



TASK FORCE TO EXPAND ACCESS TO CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES IN NEW YORK

April 21, 2015

Dear Colleague,

Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman and the Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York are pleased to invite you to the Fourth Annual Law School Conference, to be hosted by Dean Michael Martin, on May 11, 2015, at Fordham Law School, located at 150 West 62nd Street in Manhattan, New York. Registration for the one-day Conference will begin at 9:00 a.m., with welcoming remarks from the Chief Judge and Task Force Chair Helaine M. Barnett scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Over the last three years, the Conference has provided a forum for legal educators, law students, the courts, legal services providers and the bar to collaboratively discuss how we can work collectively to address the civil legal needs of low-income New Yorkers and best use the talent and energies of our law students. Integral to this discussion is the framework of legal education and the opportunities created by the 50 hour *pro bono* bar admission rule and *Pro Bono* Scholars Program for law schools and law students.

This year, the Conference will feature two morning plenary discussions addressing "Innovations and Collaborations for Law Students and Newly Admitted Lawyers Working to Close the Justice Gap." The opening plenary session will focus on models for effective partnerships between the public and private sectors that provide opportunities for newly admitted lawyers. The second plenary session will examine law school programs, including the *Pro Bono* Scholars Program and experiences in connection with the 50 Hour *Pro Bono* Bar Admission Rule.

After lunch, Conference participants will have the opportunity, as in past years, to join a topical work group session. This year, participants will choose one of six concurrent sessions:

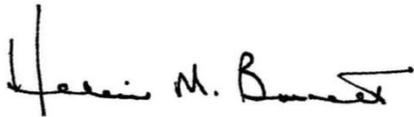
1. Educating Students to be Culturally Competent Lawyers
2. Models of Curricular Offerings that Infuse Access to Justice
3. Best Practices for Supervising Student *Pro Bono* Work:
Workshop on Developing the Supervisors' Guidebook
4. Limited Scope Legal Assistance as a Means to Narrow the Justice Gap
5. Developing Transactional Skills to Serve Low-Income Communities
6. Role of Law Schools in Training Non-Lawyer Advocates to Help Narrow the Justice Gap

These sessions will lead into a closing plenary session moderated by Dean Matthew Diller, which will include presentations from the facilitator of each work group and identification of next steps in the law schools' work to help narrow the justice gap. The Conference will conclude by 3:30 p.m.

The continued success of the Annual Law School Conferences, and the implementation of Key Recommendations adopted by the Task Force from the 2012, 2013 and 2014 Conferences, reflect the important contributions of the conference participants. We are certain that our efforts to address the gap in civil legal services to the underserved are impactful and once again anticipate that your work at the 2015 Conference will further advance these efforts. In your RSVP, please rank your afternoon work group preferences from the categories enumerated above and return the enclosed form to Lauren Kanfer by email to lkanfer@nycourts.gov by April 28, 2015. Thank you.

We look forward to welcoming you on May 11, 2015.

Very truly yours,



Helaine M. Barnett
Chair, Task Force to Expand Access
to Civil Legal Services in New York



Matthew Diller
Dean, Benjamin N. Cardozo
School of Law
Chair, Task Force Law School
Involvement Working Group

cc: Chief Judge Jonathan Lippman
att: RSVP form



**ACCESS TO JUSTICE: THE ROLE OF LAW SCHOOLS
MAY 11, 2015 CONFERENCE
Fordham Law School of Law
150 West 62nd Street
New York, New York 10023
9:00 a.m. Registration
9:30 a.m. Program**

RSVP to lkanfer@nycourts.gov as soon as practicable

Name: _____
School or Organization: _____
Title: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

WORK GROUP PREFERENCES: please rank your choices from 1 – 6 (**1 is highest preference**):

- _____ Educating Students to be Culturally Competent Lawyers
- _____ Models of Curricular Offerings that Infuse Access to Justice
- _____ Best Practices for Supervising Student *Pro Bono* Work:
Workshop on Developing the Supervisors' Guidebook
- _____ Limited Scope Legal Assistance as a Means to Narrow the Justice
Gap
- _____ Developing Transactional Skills to Serve Low-Income
Communities
- _____ Role of Law Schools in Training Non-Lawyer Advocates to
Help Narrow the Justice Gap