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# June 2012

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## Legal Liaison Program Kicks Off!

The Call for Justice Legal Liaison Program Kickoff event on May 30th was a terrific success! More than 50 service providers, representing more than 40 Twin Cities Metro Area organizations, were in attendance. We're grateful to all who took part.

As many of you know, the LLP is intended to help increase access to the civil legal system by working to make easier sharing of legal and social service provider information relative to programs, needs, and capacity.

If your organization was unable to attend but is interested in learning more about the LLP, please [contact us](#). We would be happy to speak with you about what the Legal Liaison Program can offer your organization, and how your participation can benefit those in need in the Twin Cities Metro Area.



Speed Networking at the Legal Liaison Program Kickoff

## Survey Reveals Important Information About Local Resources

Attendees at the Legal Liaison Kickoff event on May 30th were asked to complete a short survey. A total of 39 surveys were returned, with legal providers making up 46% of the respondents, social service providers accounting for 39% of respondents, and other providers or affiliates making up the remaining 15%.

The survey results confirmed some things we already knew; nearly 80% of respondents had encountered problems in making legal referrals. However, other results were informative; 82% of respondents had visited the Legal Services State Support website, LawHelpMN.org, and 87% knew about services provided by state court Self-Help Centers.



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### Advancement of Justice Award Winner!

Congratulations to Call for Justice Board Member Candee Goodman for receiving the Hennepin County Bar Association's Advancement of Justice Award! Candee has devoted more than 40 years to securing legal assistance for low and moderate-income individuals and families in the Twin Cities. Her compassion and creativity have helped change the face of pro bono service, and her dedication to protecting the rights of all is truly inspiring.

### Liberty Bell Award Winner Announced

Caty Jirik is this year's recipient of the Ramsey County Bar Association's Liberty Bell Award! Under Caty's stewardship, United Way 2-1-1 fields more than 400,000 calls for help from Minnesotans each year. 40,000 of these calls are requests for legal assistance.

The survey reflected that barely half (54%) of the participants had ever assisted a client in filling out Self-Help Center forms--a statistic which Call for Justice seeks to increase. Moreover, less than half (41%) of the providers had ever helped a client navigate the LawHelpMN.org site. This too, needs to change.

The full survey results can be accessed [here](#). We welcome your comments!



Caty's guidance is critical to the Call for Justice mission, and her insight has helped tens of thousands of Minnesotans find support when they need it most.

**Support Legal Aid, the Volunteer Lawyers Network, and United Way 2-1-1**

Please consider a charitable donation to [Minnesota Legal Aid](#) programs, the [Volunteer Lawyers Network](#), and [United Way 2-1-1](#). Your generosity will help support programs that provide much needed legal assistance to low and moderate-income Minnesotans. Every dollar makes a difference!

## New HCBA President

At its 93rd Annual Meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>, the Hennepin County Bar Association welcomed President-elect Tom Jensen of Lind, Jensen, Sullivan & Peterson. Tom brings energy and new ideas to the HCBA which Call for Justice believes will create new opportunities for collaboration. His commitment to a vibrant legal community in Hennepin County ensures for an exciting year ahead.

## New RCBA President

The Ramsey County Bar Association celebrates its 129th year! As one of the oldest county bar associations in Minnesota, the RCBA has served as a model for other bar associations for more than a century. May's Annual Meeting welcomed Richard Stebbins of Collins, Buckley, Sauntry & Haugh P.L.L.P. as the Association's President-elect. Richard was selected as a 2010 Best Lawyer in America in the specialty of family law. We look forward to his leadership through yet another innovative year.

## C4J Welcomes Thea Reilkoff!

We are very pleased to have Thea Reilkoff join the Call for Justice team! Thea served as Director of External Relations at the Yale School of Engineering and Applied Science before beginning at the University of Minnesota School of Law. She is interning with C4J before returning for her second year of law school. We are delighted to have Thea on board!

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