



September 9, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NORTHWEST JUSTICE PROJECT AWARDED \$211,120 PRO BONO INNOVATION GRANT

WASHINGTON – The Legal Services Corporation announced today Northwest Justice Project’s 24-month \$211,120 Pro Bono Innovation grant to systematically increase and improve pro bono legal services to low income clients.

Northwest Justice Project will pilot an effort to address the challenge of providing extended legal representation to clients in an unknown area of law. The project will develop a comprehensive set of resources to support volunteer lawyers in providing significant pro bono assistance beyond brief advice or limited action.

The project’s resources will include mentoring and research assistance, in addition to sample pleadings and discovery documents, memoranda of law, substantive law and local procedural information sheets, a sample limited scope retainer agreement and a series of short video clips by subject matter experts.

The project will partner with three local volunteer lawyer programs in northwest Washington: Legal Assistance by Whatcom (LAW) Advocates, Skagit County Volunteer Lawyer Program and Snohomish County Legal Services. The second year of the project will expand to rural eastern Washington and partner with Chelan-Douglas Volunteer Attorney Services to pilot remote mentoring and pro bono support.

Northwest Justice Project is one of 11 inaugural recipients of LSC’s \$2.5 million Pro Bono Innovation Fund, a competitive grant that invests in projects that identify and promote replicable innovations in pro bono for low-income legal aid clients.

"We are grateful to Congress for funding this new competitive grant program to increase pro bono support for civil legal aid," LSC President Jim Sandman said. "As a former antitrust lawyer, I believe that competition promotes innovation. The number and quality of the applications for our new Pro Bono Innovation Fund grants proves the point."

Washington’s congressional delegation applauded the Northwest Justice Project with the following statements:

Senator Patty Murray: "This is a great investment in a critical project for Washington state families and communities. Northwest Justice Project does great work and makes a real

difference in the lives of low income families by helping them access counsel and overcome barriers to justice. This investment will help NJP expand its reach through partnerships with volunteer lawyers and organizations throughout the state to address a broader set of legal needs and issues for their clients. I want to congratulate NJP on receiving this grant and thank them, their attorneys, and the volunteer attorneys across Washington state who provide pro bono legal representation to those in need.”

Representative Suzan DelBene (WA-01): “This funding is great news for the Northwest Justice Project and for the people of the 1st District. I am so pleased the Legal Services Corporation has recognized the incredible work the Northwest Justice Project is doing to provide legal aid to those who need it, and this grant will allow them to further expand their support in these communities.”

Representative Derek Kilmer (WA-06): “A healthy democracy includes a judicial system that is accessible to all its citizens. It’s important that every person – whether they are dealing with foreclosure or fraud – can get the legal services they need to protect their interests. That’s why Congress and the Legal Services Corporation created a new Pro Bono Innovation Fund. This program is awarding grants to groups like the Northwest Justice Project to better ensure volunteer lawyers can effectively serve their clients.”

Representative Rick Larsen (WA-02): “I am a strong supporter of efforts to break down barriers so all people can participate in our economy and our democracy, a goal the Northwest Justice Project embodies well. The Northwest Justice Project provides critical legal aid to low-income families, veterans and others in the Pacific Northwest to help them maintain stable housing, access affordable health care and fulfill other basic needs. With this grant, the Northwest Justice Project will be able to expand its reach as it builds better opportunities for people and for communities.”

[Legal Services Corporation](#) (LSC) was established by the Congress in 1974 to provide equal access to justice and to ensure the delivery of high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income Americans. The Corporation currently provides funding to 134 independent non-profit legal aid programs in every state, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.