



NLADA LEGAL AID & DEFENDER ASSOCIATION

Working to Increase Access to Counsel Through Advocacy, Education and Solutions

NLADA

ADVOCACY

- NLADA partners with corporate and other strategic influencers to compel Congress to increase funding for civil legal aid through the Legal Services Corporation.
- NLADA pushes for policy changes to expand the availability of counsel for low-income people. Recent efforts helped to expand access to counsel at bail hearings and enabled more than 130 civil legal aid programs to provide representation to those previously ineligible to receive it: victims of human/sex trafficking and immigrant victims of family violence.
- NLADA promotes strategies that improve the administration of justice by advocating for a more balanced provision of federal resources. Thus far, our efforts have contributed to a more than 400 percent increase in federal funding support for public defense; produced a \$2.4 million increase in funding to legal aid programs to secure healthcare for children; a twofold increase in the number of legal aid programs receiving funding to provide representation to immigrants; and a 121 percent increase in funding to provide legal representation to veterans.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Each year, NLADA trains more than 3,000 equal justice advocates and delivers expert technical assistance and legal guidance to fulfill more than 300 requests from civil legal aid and public defense providers.



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- As a Strategic Ally of the MacArthur Foundation's Safety + Justice Challenge initiative, NLADA is working with partners across the country to reduce unnecessary pretrial detention and eliminate racial inequities in the criminal justice system through educational materials and training.
- NLADA's Strategic Advocacy Initiative provides confidential, peer-based technical assistance to legal aid programs to expand their capacity to assist underserved, low-income communities.

SOLUTIONS

- NLADA, as a Training and Technical Assistance provider to the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance's Innovative Defense Initiative (formerly the "Smart Defense Initiative"), is working to support and replicate evidence-based innovations to reduce the number of missed court appearances and resolve other problems that compromise the fairness and effectiveness of criminal justice systems.
- NLADA offers the public defender community practical solutions for securing just verdicts and better life outcomes — from designing and implementing model mentoring programs to improve the quality of representation in decentralized assigned counsel systems, to utilizing research and data to expand funding and services for the Mississippi Task Force on Public Defense.
- As a partner with the National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership, we help launch and train cohorts of "Where Health Meets Justice" Fellows to address the health consequences of poverty through expanded medical-legal partnerships in the civil legal aid community.



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