

COALITION FOR COURT ACCESS

615 North Alabama Street, Suite 122

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

(317) 269-2415 | fax: (317) 536-2271 | info@inbf.org

To: Chief Justice Loretta Rush

From: Justice Steven David, Chair, Coalition for Court Access

Re: Annual Report to the Indiana Supreme Court

Date: June 26, 2018

Rule 6.6(d)(8) of the Rules of Professional Conduct state that the Coalition for Court Access (CCA) shall provide an annual report of its activities to the Supreme Court by July 1 of each year.

CCA Mission

The purpose of the CCA is to develop and implement a statewide plan to improve the availability and quality of civil legal services for persons of limited means.

CCA Goals

In Rule 6.6 of Indiana's Rules of Professional Conduct, the CCA's goals are established as:

1. Improving the access to and delivery of civil legal services to persons of limited means and low to moderate income.
2. Integrating and coordinating the availability and provision of services by pro bono organizations and other legal assistance organizations.
3. Enhancing the availability of volunteer legal services for persons of limited means, including without limitation incentivizing greater lawyer pro bono services; assessing, utilizing, and making recommendations to the Court to improve the Volunteer Attorney Pro Bono Plan established in Professional Conduct Rule 6.6; and working closely with the Indiana State Bar Association,

Indiana Bar Foundation (“Bar Foundation”), and other bar associations to foster the growth of pro bono public service and a public service culture within the Indiana bar.

4. Considering and utilizing a wide variety of programs and policies to increase the access to courts, such as strategic use of technology, community education, public libraries, and other similar resources.
5. Expanding and promoting opportunities for lawyers to volunteer their time and services for pro bono work in litigation, mediation, and other dispute resolution programs serving persons of limited means.
6. As may be deemed helpful in the pursuit of the above goals, identifying the current and future needs, outcomes, and trends regarding access to civil legal services by persons of limited means and promoting ongoing development of financial and other resources for civil legal aid organizations in Indiana.

CCA Members:

Pursuant to Rule 6.6(b) the CCA currently has seventeen (17) members and four (4) ex officio members. The current roster of CCA members, through June 30, 2018, is Attachment A.

CCA Work Groups:

The CCA currently has seven (7) work groups, the chairs for which are listed.

Best Practices:	Hon. Kimberly Dowling, Chair
Communications:	Prof. Joel Schumm, Chair
Data Collection:	Prof. Judy Fox, Chair
Pro Bono:	Chris Purnell, Chair
Resource Development:	Scott Wylie, Chair
Rural:	Carl Pebworth, Chair
Technology:	Jon Laramore, Chair

The current roster of CCA work groups is Attachment B.

CCA Conference

The CCA started hosting an annual statewide civil legal aid conference in 2016. Its conference on October 23, 2017, was held at Ivy Tech Conference Center in Indianapolis

and included approximately 200 pro bono and civil legal aid lawyers and staff, educators, law students, paralegals and members of the judiciary. Attachment C is a copy of the 2017 conference program. The conference provided five hours of CLE credit and an opportunity for networking and community building within our state's civil legal aid system. The 2018 civil legal aid conference is scheduled for Friday, November 2 at the Ivy Tech Conference Center in Indianapolis. The CCA is pleased to have Chief Justice Loretta Rush welcome the attendees at the morning plenary session.

2017 Accomplishments

The top accomplishments of the CCA over the past year:

1. The CCA launched the state's first civil legal needs study since 2008, with an emphasis on exploring the civil legal needs of rural Indiana. The civil legal needs study is being conducted by a team of researchers from the Indiana University Public Policy Institute and the Maurer School of Law. As part of the study, seventeen of Indiana's civil legal aid and pro bono agencies, with a total of twenty-five offices, are participating in a six-week intake census where they will be measuring and capturing the same data. The group will examine the number of people fully served, partially served and not served over the same six-week period. This collective data project will move Indiana's civil legal aid system forward in developing common definitions that can be tracked and improved going forward. The executive summary of the civil legal needs study will be delivered by August 1, 2018, and the final report will be delivered by December 14, 2018.
2. Under the direction of the CCA's Best Practices work group, the CCA has developed a system for vetting and approving self-represented-litigant court forms to be posted on the CCA's website, which is under development and aiming to launch in August 2018. The Best Practices work group hired a part-time consultant, Kate Guerrero, in January 2018 to serve as the self-help court forms coordinator. The Best Practices group is working closely with the Court's technology and public information staff to insure a smooth transition of forms from the Court's self-service legal center to the CCA's website.
3. The CCA hosted its second annual statewide civil legal aid conference, bringing together 200 legal-aid providers, pro bono lawyers, law-school clinics, members of the judiciary, Court staff, and people providing legal help to low and modest means people in Indiana. In addition to a successful conference, the organizing committee had

representatives from eight organizations across the state and worked effectively together to produce the event.

4. The CCA Resource Development work group accomplished its goal of having the state legislature extend the sunset (by five years) on a state \$1 filing fee that is dedicated to funding pro bono civil legal services.

5. The Technology work group, in partnership with Indiana Legal Services (ILS), submitted a letter of intent and a full proposal for a Technology Innovation Grant (TIG) from the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to receive a planning grant for Indiana's statewide legal help website and triage portal. A copy of the letter of intent is Attachment D, and the full 15-page grant application is available for review. If ILS receives this grant, the CCA would partner with ILS on a planning process for developing an Indiana access triage portal.

6. The CCA Pro Bono and Best Practices work groups researched and developed court-rule change proposals to strengthen Indiana's civil justice system. The Pro Bono work group developed a proposal to amend Rule 5.5 of the Indiana Rules of Professional Conduct (Unauthorized Practice of Law; Multijurisdictional Practice of Law) to encourage retired and inactive attorneys to participate in our state's pro bono activities. The Best Practices group researched judicial codes of conduct across the country that provide guidance to judges dealing with self-represented-litigants. The group developed a proposal to amend Rule 2.2 of Indiana's Judicial Code of Conduct (Impartiality and Fairness) to offer judges more specific guidance for dealing with self-represented litigants. Both of these proposals were supported by the full CCA at its October 31, 2018 meeting for recommendation to the Court.

7. The CCA Rural work group supervised a group of summer law student fellows in 2017 who collected data in rural Indiana counties. The fellows focused on surveying and inventorying resources, needs, issues, and concerns that affect court access in Indiana counties. The 2017 fellows report is Attachment E. The CCA anticipates having five law school fellows working on data collection and review of best practices during the 2018 summer.

2018 Initiatives:

Best Practices:

- Finalize and get approval for the forms vetting/approval process, including developing a role and process for two senior judges to participate.
- Migrate forms from the Court's website to the CCA's website - includes revising, vetting, approving, creating and posting.
- Develop an Indiana unbundling initiative that offers tools for lawyers to expand their practice to serve low- and moderate-income clients through limited scope and a la carte services.

Communications:

- Launch the CCA website. *(in partnership with Technology work group)*
- Develop a communications plan for civil legal needs study. *(in partnership with Data Collection work group)*
- Revise pro bono reporting FAQ and consider proposals for Rule 6.7 revisions in response to public defender, GAL and mediation questions. *(in partnership with Pro Bono work group)*
- Develop a communications plan for legislative education campaign. *(in partnership with Resource Development work group)*

Data Collection:

- Complete the CCA's Indiana civil legal needs study.
- Develop a shared common set of definitions for the civil legal aid community.

Pro Bono:

- Revise the Pro Bono Reporting infographic with 2016 data and the pro bono reporting FAQ to address questions about public defender, Guardian ad

Litem and mediation work. Consider proposals to revise the pro bono reporting guidelines in Rule 6.7 of the Indiana's Rules of Professional Conduct to address public defender, Guardian ad Litem and pro bono mediation questions.

- Have the proposed emeritus pro bono rule approved.
- Sponsor a Lawyers in Libraries day during the October 2018 national Pro Bono Week.
- Support an initiative to strengthen Indiana's pro bono delivery system.

Resource Development:

- Work with the Court to support a legislative education and advocacy campaign for the 2018/2019 state legislative session that focuses on increasing civil legal aid awareness and funding.
- Refine a fund development "Case Statement."
- Facilitate and encourage greater coordination of fund development efforts in Indiana by creating a common shared calendar to encourage cooperative calendaring/scheduling of events and major development efforts of Indiana Civil Legal Aid group.
- Continue to monitor and steward a Proposed Rule 1.15 on Unclaimed and Unidentified Trust Account Funds. This proposal would add language that lays out a mechanism for addressing situations where an attorney, law firm, or estate of a deceased attorney (1) winds up in possession of client or third-party funds and the client or third-party cannot be located, despite diligent efforts to locate the rightful owner; or (2) is in possession of funds in a client trust account that cannot be traced back to a particular client. The rule proposal addresses these scenarios by providing a simple process for attorneys to dispose of unclaimed and unidentifiable funds consistent with applicable ethical obligations, while generating additional income for the IOLTA Program, administered by the Indiana Bar Foundation, to be used for funding pro bono and civil legal aid initiatives.

- Monitor federal funding issues and propose action when necessary, including LSC and other major civil legal aid sources.
- Evaluate the Indiana civil legal aid funding chart to consider suggestions on systemic change.

Rural:

- Expand advisory and evaluative capacity of Rural work group by adding new members in both advisory and evaluative capacities.
- Develop report for counties and judges that participated in 2017 surveying and data collection project.
- Refine and develop 2018 surveying and data collection project with fellowship and academic support.

Technology:

- Monitor the progress of the Legal Services Corporation/Microsoft portal prototype, currently being tested in Hawaii and Alaska.
- Work with ILS on a Technology Innovation Grant planning process to leverage technology in the delivery of civil legal services.

Pro Bono Strategic Planning Retreat

With the support of a generous grant from Faegre Baker Daniels, the CCA will host a pro bono strategic planning retreat on August 8 -9, 2018 at the Prindle Institute for Ethics at DePauw University. The goal of the retreat is to convene a group of Indiana pro bono stakeholders to work with national pro bono experts to:

- Map Indiana's **current** pro bono intake and delivery system for state and federal civil legal services

- Develop recommendations to the Coalition for Court Access for strengthening Indiana's pro bono intake and delivery system.
- Begin the process of drafting a strategic plan for Indiana's pro bono system.

Conclusion

The Coalition for Court Access appreciates the support and partnership of the Indiana Supreme Court and looks forward to the continuing our progress together in the coming year. We welcome the chance to provide additional information and answer questions on this report as requested.

Attachment A
Coalition for Court Access (as of May 1, 2018)

Justice Steven David, Chair

Indiana Supreme Court
321 State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-2547
steven.david@courts.IN.gov

*Rule 6.6(b)(1)(A) Court re-appointment: Chair
3-year term until June 30, 2020*

Jon Laramore, Vice Chair

Indiana Legal Services, Inc.
151 N Delaware Street, Suite 1850
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-631-9410
jon.laramore@ilsa.net

*Rule 6.6(b)(1)(C) – Court appointment: civil legal
assistance organization
3-year term until June 30, 2019*

Chris Purnell, Secretary

Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
3333 N Meridian Street
Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-429-4136
cpurnell@nclegalclinic.org

*Rule 6.6(b)(1)(C) – Court appointment: civil legal
assistance organization
2-year term until June 30, 2018*

Roxana Bell

IU McKinney School of Law
530 W. New York Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3225
317-968-5563
roxbell@iupui.edu

*Rule 6.6(b)(1)(D) – Court appointment: local or
minority bar association
3-year term until June 30, 2019*

Hon. Kimberly Dowling

Delaware Circuit Court 2
100 W. Washington St.
Muncie, IN 47305
765-747-7784

kdowling@co.delaware.in.us

*Rule 6.6(b)(1)(B) – Court appointment: trial judge
3-year term until June 30, 2019*

John Floreancig

Indianapolis Legal Aid Society
615 N. Alabama Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-635-9538
johnf@indylas.org

*Rule 6.6(b)(1)(C) – Court re-appointment: civil
legal assistance organization
3-year term until June 30, 2020*

Mary Fondrisi

Southern Indiana Pro Bono Referrals
706 East Court Avenue
Jeffersonville, IN 47130
812-282-7736, ext. 242
fondrisi@smithcarpenterlaw.com

*Rule 6.6 (b)2(C) – Foundation appointment: ISBA
Pro Bono Committee
3-year term until June 30, 2019*

Judith Fox

Notre Dame Law School
1111 Eck Hall of Law
South Bend, IN 46556
574-631-7795
jfox@nd.edu

*Rule 6.6(b)(1)(E) – Court appointment: IN law
school
2-year term until June 30, 2018*

[VACANCY as a result of Andy Fraizer departure]

Rule 6.6 (b)2(D) – *Foundation appointment: non-governmental organization*
2-year term until June 30, 2018

Jane Henegar

ACLU of Indiana
1031 East Washington Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202
United States
317-635-4059
jhenegar@aclu-in.org

Rule 6.6 (b)2(B) – Foundation re-appointment: INBF member
3-year term until June 30, 2020

Donald Lundberg

Lundberg Legal
P.O. Box 19327
Indianapolis, IN 46219
317-416-0733
Don@LundbergLegal.com

Rule 6.6 (b)2(A) – Foundation re-appointment: ISBA member
3-year term until June 30, 2020

Carl Pebworth

Faegre Baker Daniels
300 N Meridian Street, Suite 2700
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-237-1267
Carl.pebworth@faegrebd.com

Rule 6.6(b)1(D) – Court appointment: local or minority bar association
2-year term until June 30, 2018

Hon. Patricia A. Riley

Indiana Court of Appeals
Fourth District
411 State House
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-6902
priley@courts.in.gov

Rule 6.6(b)1(B) – Court appointment: appellate judge
2-year term until June 30, 2018

Mark Robinson

Indiana Legal Services
3303 Plaza Drive, Suite 5
New Albany, IN 47150
812-945-4123

Mark.robinson@ilsi.net

Rule 6.6 (b)2(B) – Foundation appointment: INBF member
3-year term until June 30, 2019

Joel Schumm

Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law
530 W. New York Street, Suite 115
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3225
(317) 278-4733
jmschumm@iupui.edu

Rule 6.6(b)1(E) – Court appointment: IN law school
3-year term until June 30, 2019

Hon. Martha B. Wentworth

Indiana Tax Court
115 W. Washington Street, Suite 960S
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-4694
Martha.wentworth@courts.in.gov

Rule 6.6 (b)2(A) – Foundation appointment: ISBA member
2-year term until June 30, 2018

Scott Wylie

Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwestern IN
915 Main Street, Suite 208
Evansville, IN 47708
812-402-6303
vlpwylie@sigeom.net

Rule 6.6(b)1(C) – Court re-appointment: pro bono organization
3-year term until June 30, 2020

Ex Officio

Hon. Geoffrey Slaughter

Indiana Supreme Court

State House

Indianapolis, IN 46204

Immediate Past President, Indiana Bar Foundation

Mitchell Heppenheimer

Heppenheimer & Korpala, P.C.

704 West Washington Avenue

South Bend, Indiana 46601

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Immediate Past President, Indiana State Bar

Association

Charles Dunlap

Executive Director

Indiana Bar Foundation

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Joe Skeel

Executive Director

Indiana State Bar Association

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ATTACHMENT B

Coalition for Court Access Convened Working Groups (6/1/18)

Italics = CCA Member

Best Practices

Hon. Kimberly Dowling, chair

Justice Steven David

Mary DePrez, Director and Counsel of Trial Court Technology, Indiana Supreme Court

Monica Fennell, Faegre Baker Daniels LLP

Hon. Nancy Gettinger, LaPorte County Superior Court

Jane Henegar

Dawn Hillier – Trial Court Technology, Indiana Supreme Court

Tracy Pappas, Indiana Legal Services

Justice Geoffrey Slaughter

Communications/Outreach

Joel Schumm, Chair

Roxana Bell

Justice Steven David

Hon. Kimberly Dowling

Kathryn Dolan, Office of Communication, Education & Outreach, Indiana Supreme Court

Carissa Long, Director of Public Relations & Social Media, Indiana State Bar Association

Theresa Browning, Director of Development & Communications, Indiana Bar Foundation

Data collection

Judy Fox, Chair

John Floreancig

Mary Fondrasi

Jon Laramore

Chris Purnell

Diane Walker, Pro Bono District 10/H, Bloomington

Pro Bono and Volunteer Attorney Recruitment

Chris Purnell, Chair

Jeff Heck, Indiana Legal Services

Dana Luetzelschwab, Heartland Pro Bono Council

Joel Schumm

Arnetta Scruggs, Pro Bono and Legal Services Coordinator, Indianapolis Bar Association

Mark Torma, The Volunteer Lawyer Network, Inc.

Carwina Weng, Disability Law Clinic, IU Maurer School of Law
Hon. Martha Wentworth
Scott Wylie

Resource Development/Funding

Scott Wylie, Chair
Ruth De Wit, Pro Bono District C, Fort Wayne
Charles Dunlap
John Floreancig
Jon Laramore
Don Lundberg
Carl Pebworth
Chris Purnell

Rural Legal Services

Carl Pebworth, Chair
Mary Fondrisi
Hon. Patricia Riley
Mark Robinson

Technology

Jon Laramore, Chair
Roxana Bell
Judy Fox
Jane Henegar
Lucinda Nord, Executive Director, Indiana Library Federation
Tracy Pappas, Staff Attorney, Web Development, Indiana Legal Services
Chris Purnell
Hon. Patricia Riley

Additional Committees:

CCA Conference Planning Committee

John Floreancig, Chair

Emily Angel, Kids Voice Indiana

Charles Dunlap

Chase Haller, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

Raio Krishnaya, Center for Victim and Human Rights

Jon Laramore

Dana Luetzelschwab, Heartland Pro Bono Council

Adam Mueller, Indiana Legal Services

Chris Purnell

Justice Geoffrey Slaughter

Marilyn Smith, IN Bar Foundation

Amy Tate, Indianapolis Legal Aid Society

Mark Torma, The Volunteer Lawyer Network, Inc. (South Bend)

Diane Walker, District 10 Pro Bono Project (Bloomington)

Joint CCA and IN Bar Foundation Grant Committee

Hon. Melissa May, Chair, Indiana Court of Appeals

Bob Beasley, Beasley Law Office

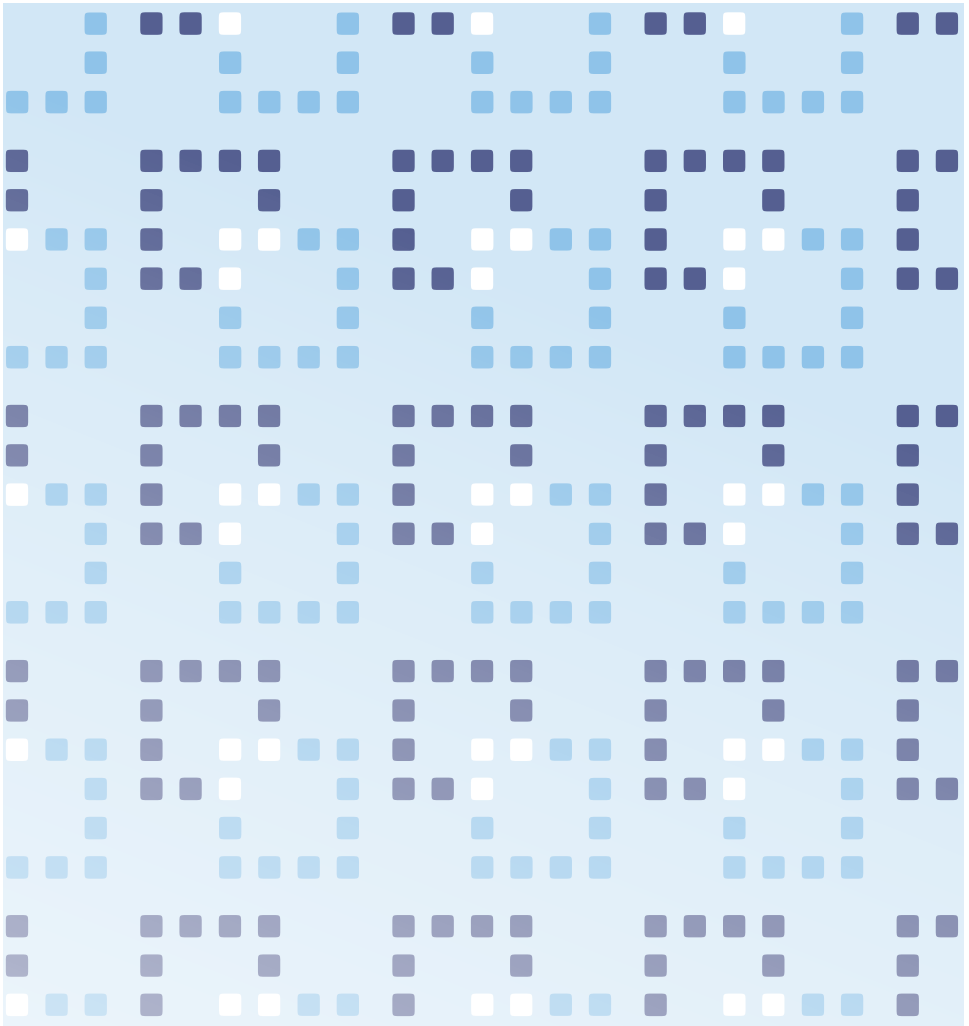
Justice Steven David

Hon. Tom Felts, Allen Circuit Court

David Guerretaz, Ziemer, Stayman, Weitzel & Shoulders, LLP

Donald Lundberg

Anthony Stites, Barrett McNagny LLP



INDIANA PARTNERSHIPS FOR JUSTICE CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 23, 2017

IVY TECH CONFERENCE CENTER
2820 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, IN

Presented by the Coalition for Court Access (CCA)

TIME	FAMILY Room 118	RE-ENTRY Room 119	HOUSING Room 120	HEALTH & BENEFITS Room 108(1)	CONSUMER Room 108(2)	PRACTICE & PROFESSION Room 121
8:30	BREAKFAST & REGISTRATION					
9:30	OPENING PLENARY Indiana Supreme Court Justice Steven David (Ballroom)					
Session One						
10:00	Understanding Family Law Mediation	Expungement 101: Collaborative Approaches and Basics of the Law	Innovations in Eviction Defense	Understanding State and Federal Health Coverage Programs	Tax Debt 101	60 Minute Guide to Great Legal Writing
11:00	BREAK					
Session Two						
11:15	Family Safety Planning	Expungement 202: Issues and Nuances	Rent-to-Own Housing Update	HIP 2.0 and the Future of Medicaid	Fighting Oppressive Wage Garnishments	How Technology Can Support Your Legal Aid Practice
12:15	LUNCH PLENARY Brandon Cosby, Executive Director, Flanner House (Ballroom)					
Session Three						
1:30	A Critical Discussion about Protective Orders	Specialized Driving Privileges	Affordable Housing and Community Development Lawyering	Immigration Update and Public Benefits	Understanding Bankruptcy for the Non-Bankruptcy Attorney	We Get By with a Little Help from our Friends: Working Together for Attorney Wellness
2:30	BREAK					
Session Four						
2:45	Guardianship and the Future of Supportive Decision Making	Civil Legal Rights for Individuals with Felonies	Helping Individuals in Environmental Court	Advocacy in Administrative Hearings	Consumer Protection Policy Update	Everybody's Doing It: Let's Talk About Ways to Improve Delivery of Brief Legal Service
3:45	BREAK					
Session Five						
4:00	Child Support Enforcement: Issues and Update	Advocating for Justice Involved Youth	Real Estate 101 and Remedial Probate	Medical Legal Partnership 101	Mobile Home Consumer Protection	Trial Advocacy Do's and Don'ts
5:00	HAPPY HOUR WITH THE COALITION FOR COURT ACCESS					

2017 SPEAKERS



Brandon Cosby is the Executive Director of Flanner House of Indianapolis, Inc., Indiana's oldest community service agency for the Black Community focused on moving people from crisis and instability to a place of self-reliance and independence. Prior to coming to Flanner House, Brandon was a Senior Education Leadership Specialist at Amplify Education Services. While at Amplify, he was responsible for developing and delivering on-site and remote individual and group coaching to principals, teacher leaders, and district-level leaders. Additionally, Brandon designs and provides Community and Parent Engagement Strategies that center on developing academic support networks for students. Before joining the team at Amplify, Brandon was the Founding Principal at Shortridge Magnet High School for Law & Public Policy in Indianapolis, Indiana. He also served as the Senior Fellow for High School Transformation at the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning at The University of Indianapolis. While there, Brandon helped develop and train more the 40 school administrators and instructional coaches. He has served as a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, and a founding member of the first charter high school in the state of Indiana. He holds a B.S. from University of Indianapolis, and a M.A.T in Ed. Leadership from Oakland City University. Additionally, Brandon is an anti-racist activist and works in numerous communities around the country advocating for children of color.



Brandon Cosby
Flanner House

Justice Steven David was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court in 2010 by Governor Mitch Daniels. He previously served for 15 years as judge of the Boone Circuit Court, and before that was a military attorney, private practice lawyer, and in-house corporate counsel. He is a graduate of Murray State University on an R.O.T.C. scholarship and of the IU McKinney School of Law. He served on active duty in the Judge Advocate General Corps for 4 years, then as a reserve officer for 24 additional years, retiring as a colonel. His service included two postings post-9/11 in Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. He has received the Defense Superior Service Award, Frederick Douglas Human Rights Award, and other military awards. As a trial court judge, Justice David presided over civil, criminal, family, and juvenile matters. He received the Robert Kinsey Award as outstanding juvenile judge in Indiana and was recognized for his work to increase mental health services for children by the Indiana Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. He is co chair of Indiana's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, worked with the ISBA Leadership Development Academy, and is an adjunct professor at the University of Indianapolis and IU McKinney School of Law. Justice David has been the chair of the Coalition for Court Access since its creation in 2016.



Steven H. David
Indiana Supreme Court

OPENING PLENARY

9:30 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M.

BALLROOM

Hon. Steven David, Indiana Supreme Court

BREAK-OUT SESSION 1:

10:00 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

FAMILY

ROOM 118

Understanding Family Law Mediation

Geared towards the non-mediator, this session will aid the family law practitioner in understanding what to expect from mediation, and how best to prepare your client and your case if mediation is an option.

Elodie Meuser, JD, The Mediation Option
Deetta Steinmetz, JD, Indianapolis Legal Aid Society

RE-ENTRY

ROOM 119

Expungement 101: Collaborative Approaches and Basics of the Law

This session will begin with a discussion of the pro bono and collaborative approaches to handling the large volume of individuals who are in need of legal assistance with filing expungement petitions.

Ruth De Wit, Volunteer Lawyers Program of Northeast Indiana
Brian Dunkel, JD, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
Andrew Fogle, JD, Marion County Prosecutor's Office
Julie Menzel, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
Amy Tate, JD, Indianapolis Legal Aid Society
Sha'na Terry, JD, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

HOUSING

ROOM 120

Innovations in Eviction Defense

The standard model of civil legal aid eviction defense relies on an individual contacting our offices when they are facing hearings. Often, we receive these calls only after they've been to court and now they are facing an imminent writ of possession. This session will be an open dialogue to talk about ways that legal aid and pro bono attorneys can use innovative programs and ideas for more effective legal interventions.

Jay Chaudhary, JD, Indiana Legal Services
Adam Mueller, JD, Indiana Legal Services

ROOM 108(1)

HEALTH & BENEFITS

Understanding Health Coverage Programs

There are several different state and federal health care programs that our clients are eligible for. This session will introduce you to those programs, discussing the often-confusing acronyms and different eligibility requirements. Even if you do not work specifically in health care legal advocacy, this session will provide basic information that affects most of our client eligible population.

Dennis Frick, JD, Indiana Legal Services
Marci Toler, Covering Kids and Families of Indiana

ROOM 108(2)

CONSUMER

Tax Debt 101

Often our clients owe money not just to creditors but to the state and federal government in the form of tax liabilities. Find out the basics of tax debt collection—who the players are and what remedies your clients may have.

Jamie Andree, JD, Indiana Legal Services
Dee Dee Gowan, JD, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

ROOM 121

PRACTICE & PROFESSION

60 Minute Guide to Great Legal Writing

Applying a few rules and principles will improve your legal writing. Learn them in this session.

Jon Laramore, JD, Indiana Legal Services

BREAK-OUT SESSION 2:

11:15 A.M. TO 12:15 P.M.

FAMILY ROOM 118

Family safety planning

There has been an increased concern recently with making sure that clients have proper documents in place in case of deportation or removal. Learn about how to help families prepare for unexpected separations, including powers of attorney, guardianships, and stand-by guardianships.

Aimee Korolev, JD, Indiana Legal Services, Immigrant and Language Rights Center
Lindsay Faulkenberg, JD, Kids Voice Indiana

RE-ENTRY ROOM 119

Expungement 202: Issues and Nuances

Picking up where the 101 session ended, the first half of this session will cover more advance topics. The second half of the session will include a discussion about where the second chance laws fall short of truly removing opportunity barriers.

Andrew Fogle, JD, Marion County Prosecutor's Office
Jared Haller, JD, Indiana Legal Services
Amy Tate, JD, Indianapolis Legal Aid Society

HOUSING ROOM 120

Rent-to-Own Contract Updates

There have been advocacy efforts in several forums to combat the consistent problem of unfair rent to own and land sale contracts. This session will provide an update on these efforts from attorneys from several different organizations.

Judy Fox, JD, Notre Dame School of Law
Chase Haller, JD, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic
Cheryl Koch-Martinez, JD, Indiana Legal Services
Amy Nelson, Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana

HEALTH & BENEFITS ROOM 108(1)

HIP 2.0 and the Future of Medicaid in Indiana

Premiums, work requirements, waivers, etc. Indiana's HIP 2.0 program has been described as a potential model for the rest of the country. Learn about what our advocates are doing to ensure the program works for eligible members. We'll discuss recent issues and the state's pending request to add work requirements.

Amanda Hall, JD, Indiana Legal Services
Adam Mueller, JD, Indiana Legal Services

CONSUMER ROOM 108(2)

Fighting Oppressive Wage Garnishment

Working clients with judgment debts are often the subject of wage garnishment. This can be disruptive and sometimes results in job loss. Often the amount of money collected through a wage garnishment exceeds statutory limits. At a minimum, the amount set is subject to judicial oversight. This session will discuss protections and arguments available to clients subject to wage garnishment.

John Brengle, JD, Indiana Legal Services
Katherine Rybak, JD, Indiana Legal Services

PRACTICE & PROFESSION ROOM 121

How Technology Can Support Your Legal Aid Practice

This session will explore technologies emerging in the private sector and what they mean for nonprofit legal aid programs, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, chat bots, new tools for remote services, the use of speech and data APIs and more. This program will be accessible to non-techies and techies alike.

IV Ashton, JD, Houston A.I.

LUNCH PLENARY

12:15 P.M. TO 1:30 P.M. BALLROOM

Andi Metzger, President, Indiana State Bar Association
Brandon Cosby, Executive Director, Flanner House

BREAK-OUT SESSION 3:

1:30 P.M. TO 2:30 P.M.



FAMILY

ROOM 118

A Critical Discussion About Protective Orders

Protective orders are commonly used if there is actual or threatened domestic violence. But how effective are they? What if you represent an individual subject to a protective order? This session will examine both the appropriate use of protective orders and the concerns about when they are ordered inappropriately.

Jared Haller, JD, Indiana Legal Services

Raio Krishnaya, JD, Center for Victim and Human Rights

RE-ENTRY

ROOM 119

Specialized Driving Privileges

This For individuals with suspended licenses, specialized driving privileges offer access to employment, and mobility necessary for activities of daily living. This is especially helpful for individuals without access to reliable public transportation. This session will cover the basics of petitioning for specialized driving privileges.

Scott DeVries, JD, DeVries Law Office

Amy Tate, JD, Indianapolis Legal Aid Society

HOUSING

ROOM 120

Affordable Housing and Community Development Lawyering

This session will provide an overview of affordable housing in Indiana—critical to developing equitable and sustainable communities. Additionally, it will discuss the role that civil legal aid attorneys can play in the community development.

Marcus Bickle, JD, Indiana Legal Services

Rose Scovel, AICP, Prosperity Indiana

Marcy Wenzler, JD, Indiana Legal Services

HEALTH & BENEFITS

ROOM 108(1)

Immigration Status and Benefits

For individuals assisting immigrant clients, the benefits they are entitled to depends on their documented status. Learn the basics of immigration status, including terminology. Additionally, this session will provide a basic understanding of available public benefits in Indiana for immigrants.

Rachel Van Tyle, JD, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic



CONSUMER

ROOM 108(2)

Understanding Bankruptcy for the Non-Bankruptcy Attorney

Having a basic understanding of bankruptcy is vital to anyone serving low-income clients. Bankruptcy can affect housing, homeownership, and the disposition of debts and assets in divorce. This session is designed to provide basic information, including pitfalls and warnings to the non-bankruptcy attorney.

John Brengle, JD, Indiana Legal Services

Matt Gaudin, JD, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

PRACTICE & PROFESSION

ROOM 121

We Get By with a Little Help from our Friends: Working Together for Attorney Wellness

(Ethics CLE credit pending approval)

In 2016, a National Task Force on Attorney Well-Being was created as a result of the ABA CoLAP/Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation study on the Prevalence of Substance Use and other Mental Health Concerns among American Attorneys. This program will present the findings and recommendations of the Task Force aimed at bringing a culture shift to the legal profession in regards to well-being, substance use, and other mental health issues. Attendees will engage in discussion of what each of us can personally do to promote wellness within the profession and explore the connection between compassion fatigue, wellness and professional conduct. The program will also discuss the services available through JLAP, with an emphasis on confidentiality under Admission and Discipline Rule 31 and Professional Conduct Rule 8.3.

Loretta Olesky, JD, MSW, Indiana Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (JLAP)

BREAK-OUT SESSION 4:

2:45 P.M. TO 3:45 P.M.



FAMILY

ROOM 118

Guardianships and the Future of Supported Decision Making

Over the past several years, there has been a trend away from the use of full guardianships for adults with diminished capacity. Several states now recognize “supported decision making” as a limited alternative to guardianships. This session will explore different legal arrangements for individuals in need of decision-making help.

H. Kennard Bennett, JD, Center for At-Risk Elderly

Erica Costello, JD, Adult Guardianship Office, Indiana Supreme Court

Crystal Francis, JD, Indiana Legal Services

Justin Schrock, JD, Indiana Disability Rights

RE-ENTRY

ROOM 119

Civil Legal Rights for Individuals with Felonies

For individuals with felony convictions, it may be hard to get a job, housing, certain public benefits, professional licenses, and other social services. This session will discuss when a person may be discriminated against on the basis of a felony. This session will explain where a person with a felony conviction may be appropriately denied goods and services.

Gavin Rose, JD, ACLU of Indiana

HOUSING

ROOM 120

Helping Clients in Environmental Court

This session will focus on the advocacy work done on behalf of individuals subject to an ordinance violation for uninhabitable housing. Learn about the legal proceedings for environmental actions, and how to assist your client both inside and outside of the courtroom.

Chase Haller, JD, Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic

Sylvia Miller, JD, Health and Hospital Corporation of Marion County

Amy Tate, JD, Indianapolis Legal Aid Society

Marcy Wenzler, JD, Indiana Legal Services



HEALTH & BENEFITS

ROOM 108(1)

Administrative Advocacy

Whether it’s food stamps, social security, Medicaid or any other number of administrative hearings, there are common themes for how to advocate on behalf of your client. This session will be an introduction to these issues and best practices.

Amy Freeland, JD, Indiana Legal Services

Fran Quigley, JD, Indiana University McKinney School of Law

CONSUMER

ROOM 108(2)

Consumer Protection Policy Update in Indiana

This session will provide an overview of consumer policy advocacy in Indiana. It will also introduce the Indiana Asset and Opportunity Network and discuss the federal landscape of consumer protection. This will also be an opportunity for participants to share client experiences, and how current and proposed changes in consumer protection may affect them.

Judy Fox, JD, Notre Dame School of Law

Allegra Maldonado, Prosperity Indiana

PRACTICE & PROFESSION

ROOM 121

Everybody’s Doing It: Let’s Talk About Ways to Improve Delivery of Brief Legal Service

Only a small percentage of legal aid clients receive extended legal representation. Most legal problems are resolved using some form of brief service (legal advice; document review and drafting; and limited 3rd party communications). This session will analyze the service that most legal aid clients will receive, and suggest strategies for solving legal problems quicker & more effectively using brief service.

Patricia Wrona, JD, CARPLS

BREAK-OUT SESSION 5:

4:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.



FAMILY

ROOM 119

Child Support Enforcement

This session will discuss recent child support decisions and trends. It will include tips/best practices, including the interplay between child support and incarceration as well as issues surrounding social security disability insurance.

David Morris, JD, Marion County Child Support Prosecutor's Office
Tracy Pappas, JD, Indiana Legal Services

RE-ENTRY

ROOM 119

Advocating for Justice Involved Youth

Individuals in the juvenile justice system still have civil legal needs—including the right to education, health care, and basic civil liberties. Once they leave the justice system, they may need to seal and expunge records. This session will discuss what civil legal aid attorneys need to know to help these individuals.

JauNae Hanger, JD, Children's Policy and Law Initiative of Indiana
Jill Johnson, JD, Marion County Public Defender, Juvenile Division



HOUSING

ROOM 120

Real Estate 101 and Remedial Probate

Civil legal aid offices are often contacted with questions about real estate, and they have forgotten the basics from bar review. This session will be a refresher on what to do when they've been living in a house for years without ownership. Find out about the process of helping to ensure good title transfers to your clients—from remedial probate to quiet title actions.

Kinsey Arnett, JD, Faegre Baker Daniels
Andrew Buroker, JD, Faegre Baker Daniels



HEALTH & BENEFITS

ROOM 108(1)

Medical Legal Partnerships 101

Indiana is a leader in medical legal partnerships. In Indianapolis, several health care providers are working with civil legal aid attorneys in MLPs. As we see the linkages between health outcomes and legal needs, learn how to set up a medical legal partnership in your community.

Jay Chaudhary, JD, Indiana Legal Services
Anna Kirkman, JD, Eskenazi Health

CONSUMER

ROOM 108(2)

Mobile Home Consumer Protections

Mobile home owners often lack the same protections as renters as well as real estate property owners. Learn about issues and challenges that civil legal aid attorneys can address and discuss how to make mobile home owners more aware of our services.

John Brengle, JD, Indiana Legal Services
Erin Macey, Indiana Institute for Working Families
Katherine Wood, JD, Indiana Legal Services



PRACTICE & PROFESSION

ROOM 121

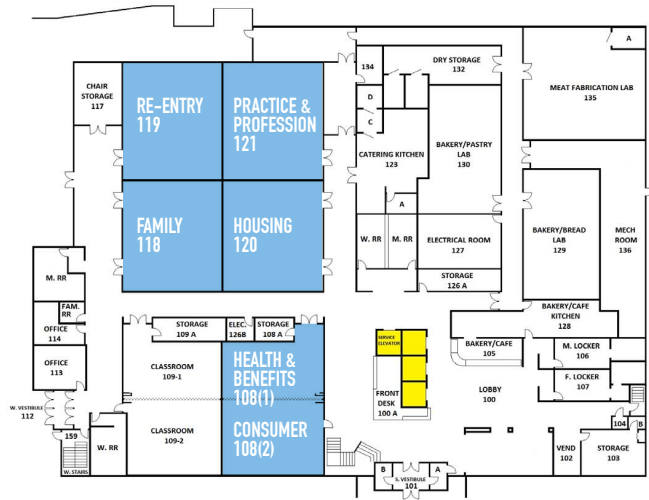
Trial Advocacy Do's and Don'ts

This session is designed for novice attorneys who are learning their way around the courtroom. Attendees will gain practical pointers from an experienced litigator and a trial court judge who have spent countless hours learning what works and what doesn't in trial advocacy.

Hon. David Avery, Allen County Superior Court
John Maley, JD, Barnes & Thornburg

CONFERENCE MAP

First Floor



Second Floor



THANK YOU

2017 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE



Hon. Steven David
Indiana Supreme Court

Adam Mueller
Indiana Legal Services

Brian Dunkel
*Neighborhood Christian
Legal Clinic*

Kayla O'Brien
Indiana Bar Foundation

Chuck Dunlap
Indiana Bar Foundation

Chris Purnell
*Neighborhood Christian
Legal Clinic*

John Floreancig
Indianapolis Legal Aid Society

Marilyn Smith
Indiana Bar Foundation

Andy Fraizer
Prosperity Indiana

Amy Tate
Indianapolis Legal Aid Society

Michelle Langdon
Indiana Supreme Court

Mark Torma
The Volunteer Lawyer Network

Jon Laramore
Indiana Legal Services

LaKesha Triggs
Indiana Supreme Court

Dana Luetzelschwab
Heartland Pro Bono Council

Diane Walker
District 10 Pro Bono Project

WIFI NETWORK

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The Coalition for Court Access (CCA) was created in 2016 by the Indiana Supreme Court to improve the availability and quality of civil legal services for people of limited means in Indiana.

The CCA has seven work groups:

**BEST PRACTICES
COMMUNICATIONS
DATA COLLECTION
PRO BONO
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
RURAL
TECHNOLOGY**

For more information on the CCA and its work groups, call 317-269-7863.

ATTACHMENT D

Legal Services Corporation Technology Initiative Grants

Letter of Intent for 2018 TIG Cycle

Category: Technology Improvement Project

Amount requested: \$25,000

Are you also requesting funding for this project through LSC's Pro Bono Innovation Fund program? **No**

Are you applying for a Pro Bono Innovation Fund grant that complements this grant? **No**

Indiana Cooperative Statewide Website & Portal Project

Description of Project:

Indiana Legal Services (ILS), in conjunction with the Indiana Supreme Court's Coalition for Court Access (CCA), is developing plans for a statewide website that will include: (1) referral to sources of legal advice and representation for low-income and other clients; (2) court-approved self-help forms to be used with online plain language interviews by self-represented litigants (and, perhaps, pro bono lawyers); and (3) access to legal information.

The CCA was created in May 2016, and it agreed in 2017 to take over web resources previously operated by the Indiana Supreme Court that included a legal help site and limited self-represented litigant forms. The CCA developed a process to approve forms for self-represented litigants (SRLs) to be posted on the website. The CCA has used state funds to hire an independent contractor who is working on improving the forms, incorporating plain language interviews, and migrating them to the website. Tyler's Guide and File software, already available by contract to the state court system, is likely to be used to generate automated plain language interviews to generate SRL forms. The skeleton of this website may be viewed at indianalegalhelp.org, accessed using the username `inlegalhelp` and password `helping-hoosiers`. The existing, framework site shows that the CCA is committed to using resources for this project.

This grant would allow ILS, in cooperation with the CCA, to hire consulting assistance to coordinate planning for further development of this website, including how it would relate to existing websites (see, e.g., indianalegalservices.org; volunteerlawyernetwork.net; vlpnei.org). It would also allow organizers of the project to meet with entities that have developed similar projects in the Midwest that could serve as models for Indiana. Another goal is to explore the development of an AI engine that collects and aggregates Hoosiers' legal needs.

The work in Indiana anticipates the results of LSC's statewide legal access portal project ongoing in Alaska and Hawaii. We understand that project is designed to develop portal technology to

allow users to navigate among various resources that could assist with their legal problems. We also understand that this project is designed to create technology that can be adopted by other jurisdictions. This planning grant will be used in Indiana to prepare for the availability of that technology.

Major benefits:

This project will move Indiana toward having a single point of entry and navigation for low-income individuals with legal problems. It will be a “one-stop shop” that will include basic legal information, fillable forms to assist with self-representation, online plain language interviews and toolkits, and a triage portal that will connect persons looking for help to services tailored to their needs.

For providers, the advantages of the website include better screening and triage of applicants for their services, allowing more time and resources to be spent on representation rather than client selection. Providers will be able to spend less time and resources on intake and case acceptance and less time on referrals because the website is intended to contain comprehensive referral information, updated in real time, at least for legal resources and possibly for some other social, human and medical services.

Additionally, the website’s legal information services should reduce the need for civil legal aid staff to answer basic legal questions so they can devote time and energy to work requiring greater expertise. As ILS and the CCA learned from the presentation that CARPLS made at Indiana’s Partnerships for Justice Conference in 2017, approximately 80% of the questions that CARPLS callers pose have repetitive themes. With the development of an AI engine and knowledge management database on a statewide website, civil legal aid providers will be able to offer brief advice and counsel in a more efficient manner. We are seeking support to take the first steps in developing a database of plain language inquiries from Hoosiers and the legal issues that they present.

Finally, this project will provide the opportunity for all civil legal aid providers in Indiana to work together as a connected system under the aegis of the CCA. All providers, including about half a dozen staffed providers, a dozen freestanding pro bono programs, law school clinics, and any other programs will provide information so that the triage portal can make appropriate referrals for their services. An eventual goal would be using the website as an actual intake site for all Indiana civil legal aid providers.

Estimated costs:

We seek \$25,000 for a technology planning process as explained below.

This application seeks funding for a technology planning process aimed at the integration of all parts of the website and development of certain aspects of the website, including design of the optimal organizational structure, staffing, technology, and budget for a successful Indiana web portal. Our

vision for this project includes:

- A portal directing applicants to appropriate services (likely based on Microsoft/LSC project)
- Access to SRL forms and integrated online plain language interviews to complete them
- Access to legal information, we hope in the form of answers from a database of plain language interviews
- Development of a cohesive AI engine to connect the civil legal questions with appropriate answers.
- Mobile access to these tools

Along with assistance incorporating these elements, we are looking in particular for technical planning assistance on the access to legal information aspect of the website, including how we should gather information to be entered in the database of legal information.

This project also aims to learn more from another state that already has developed a successful statewide website of the sort we are proposing. Neighboring states that fall into this category include Michigan and Minnesota. We intend to use grant funds either to visit one of those states or to invite individuals from one of those states to come to Indiana to interact with our team.

Implementation:

Our court system, through the CCA, has already begun this project and committed resources to its development. The contractor developing the SRL forms is being paid by a grant from the court to the Indiana Bar Foundation, which is the fiscal agent and administrator of the CCA. It is likely that Tyler, the vendor that already has a contract with the Indiana courts to operate its e-filing system, will be used to develop online plain language forms. We expect the CCA, the court and the Indiana Bar Foundation to take active roles in developing a long-term plan for supporting the web portal.

We anticipate that our website (indianalegalservices.org) will be closely connected to this project. Our website already features some legal information (mainly in the form of downloadable brochures), referral information, and unofficial SRL forms. Our website allows for on-line application for our services and had more than 440,000 unique visitors in 2017, about three-quarters of whom looked at legal information. We have experience in making this information accessible to the client community, including writing in plain language. We also have experience dealing with an on-line application process, which we continue to improve as we learn more about what features and format work best. We lack sophisticated technical expertise such as AI, but we have long understood the benefits of a user-friendly website and want to partner in this project as a primary stakeholder of the CCA.

**Coalition for Court Access
Fellowship Steering Committee**

ATTACHMENT E

**Coalition for Court Access Summer Fellowship Program
Preliminary Report on Summer 2017 Program:
Conclusions and Observations**

Summer 2017

Monica Fennell, Carl Pebworth, and Joel Schumm

I. Introduction

Leading into the summer of 2017, the Coalition for Court Access sponsored a fellowship program aimed at recruiting law students to engage in data collection in rural counties in Indiana. The fellows were specifically charged with surveying and inventorying resources, needs, issues, and concerns that affect or impact court access in Indiana counties by engaging lawyers, judges, court staff and other stakeholders in discussions and assessments of access to justice issues in all rural counties and to provide a baseline for future work.

Each fellow was assigned two counties in which to work. The summer project required that the fellows research, interview and summarize their findings in writing. The fellows committed to spending a minimum of sixty hours over the summer on their project. Several fellows had other employment during the summer. Aside from some funding for mileage, the fellows received no payment and no academic credit for their work.

CCA members Joel Schumm and Carl Pebworth and Faegre Baker Daniels pro bono manager Monica Fennell supervised the fellows' work. All fellows were expected to attend a mandatory four-hour afternoon training session in Indianapolis in May. Midway through the summer, Justice David hosted the fellows for a lunch. The fellows later convened for a mid-summer status conference. On August 8, 2017, the fellows presented their preliminary findings to a select audience in the Courtroom of the Supreme Court of Indiana, followed by a reception in the hearing room of the Supreme Court of Indiana.

II. Individual Fellows' projects

There were nine fellows: Daniel Willard (Indiana University Indianapolis – McKinney), assigned to Henry County and Randolph County; Brendan Haile (Indiana University Indianapolis – McKinney), assigned to Fayette County and Brown County; John Stringfield (Indiana University Indianapolis – McKinney), assigned to Jackson County and Dearborn

County; Hailey Lobb (Indiana University Bloomington – Maurer), assigned to Daviess County and Pike County; Eileen Smart (Indiana University Indianapolis – McKinney), assigned to Vermillion County and Clay County; Elizabeth Hyde (Indiana University Indianapolis – McKinney), assigned to Blackford County and Clinton County; Rhianna Rey (Notre Dame), assigned to Whitley County and Starke County; Hannah Reed (Indiana University Indianapolis – Maurer), assigned to Fountain County and Cass County; and Sara Ganter (Valparaiso), assigned to White County and Fulton County.

III. Overview of specific Fellows' findings

A. Brendan Haile

Brendan Haile is a rising second year at Indiana University –Indianapolis McKinney School of Law. He was assigned to two counties to the east and south of Indianapolis—Fayette County and Brown County. His research focused on Fayette County, including a visit and extensive communication with court personnel. He noted the declining population, relatively low education level, and relatively high poverty. Although a variety of state and county court forms are available, many litigants are unable to understand the form, which requires bringing in their children or grandchildren to read the forms for them. Court staff regularly walk a fine line when communicating with individuals who fill out forms incorrectly or request legal advice on what to do. Staff are in a catch-22: reject paperwork and allow cases to backup or help these people to relieve the amount of cases that back up. Litigants would prefer the assistance of attorneys, but pro bono services are very limited.

The judges view the current situation as dire. The enormous unmet legal needs could be best addressed by additional funding to increase their pro bono services and hire mediators. Increased availability of mediators would alleviate some of the thorny ethical dilemmas for

judges interacting with self-represented litigants by helping settle cases outside the courtroom.

Brendan also suggested an online portal with basic court explanations of trial procedures, which could significantly assist those representing themselves.

B. John Stringfield

John Stringfield is a rising third year at Indiana University –Indianapolis McKinney School of Law. He was assigned to two counties in southern and southeastern Indiana: Jackson County and Dearborn County. With populations approaching 45,000 and 50,000, respectively, these counties are both larger and have comparatively lower poverty rates. The Jackson County Bar is aging and shrinking, while the Dearborn County Bar is relatively active and eager to help when asked. Despite some differences, both counties seem largely content with the status quo in meeting the needs of civil litigants.

A divorce mediation program in Jackson County allows pro se litigants the opportunity to work out their differences and come to settlement without having to litigate. A family court coordinator explains the process and meets with litigants monthly, which results in settling 80-90% of pro se divorces. Some county-specific forms are available for self-represented litigants in small claims cases, and some believe their cases are tried more quickly and efficiently than cases with attorneys who can slow down the process.

Those working in Dearborn County expressed concern that Indiana forms have opened the floodgates for individuals to think they can litigate their own cases and do not need attorneys. A large percentage of litigants reportedly want to represent themselves, but if an issue arises with a non-represented individual, the judges can simply, “pick up the phone” and someone will take the case. Court staff distribute a pamphlet from Indiana Legal Services to individuals who need help but believe they either do not get help or they have to wait six months or longer for help.

C. Daniel Willard

Daniel Willard is a recent graduate of Indiana University –Indianapolis McKinney School of Law. His research focused on two counties in eastern Indiana: Henry County and Randolph County.

In Randolph County, areas of unmet need included guardianships for children because of drug addiction of their parents, elder services, and the growing Hispanic population. The county receives a large number of protective order petitions, to which individuals attempt to add other claims, such as unpaid child support. Forms in divorce cases are often riddled with errors. Opportunities for coordination with the neighboring counties and outreach by ILS and District F to increase the local bar involvement may prove helpful.

Henry County has a significant number of resources (including a self-represented help center, court-ordered mediators, and a helpful Clerk's office) and is also working with Delaware County to develop new court initiatives, such as the pro se help center and the veteran's program. Daniel also met a fantastic reference librarian in Newcastle who works hard to help individuals with legal research needs through a large legal reference section and forms. One area of concern was a lack of communication between the Clerk's Office and the help center, which meant some litigants could not find the center or would return with incorrectly completed forms even after visiting the center.

D. Hailey Lobb

Hailey is a second-year student at IU Maurer School of Law. She gathered data in Daviess and Pike counties, both in southwestern Indiana. In gathering data and meeting with local providers, judges and court staff, Hailey noted a lack of resources across the board. Pike county had less than ten lawyers. Hailey found that both counties have adult literacy problems,

including legal literacy and digital literacy issues. Hailey interviewed the Volunteer Lawyer Program of Southwest Indiana and met with three judges. The VLP offers monthly pro bono clinics in these counties. Hailey saw that litigants had little access to pro bono clinics and even limited access to the internet. Nearly 2,000 people in Pike county do not have access to wired internet. Hailey proposed increasing literacy programs, adding a telephone brief advice clinic, making the pro se forms easier to use, and partnering with IU Maurer law school to expand the Outreach for Legal Literacy program to these rural counties.

E. Eileen Smart

Eileen, a second-year student at IU McKinney School of Law, conducted researched and site visits in Vermillion and Clay counties in western Indiana. Vermillion and Clay counties do not have active bar associations, and there are no pro bono clinics. Eileen noted a lack of resources available to help people who come into the courthouses. There are no help desks but there are computers to access forms. The Clerks' offices in both counties send people looking for help to the nearest pro bono district in Lafayette and direct pro se litigants to print online forms, which they can do at the Brazil Library. The Vermillion and Clay county Clerks' offices informed Eileen that they try to help unrepresented litigants but are limited by the fact that they cannot give legal advice. This Clerk's office suggested a website for pro se litigants that would have in-depth information and answer common questions. Eileen observed that there is no public transportation in Vermillion County, so it is hard for low-income people to get to the library and the courthouse. Eileen noted that, as with many rural counties, Vermillion and Clay counties have drug abuse issues. She also discovered that the emerging issue facing the Clay County courthouse is e-filing.

F. Elizabeth Hyde

Elizabeth is a second-year student at IU McKinney School of Law. She gathered data in Blackford County in central Indiana and Clinton County in eastern Indiana and met with two judges. Elizabeth learned that there were no help desks or referral services in these counties. In Blackford county there was a handout with a list of local bar members and with Indiana Legal Services contact information. The court staff offered handouts regarding Indiana Legal Services and told litigants about the online pro se forms. Clinton county courthouse does not have a publicly accessible computer or printer. One judge highlighted an increase in the Clinton county Spanish-speaking population and said that he wants to put up more signs in Spanish. This judge also noted problems with pro se expungements and requested help from pro bono or legal aid attorneys with expungement petitions. Elizabeth connected the legal and medical resources and noted that the only hospital in Clinton county has 25 beds and the only hospital in Blackford county has 15 beds. She noted drug problems. Elizabeth opined “I think that the forms are an area where minor effort could produce major results. Adding a glossary of legal terms would be a good start, and would enable pro se litigants to better understand the forms. It would also help to label and group the forms more simply. For instance, the various divorce forms would be easier to navigate if they were organized with brief explanations of what the form does.”

G. Sara Ganter

Sara is a rising third year at Valparaiso University School of Law. Sara gathered data in two counties in Northwest Indiana – White County and Fulton County. Among other things, Sara collated quantitative demographic and court-related data. She also conducted qualitative data collection – interviews – meeting with judges in both counties as well as lawyers and court staff. Sara’s research focused in part on the experience of *pro se* litigants. In both counties she

visited, the courts are flooded with unrepresented litigants, which presents big challenges for the court system. Judges and court staff agreed it would be good to enhance resources that better equip unrepresented litigants to navigate the courts. Sara acknowledged that the resources available to rural counties differed substantially from urban populations. For example, neither county had sizable bars (with active members of the active private bar numbering about 10), so there is no large pool of pro bono volunteer resources available locally. Similarly, legal service providers are not active in the counties. Sara also observed that law students may be able to play a more active role in delivering legal services and facilitating court access in these communities.

H. Hannah Reed

Hannah is a rising third year in Indiana University – Indianapolis McKinney School of Law. She was assigned to Fountain and Cass Counties, both of which are in the northern part of the state. Hannah’s assignment reflected one truth about Indiana’s rural counties – namely, that there is a great deal of demographic variance between rural counties. Cass County is much larger than Fountain County and has different resources. Hannah conducted quantitative data collection and research regarding the counties’ demographics and court information. She noted that, among other things, Cass County is much more ethnically diverse – with a growing population of Hispanic/Latino residents – whereas Fountain County’s residents are still almost exclusively self-identified as white. Hannah’s research suggested that, within the universe of rural counties, there will still be considerable diversity of resources and opportunities affecting court access. Cass County has a more substantial bar and greater community resources than Fountain County. Hannah explored one resource – healthcare institutions as a possible legal resource – in analyzing the possibility of medical-legal partnerships (MLPs) in a rural setting.

Hannah identified potential structural challenges in both counties that face unrepresented litigants.

I. Rhianna Rey

Rhianna, a rising third year at Notre Dame University's School of Law, was assigned to Starke and Whitley Counties, which are in northern Indiana, to the southwest and the southeast, respectively, of South Bend. These counties reflect a different kind of diversity in rural Indiana in that they had dramatically different median incomes – Whitley County has a median income that is nearly \$12,000 higher than Starke County. Rhianna visited the counties and interviewed judges and court staff. Rhianna identified one important issue arising from her observations and interviews – the impact of mandatory e-filing on low income and unrepresented litigants in these rural counties. Rhianna discovered that the court staff struggled with e-filing and with the ethical boundaries that limit what staff can do to assist these litigants. Rhianna also noted that state-wide and developed resources regarding e-filing for unrepresented litigants exist, but were largely unavailable in these counties. There were no printed versions of the resources and there was not publicly accessible computer access in the courthouses. This will likely present a substantial barrier to court access throughout rural Indiana until these issues and challenges are resolved.

IV. Lessons Learned

A. This summer's project was a big success. The fellows produced a diversity of insight and perspective. By allowing a lot of independence in how the fellows collected data, we learned a great deal about how to refine and to focus future research and data collection. And it was essentially free –the fellows did not get paid or get academic credit.

B. Much more work is needed. The fellows – who collectively spent over 1000 hours on research and data collection have just scratched the surface of what needs to be done. In particular, a more comprehensive approach to interviewing and engaging in dialogue with judges, court staffs, lawyers and low and modest income litigants needs to occur. Harnessing the resources available through law schools offers a large pool of available help. It may be possible to extend the reach to other higher educational programs and schools.

C. The fellows' work did reveal some common themes. The bar in rural Indiana continues to shrink and to age. Rural bars also have much lower ratios of lawyers per capita even accounting for lower populations in rural counties. Most of the counties surveyed had attorney to resident ratios of a least 1,000 residents for every private attorney. In Marion County, the ratio is one attorney for every 144 persons. Among other things, these distended ratios affect the existence of a meaningful volunteer pro bono legal resource – there are not enough lawyers and they are already stretched very thinly. Rural courts and litigants struggle with access to technology that will help ease existing challenges. Legal service providers have only a limited presence in many rural counties for understandable reasons – these scarce resources can only be stretched so far, too. In summary, the outlook and challenges as well as resources in rural counties appear fundamentally different in many respects than in urban Indiana communities.

D. The fellows' and the CCA's work seems necessarily to be part of a long-term and potentially on-going project, both on the local and statewide levels, of data collection, planning and plan execution relating to court access. We received repeated feedback from fellows, judges, lawyers, court staff and others involved that they hoped that the data collection in rural counties could be used to improve court access on an ongoing basis. Plainly, though, the courts, bars, and court staffs in these rural counties are overstretched and challenged to develop a plan

without collaboration with and support from statewide and regional resources and constituencies. Other independent perspectives are also important in gaining a full and fair assessment. For example, some judges and court staff opined a high rate of self-representation was purely a matter of individual choice, an issue worthy of further study that ideally includes surveys of or discussions with self-represented litigants. Assembling a snapshot of data at one point in time is not as constructive as developing an ongoing process of assembling material information and data as a means of planning and measurement with respect to specific and tangible court access goals and objectives.

E. Related to this point, developing a plan for improving court access in rural Indiana needs to occur at least in part at a local level. While rural counties share some common opportunities and challenges – particularly when compared with urban communities – the fellows’ research revealed the tremendous diversity of situation and opportunity within rural Indiana. There does not appear to be a generic template for improving court access that can be superimposed over rural counties. Moreover, the fellows’ work helped to break down barriers that otherwise exist between local courts and bars and centrally organized institutions like the appellate courts and the CCA. The local planning process is one way to increase enthusiasm and morale around the issue of court access. Each county will have its own particular resources, opportunities, and challenges.

F. One next step for the CCA is to examine how and where a trial planning process might be undertaken in a rural county or counties. Several fellows looked at non-legal institutions as potential legal resources and partners in a planning process and in developing a court access plan. Developing a group of stakeholders and a framework in which methodical,

systematic local planning can be done is one related point here. We think that this is one of the next goals for this working project.

G. There were many benefits to allowing the first class of fellows a lot of flexibility in how they conducted their study and analysis of needs in various counties. After completing this first trial phase, however, a couple general observations about the most and best use of law students' skills and time can be made. First, a lot of objective demographic and court based data is currently available and accessible. Having students compile that data – from census records, Supreme Court of Indiana files, etc. – may not be the most efficient use of valuable data collection resources. Qualitative data collection – in many instances, interviewing and listening exercises on the ground in the field in rural Indiana – is both the area of greatest need and where the least is known. More attention should be given to addressing this kind of data collection going forward. And, as one area of opportunity, we need to revisit how to most effectively educate and train law students on effective interviewing and data collection.

H. On a related point, several fellows commented on different opportunities and potential roles for law students actually working in rural counties as part of a clinic, clerkship, fellowship or internship. There are many possibilities. Connecting law students directly with a court as an unpaid extern or paid law clerk would add an important resource for many rural courts. Some law students discussed connecting law students with rural courts in a specific role that focused on facilitating court access. As a third alternative, setting up clinics independent of the courts themselves would allow law students to participate in the direct delivery of services to low income and unrepresented parties. This might be done with or in combination with the pro bono district, too.

I. One outstanding question embedded in this overall process concerns data collection and management. The fellows helped in developing the beginning of a common template to guide what information is relevant to data collection in this area. However, this process needs to be formalized. Additionally, developing a common format for data collection is important – this could include developing an interview outline and a method of and format for recording and storing data. Identifying who and where this information is stored and managed is another open question. There has been some discussion of forming an academic consortium of Indiana-based law schools, who could share in the responsibility of managing and maintaining this data. Law librarians may play an important role in this area, too.

J. Closely related to the collection and retention of information is access. Compilation of publically available data, such as county income levels or caseload and counsel statistics, raises no concerns. Access to sensitive information gained through individual interviews, whether with court personnel or lawyers or litigants, and the observations and impressions of Fellows who have visited the counties, however, must be addressed with care to ensure candor of participants in the future.