (NLADA) Corporate Advisory Committee (CAC) newsletter. In this issue, we will provide an update on the CAC's Goal 16 Working Group recent meeting and outline opportunities to engage on relevant policy priorities, as well as deepen your support of equal justice activity in America. If you would like to schedule a call with the NLADA team to talk about the ways your business can further engage on access to justice — especially in the context of racial justice — we stand ready to help.



Goal 16 Working Group Meeting Summary

On Thursday, June 18 the CAC held its second [Goal 16 Working Group](#) meeting of the year. In addition to the NLADA team providing updates on efforts to preserve an increase federal funding for the Legal Services Corporation and public defense, more fully described in other sections of this newsletter, the meeting provided a forum for an off-the-record conversation among participants about the corporate community’s response to racial injustice in the nation. With advance approval, NLADA will profile some of the examples of corporate activity to advance access to justice and racial justice in the

Goal 16 Policy Toolkit, further described below.

ACCESS TO JUSTICE
IS GOOD FOR BUSINESS



Goal 16 Policy Toolkit

NLADA is preparing a policy toolkit for CAC members and other corporate allies interested in engaging on access to justice policy and legal reform tied to our [Goal 16 Working Group](#) activity registered with the United Nations. The toolkit will include case studies of successful corporate activity to advance access to justice policy reform and welcome your suggestions of activity that should be profiled. We know that showcasing examples of how

corporate leadership can be leveraged to advance justice provides inspiration for other corporate leaders to do the same and creates opportunities for corporations to band together towards a common purpose. The toolkit will be released in September when the UN General Assembly takes up the Sustainable Development Goals again.



Letter to Congress in Support of Public Defender Funding

The pending COVID-19 supplemental federal appropriations presents an opportunity for the corporate community to write in support of federal funding for the Sixth Amendment right to counsel — similar to the longstanding effort on behalf of the Legal Services Corporation. Public defense leaders and advocates are playing an essential role in

reducing the spread of the virus by identifying and advocating for people who can be appropriately released pre-trial or paroled early. These efforts protect the health of clients, jail and prison staff and officials, and the families and communities to which they return. Often lacking technology to make remote working possible, this work often puts them at personal peril; many defenders are still in jails or courtrooms, many times without personal protective equipment or the ability to employ social distancing. Yet they do not have access to federal funding support for their pandemic services as they carry out the constitutional right to counsel.

In addition, today's widespread awakening to the racial disparities in our justice system highlights the importance of the public defense function as an important response to stem those racial inequities. Not only do public defenders safeguard against racial injustice in individual cases where a law enforcement officer known to engage in inappropriate activities can be vigorously cross-examined, they also are effective advocates for systemic change by bringing into focus racial bias by a system actor or a systemwide practice.

We invite corporate General Counsel to sign the letter to Congress advocating that the resources they are deploying to assist the criminal justice system respond to the needs of public defenders. [Please find a draft of this letter here.](#) To sign the letter, please contact Jo-Ann Wallace, President & CEO, NLADA at J.Wallace@nlada.org.



NLADA
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Corporate Advisory Committee

CAC Dues in 2020

These days, when few things seem certain, NLADA's mission to safeguard justice has taken on greater urgency. The need for civil legal aid services has exploded and public defender offices are overwhelmed. In response to the unprecedented level of need, NLADA and our CAC partners have been fighting to protect and fund critical legal services. Thank you for your support and encouragement.

We have had some successes, but there is still an amazing amount of work to be done, and we need your help. NLADA staff are stretched to capacity, still it is difficult to know if or when

to request help, or ask for a special consideration in challenging situations, but this is where we are. Currently your annual CAC dues are \$5,500. We are very grateful for that contribution. However, as we confront a new set of challenges and begin to prepare for what might be coming next, we need additional funds to effectively do our work. **We are asking you to please consider a one-time fully tax-deductible addition to your dues of at least \$4,500, bringing your annual unrestricted contribution to NLADA to \$10,000.** CAC members have been strong proponents of equality and justice; you have an opportunity now to leverage that support into action and solutions to the new challenges that lay before us.

Thank you for your consideration of this special request. We will be contacting you in the coming weeks to discuss this special request and answer your questions. [Contribute today »](#)



CORPORATE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

**MEMBER
GET A
MEMBER**

Campaign

CAC Membership Campaign

CAC members play a vital role in advocating for much needed financial and pro bono resources for the legal community across the US, help drive critical attention to key legal issues both in the civil and criminal justice systems, and provide an invaluable sounding board and advocate on access to justice policies. COVID-19 brings new challenges to the equal justice community and is placing strains on already limited resources, which makes your role

even more critical and timely. The impact CAC members can, and do, have on our mission-driven work is invaluable and we are deeply appreciative of your guidance and support, particularly during these challenging times.

The CAC is growing, but think of the impact we could have together if there were twice as many members! To that end, in July we will launch a "Member get a Member" recruiting campaign. The goal will be to recruit 20 new members in advance of the next CAC gathering in September. We will provide you with everything you will need to be successful in recruiting one (or maybe more!) of your business colleagues to join you as a CAC member and advocate for access to justice for all.

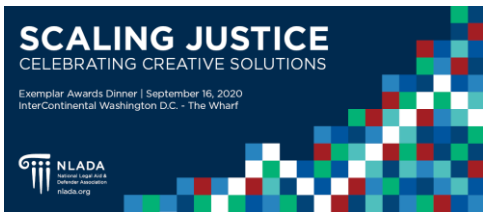
Information about the campaign will be sent to you soon. Anyone who recruits more than two members, will get a second free conference registration (as a CAC member you already get one free conference registration). How's that for incentive?



Advocating for Legal Services Corporation Funding

Thank you to the over 200 General Counsels and Chief Legal Officers including many of our CAC members for signing this year's [letter to Congress](#) calling for the protection and expansion of federal funding for the Legal Services Corporation. The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on low-income families have been devastating. As a result, access to civil legal aid is needed now more than

ever. Over the coming months and years, millions more Americans will need legal help to protect their most basic human needs. The corporate community's leadership in affirming the essential role of civil legal aid cannot be overstated. This year's letter has been delivered to Congress, and we look forward to providing updates about the impact your advocacy is having.



Exemplar Dinner & Social Justice Art Auction

NLADA's annual Exemplar Awards Dinner and Social Justice Art Auction originally scheduled for June has been rescheduled to Wednesday, September 16, 2020. This annual, inspiring event will

honor our [Exemplar Awardee, Marcus V. Brown, executive vice president and general counsel at Entergy Corporation](#). We would like to thank those of you who have already pledged your support as sponsors of the Dinner, and hope that others will consider sponsoring this festive and rewarding occasion. A full catalogue of the art to be sold at the auction will be previewed online shortly. For additional information on sponsorship or the event, please contact Chelsey Gibson, Major Gifts Officer, at c.gibson@nlada.org. [Learn more »](#)

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