



**New York Justice for All
Local Access to Justice Committee Activities**

3rd Judicial District: Albany County

Three Working Groups:

- Community Resources
 - identifying platform for resource directory
 - exploring collaboration with LawHelpNY and 2-1-1
- Modest Means collaboration with Albany County Bar Assn
 - focusing on Surrogate's Court
- Education/Training on Access to Justice and Implicit Bias for Court Staff
 - create a receptive and welcoming atmosphere for court users, current focus on non-judicial staff

4th Judicial District: Schenectady County

Four Working Groups:

- Enhancing Communication
 - identifying platform for resource guide
- Enhancing Access to Legal Services
 - developing monthly law community day events, which will include legal information session on specific topic as well as a legal advice clinic
- Sustainability
 - developing a Community Network of Volunteers
 - maintaining currency of county resource guide and map:
https://www.schenectadycounty.com/sites/default/files/Resource_Booklet_12-12.pdf and
https://www.schenectadycounty.com/res_map
 - mentoring programs
- Substantive Law
 - Landlord & Tenant
 - Help Center opened in Ballston Spa; will serve as remote Help Center for district until other physical locations are opened

5th Judicial District: Onondaga County

Two Working Groups:

- Civil Legal Needs
 - Initial assessment identified greatest need in landlord & tenant, child support modification and consumer debt; exploring initiatives to address default rates across all three case types, as well as the incarceration of noncompliant parents in child support cases
- Civil Legal Resources
 - established a Civil Legal Advice and Resource Office (CLARO) to assist unrepresented litigants with consumer debt matters
 - exploring other initiatives to provide effective assistance to unrepresented litigants

6th Judicial District: Tompkins County

Three Working Groups:

- Inventory of Existing Resources
 - developing a community resource guide
- Substantive Legal Issues
 - initial assessment found largest need in family law, landlord & tenant, employment discrimination, immigration and driver license suspensions.
 - considering training for judges on interacting with the unrepresented, as well as substantive training on new rent law
 - Bar Association is taking active steps to create a sustainable organizational structure that will promote expansion of access to justice efforts; establishing a joint pro bono committee with the Finger Lakes Women's Bar Association; creating a lawyer referral service
- Outreach/Accessibility
 - community meetings held/planned; considering collaboration with 2-1-1; possible collaborative project with public libraries and law libraries, including development of a public librarian toolkit

7th Judicial District: Monroe County

Written strategic plan drafted, to serve as template for other Judicial Districts to adapt.

Four Working Groups:

- Community Justice Council
 - entity whose purpose is to engage community stakeholders in an ongoing dialogue and collaboration with the courts to address barriers to justice and cultivate trust and confidence in the judicial system
- Prevention
 - initiated a legal services project in high school (modeled after a program in Atlanta), using AmeriCorp volunteers to triage legal needs and referrals of at-risk youth and their families
 - developed a survey to identify the unmet legal needs and gaps in knowledge about services; working on mapping community services; developing resource guide
 - working with a VISTA member from LawHelpNY on data collection and visualization
 - collaboration with Finger Lakes 2-1-1 to coordinate and develop a training for 2-1-1 call center representatives, and ensure legal services/resources are included in the 2-1-1 database
 - working to improve access to services for both the limited English proficient populations and the deaf and hard-of-hearing community
- Town and Village Courts
 - recommended online record access pilot, which will be implemented in 2020
 - data collection for L&T matters currently underway
 - survey of court users currently underway
 - transportation barriers subcommittee formed
 - consolidation of L&T cases to one night
- Housing (three subcommittees)
 - Right to Counsel
 - Establishing a Rochester Housing Court
 - Addressing the Needs of Unrepresented Litigants
 - exploring implementing a court navigator program
 - developing additional notices for tenants

8th Judicial District: Erie County

Four Working Groups:

- Rural Needs
 - Establishing a remote help center in conjunction with the Erie Bar Association, in Chautauqua Family Court;
 - Implemented Lackawanna City Court Attorney for the Morning Program
- Resource Guide
 - The resources from around the District have been compiled and the information is being reviewed, prior to the next meeting.
- Child Support Proceeding Pilot Project in Family Court
 - Support Magistrates are developing pilot, to start in one of the smaller Family Courts.
 - Exploring Presumptive ADR for child support matters
- Evaluation of Data
 - needs in Family Court (child support/modification), City Court (consumer debt/landlord-tenant) and Supreme Court (divorces); evaluation of data has led to focus on child support initiatives

9th Judicial District: Westchester County

Six Working Groups:

- Right to counsel in Landlord & Tenant cases
 - pilots in Yonkers and Mount Vernon working with County DSS for payment of rent arrears; foreclosure to be added
- Family Court
 - child support pilot in White Plains; court navigator program
 - adoption; develop lunch and learns or law a night programs to train attorneys
 - create a child support clinic through Pace Women's Justice Center
- Outreach and Communication using Technology
 - law librarians to work with public library and Help Center
 - Resource Guide to be developed with assistance of Pace law students
- Immigrants' Rights and Services
 - Education and Training

- SIJS Training during Mandatory Training for AFC 2020 (will also include a section on how to use interpreters effectively)
 - SIJS Training for outside agencies and practitioners - specific court procedure Training
 - SIJS Community engagement and Education: Schools, church and libraries – Agencies and Immigration Practitioners to have a “Road Show”
- Resource Guide for Unaccompanied Minors
- Professional and Agency Immigration Day at the Westchester County Center
- Court process – Streamline and develop uniform procedures for SIJS applications for Family Court
- Sustainability – establish a Westchester County Latino Bar Association
- Foreclosure
 - Pro bono project focusing on seniors
- Prevention
 - establish Legal Hand neighborhood storefront centers

10th Judicial District: Nassau County

Two Working Groups:

- Community Legal Help Day Committee
 - Hosted two evening legal help programs at the Hempstead Public Library for housing, immigration and public assistance matters; assistance provided by members of the Nassau County Bar Association, Nassau Suffolk Law Services and Hofstra Law School; hosting third program in November at Uniondale Public Library
- Resource Guide Committee
 - Resource Guide completed in collaboration with the County Attorney’s Office

10th Judicial District: Suffolk County

Three Working Groups:

- Outreach and Prevention
 - Created resource directory; available online at <http://www.nycourts.gov/courts/10jd/suffolk/PDF/ResourceGuide.pdf>

- developed training for front-line staff and librarians (held on April 8 and June 18, 2019, respectively)
- developed one pager for front-line staff (Legal Help at a Glance)
- actively working with LawHelpNY and 2-1-1- to create awareness of resources in county
- implementing a communication plan with the assistance of stakeholders (Each One/Reach One)
- Community Legal Help Project
 - developed library project where a collaborative of seven local providers rotate weekly to deliver brief advice services to residents at two public libraries
 - developing a virtual Family Court Clerk that will allow litigants to file DIY petitions from the two public libraries
- Legal Representation
 - legal services providers and county bar association collaborate to meet community needs, e.g. Pro Bono Citizenship Project where volunteer attorneys and Nassau Suffolk Law Services staff, accompanied by Spanish language interpreters, assist low-income Legal Permanent Residents apply for citizenship

New York City

Two Working Groups:

- Consumer Debt
 - Following Listening Session of defendants' advocates, Administrative Judge of the New York City Civil Court is considering operational changes, including rotation of judges, extension of service period and inclusion of defenses in form answers, as well as judicial education
- Bronx Outreach and Prevention
 - Plans to develop Resource Guide
 - Stakeholder Listening Session held in Bronx County on June 5; stakeholders subsequently surveyed on needs in community; request for resource guide which is in planning state; legal clinic planned with LIFT
 - Next Listening Session being planned in collaboration with the Brooklyn Public Library