

Right to Counsel

A right to counsel in civil matters...

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Right to Counsel

The right to counsel in civil matters continues to be a topic for national discussion. Currently a few jurisdictions are experimenting with providing representation to indigent civil litigants in certain cases. This program will provide information about these projects and discuss the landscape in Michigan as it relates to representation of those without the resources to afford legal assistance in civil matters.

The 14th Amendment right to counsel for the indigent in criminal matters was established in 1963 in *Gideon v. Wainwright*. There is no similar protection for civil litigants.

NATIONAL UPDATE



John Pollock

Coordinator of the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel, Public Justice Center

John Pollock joined the Public Justice Center in February 2009 and is currently coordinator of the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel. At PJC he focuses entirely on working to establish the right to counsel for low-income individuals in civil cases involving basic human needs such as shelter, safety, sustenance, health, and child custody. Prior to PJC, John spent 1 1/2 years as the enforcement director for the Central Alabama Fair

Housing Center (CAFHC) in Montgomery, Alabama, addressing systemic housing discrimination in rental, sales, lending, and insurance. Before CAFHC, John served as a law fellow for 1 1/2 years at the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama. While at SPLC, he founded the Heirs' Property Retention Coalition, a network of organizations across the southeastern United States that work to preserve ancestral property within low-income African-American communities, and he drafted the first version of a uniform law to reduce forced land sales that was adopted by the ABA and the Uniform Law Commission in 2011. John graduated with honors from Wesleyan University in 1994 and from Northeastern University School of Law in 2005.

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MICHIGAN PERSPECTIVES



Joan Glanton Howard

Chief Counsel, Civil Law Group

Howard is chief counsel of the Legal Aid and Defender Association's Civil Law Group and has enjoyed her dream career of being a legal services attorney, administrator, and policymaker for the last 30 years. She has represented parents of homeless students in their fight for quality education for their children, represented the elderly in a national class-action lawsuit seeking financial assistance with utility bills, and trained probing attorneys to assist families in receiving food stamps. She strives to embrace

technology and innovation and is encouraged by the numbers of enthusiastic new lawyers who choose to practice poverty law.



Dawn Van Hoek

Director, State Appellate Defender Office of Michigan

Dawn Van Hoek is director of the State Appellate Defender Office, Michigan's only state-funded public defense agency, with offices in Detroit and Lansing. Twice recognized by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* as one of the state's most influential lawyers, Ms. Van Hoek has chaired the State Bar of Michigan's Representative Assembly, Attorney Discipline Board hearing panels, and the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan Foundation.

She is a past president of the Women Lawyers Association of Michigan. Ms. Van Hoek currently serves on the Boards of the Michigan Campaign for Justice, the Criminal Defense Attorneys of Michigan, and Wayne County's Criminal Advocacy Program.



David Moss

Director of Clinical Education, Wayne State University Law School

David Moss has been employed by WSU since 1998 and is currently director of clinical education and assistant professor (clinical). He received his B.A. with honors from Swarthmore College in 1982, and his J.D. from Columbia University Law School in 1985. While in law school, he was a member of the Columbia Law Review, was twice named a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar, and was awarded the Jane Marks Murphy Prize for Exceptional Interest and Proficiency in Clinical Offerings. Moss worked as a public interest attorney in New York and Minnesota for eight years, representing children and people with disabilities in a wide variety of civil and administrative proceedings. He served as director of Statewide Youth Advocacy Runaway and Homeless Youth Law Project in upstate New York, and was a managing attorney with the Minnesota Disability Law Center in Minneapolis, Minn. His teaching and scholarly interests include disability law, juvenile law, health law, bioethics and the law, and trial advocacy. As assistant director of clinical education, Professor Moss directs both the law school's Disability Law Clinic and its Civil Law Internship Program, and serves as faculty advisor to the Free Legal Aid Clinic and the Student Trial Advocacy Program.



Angela Tripp

Co-Managing Attorney, Michigan Poverty Law Program and Project Manager, Michigan Legal Help Program

Angela has been the project manager of the Michigan Legal Help Program since 2011, and co-managing attorney of the Michigan Poverty Law Program since 2010. She transitioned into these roles after working with Legal Services of South Central Michigan since 2005, first as a staff attorney and then as a managing attorney in the Lansing field office. The Michigan Legal Help Program is responsible for Michigan-LegalHelp.org, the statewide website for self-represented litigants, and numerous affiliated self-help centers around the state. Ms. Tripp holds a JD from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston.