

**LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
KATRINA NATIONAL CONFERENCE CALL
Wednesday September 14, 2005**

Action steps that were suggested or reported on at the meeting

- **Future Fundraising.** Fundraising efforts are focused on providing relief directly to programs. A list of most affected areas and places receiving 10,000+ evacuees has been developed. Internally, NLADA is working to raise funds for AL, MS, & LA to provide direct support to the staff from those programs that have been directly affected. NLADA will share its fundraising plans shortly.
- **Expertise resource.** Establish a system to contact colleagues who are experts on relevant substantive areas and on state laws and procedures.
- **ABA, NLADA, LSC and Probono.net web site.** The joint website will have information on assistance for victims, resources for legal aid and defender programs and information for pro bono volunteers. Those who were interested in reviewing the site were asked to call or e-mail Mike Genz. A launch is anticipated for September 21st. The launch will be just the beginning. Everyone on the call is asked to contribute content and to make suggestions for how it can be more useful. It is hoped that the website will grow to be part of the expertise resource needed, as described above.
- **Pro Bono Volunteers.** Terry Brooks notes that the ABA has been compiling a list of pro bono volunteers for more than two weeks. Those who may need pro bono services can contact the ABA for lists of volunteers who have particular characteristics, e.g. bar membership, substantive expertise, willingness to travel.
- **Case Counting.** All providers who are assisting Katrina victims are strongly urged to develop a system to count Katrina-related cases.
- **CLE Training.**
 - Georgia will conduct a CLE training on October 10th. It will be telecast and available on video. Information on it will be sent out to those on this call list.
 - Paul Doyle (Florida) has offered to sponsor training in disaster relief. They are willing to help with costs to bring in trainees
- **Identification Recovery.** This needs to be addressed. The Katrina Legal Aid website will have resources. Please share any information you have on the topic with Mike Monahan. It would be helpful to have a list of persons overseeing driver's license issues within each state.
- **Laptop Offer.** Pfizer is offering lap top computers to affected programs. They have already made significant donations to Lone Star and the Mississippi Centers for Legal Services. Contact Jean O'Hare at Jean.OHare@pfizer.com

- **Other Needs**

- Work to ease licensing requirements for lawyers to assist in affected areas and to allow dislocated lawyers to practice.
- Revision of the guidelines surrounding emergency services (TANF, housing, etc.) for Katrina victims.
- The bankruptcy reform needs to be considered in light of Katrina.
- Information needs to be obtained and disseminated about congressional activities surrounding relief efforts. It was suggested that it would be helpful if the website tracked developments.
- MIE could help with developing information on managing during a crisis
- NLADA is planning to modify its annual conference to include hurricane relief information. Don Saunders requests information on what would be key issues to focus on.
- The applicability of the McKenney-Vento Act (relating to school districts and admission of homeless children) needs to be determined in this context.
- Guidance on dealing with FEMA is needed. Mortgage and flood insurance, the flood bar and coordinating legal services efforts with FEMA were all discussed.

State Reports (in order of discussion)

- **Louisiana**

- Except for three or four, all of the staff from the Southeast program have been located. The employees they were particularly concerned about because of where they live have been located.
- The Hammond office is up and running. The program doesn't have access to its database yet.
- Relief efforts are being coordinated through the state bar. Monte Mollere is the contact. See state bar website – LSBA.ORG – for information.
- There is a call center at MSU with student and attorney volunteers. Anticipate 500 calls a day. There are three FEMA sites so far.
- TRLA CMS is being used.
- There is an effort to relax the pro hoc vice rules for LA. This has not been resolved yet.

- **Mississippi**

- All program staff are accounted for
- The coastal office, Gulfport, is standing but has structural damage. The other offices are functioning.
- Efforts are being coordinated through MS state bar young lawyers. This group is working with FEMA on hotline to be staffed by volunteer lawyers
- There are currently three FEMA offices: Jackson County, Harrison and Hancock
- There is state Supreme Court approval for practice by out-of-town lawyers

- **Alabama**

- A statewide meeting was held with programs, other legal services providers, FEMA, state bar, etc.

- The Young Lawyers Association fielding calls for assistance
- They are preparing materials for circulation through circuit court
- **Florida**
 - They are still trying to determine number of evacuees in the state.
 - They also are dealing with Florida residents affected by previous hurricanes
 - North Florida is adding to CSM a tracking system for calls from evacuees
- **Texas**
 - Initially, there were 250,000 evacuees in shelters; there are currently 20,000.
 - While the intake numbers are currently low (85 in-takes from working with evacuees in shelters), they expect to have 25,000-45,000 new cases --double a year's normal caseload
 - There are plans to engage private bar for assistance. Additional call centers needed.
 - Equal Access and the Texas Bar have provided is \$1 million each to meet staffing needs. Anticipate that \$5 million will be needed to adequately cover the caseload.
- **Georgia**
 - There are approximately 25,000 evacuees in city and rural areas
 - Resources are needed for staff and volunteers
 - Georgia Legal Services is visiting shelters and providing data on website
 - They are currently collecting data on types of services/assistance needed
 - Evacuees are having ID problems within state. Georgia is working with other states to secure IDs for evacuees
- **Tennessee**
 - Tennessee is not sure of number of evacuees
 - The majority of shelters have closed and evacuees have moved into homes and churches
 - Currently, the calls for assistance are primarily concerning family law issues.
 - CLE training is being developed
- **Minnesota**
 - The processing center was due to open Thursday, Sept. 15th.
- **California**
 - The state has received several thousand evacuees
 - They are working on developing CLEs
 - They plan to use the ABA as a resource for in training out-of-state issues

Participants on the call (to the best of our understanding):

- Alabama
 - Tracy Daniel, IOLTA

- California
 - Kate Meiss, Neighborhood Legal Services
 - Neal Dudovitz, Neighborhood Legal Services
 - Beth Ostheimer, Director, Children's Defense Fund CA
- Florida
 - Kris Knab -- coordinator
- Georgia
 - Mike Monahan, Georgia State Bar
 - Phyllis Holman, Georgia Legal Services
- Louisiana
 - Brian Lenard – state coordinator -- Southeast Louisiana Legal Services
 - Monte Mollere – IOLTA
- Minnesota
 - Jessie Nicholson, Southern MN Regional
- Mississippi
 - Sam Buchanan – state coordinator -- MS Legal Services
 - Lindia Robinson, MS Legal Services
- Tennessee
 - Harrison McIver, Memphis Area Legal Services
 - Linda Seely, Memphis Area Legal Services
- Texas
 - David Hall – state coordinator -- Texas RioGrande Legal
- Other
 - ABA
 - Terry Brooks
 - NLADA
 - Don Saunders
 - CLASP
 - Linda Perle
 - Probono.net
 - Mark O'Brien
 - Allison McDermott
 - LSC
 - Helaine Barnett
 - Mike Genz
 - Willie Abrams
 - John Eidleman
 - Lora Rath
 - Wendy Burnette