

A publication of The Florida Bar Public Interest Law Section

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Message from The Chair



Laura Boeckman
2014–2015 Chair
The Florida Bar
Public Interest Law Section

Happy Spring! I hope everyone is enjoying the wonderful spring weather in Florida. Along with the changes in the weather, we have been seeing a lot of exciting changes with the Public Interest Law Section over the past few months. We are very excited that we have three new committees that have recently been added to our section: the Immigration committee chaired by Prof. Ericka Curran, the Parents' Rights committee chaired by Craig McCarthy, and the Non-profit committee chaired by John Copelan and Jeff Fromknecht. All three of these new committees along with all of our standing committees are looking for members, so please become involved in one of our committees.

The executive council is looking for new members! If you are interested in serving in a leadership position with our executive council, please contact Robin Rosenberg. We are looking for people to serve in officer positions as well as at-large members of the council.

Plans are well underway for our annual meeting

in June. PILS will be meeting on June 26 in Boca Raton. We hope you will join us! We will be holding our committee meetings in the morning and our executive council meeting in the afternoon. Everyone is welcome to attend one or both meetings. We are also in the process of organizing a timely CLE program for the morning of the 26th as well. More details about the CLE and meeting schedule will be coming soon.

Thanks to all for your support of PILS and the very important work that our members do! ▪

Hot Topics: News from Practice

Access to Housing Threatened by HUD Criminal Background Policy

By **Aidaelena Valdez**
Student Writer

HUD provides wide latitude to owners of housing it funds, including public housing authorities and project-based Section 8 owners, to deny housing to people with criminal records, including those individuals who have only been arrested. A new report from the Shriver Center has found that HUD's policy of deferring to housing providers for their criminal background check policies has resulted in restrictive formulas that ban many people from accessing housing and could violate civil rights laws.

The report, *When Discretion Means Denial: A National Perspective on Criminal Records Barriers to Federally Subsidized Housing*, includes a review of over 300 admission policies from across the country. The report recommends that HUD issue guidance making it clear to housing providers that some of these policies violate civil rights laws and can be considered a proxy for discrimination according to race.

There is a strong relationship between homelessness and incarceration because homelessness increases the chances of incarceration, while at the same time an applicant for federally subsidized housing with a criminal record is less likely to be able to obtain public housing. Studies have found that those without adequate housing were twice as likely to commit a crime than those with proper housing, and that homeless individuals with prior convictions were less likely to commit a crime when they had secured rental housing.

Public Housing Authorities (hereinafter PHA) and housing providers fail to consider the

importance of their task in ending the cycle of homelessness and incarceration. Instead the focus of PHAs and housing providers is on following bright line rules of acceptable and unacceptable "criminal activity" with the alleged intent of safeguarding the public.

HUD has provided some flexibility to PHAs and housing providers in the implementation of certain policies regarding house applicants. There are four areas discussed below where the report found that PHAs and housing providers were most likely to abuse their discretion regarding applicants admission to assisted housing caused by overly aggressive and potentially illegal criminal background policies.

Unreasonable Lookback Periods

Federal law requires that the inquiry on criminal activity be limited to a reasonable time before the screening process takes place. Reasonable lookback periods are important to maintain the relevance of any criminal history as part of the tenant's screening process.

HUD has recognized the admission of applicants with criminal histories after a reasonable time period expires because the relevance of the criminal record diminishes with time. Nonetheless, Congress has considered three years to be an adequate time period for barring applicants who had been evicted from federally assisted housing for drug related criminal activity. However, HUD has suggested that five years is a reasonable lookback period for serious crimes, some PHAs are looking back seven, ten, and even twenty years for a wide variety of crimes.

There are situations where housing providers establish what ap-

pears to be a reasonable lookback period while on the other hand portray inconsistencies in the application process as to what event triggers a denial: (i) when the applicant engaged in the criminal activity; (ii) when the applicant was arrested; (iii) when the applicant was convicted; or (iv) when the applicant was released from incarceration or other correctional supervision.

The report suggests ways to eliminate unreasonable lookback periods: (1) reduce length of lookback periods; (2) written admission policies should avoid any ambiguity as to the triggering event within the lookback period that causes applicant denial for public housing; (3) HUD should provide factors to consider when establishing the lookback period; (4) HUD should strictly scrutinize unreasonable policies dealing with time periods used by housing providers such as: indefinite criminal history review, permanent bans, overly long look back periods; and (5) HUD should mandate that PHA and housing providers justify with evidence the reason why a narrowly tailored time policy cannot be used as a more appropriate means for screening applicants.

Use of Arrests to Prove Criminal Activity

Federal law permits denial of admission to federally subsidized housing applicants for having engaged in some types of criminal activity. Subsequently, the problem arises when the housing providers treat a criminal arrest the same as criminal activity regardless if the applicant was never convicted for the offense. Some housing providers will consider applicants with a past arrest as having engaged in criminal activity regardless of the outcome of the arrest, which could

lead to a denial of housing.

The denial of housing for an applicant because of a past arrest without a conviction for the offense may constitute a violation of fair housing rights. The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or handicap. There is a great impact for racial minority applicants when the housing provider uses records of criminal arrest as part of the screening process, since their rate of arrest is in great disproportion when compared to the general population, which puts them at an even greater disadvantage.

The use of a past criminal arrest as proof of criminal activity is a highly suspect practice under the Fair Housing Act as it fails to establish a connection between the use of the arrest record in the applicant's screening process with any improvement in public safety as justification to the practice. The report concludes that HUD, PHAs and housing providers should act as advocates in ending homelessness by implementing policies that eliminate obstacles in fair housing such as the use of a past arrest as part of the screening process of applicants.

Overbroad Categories of Criminal Activity

Under federal law, PHAs and housing providers are allowed to develop admission policies concerning three types of criminal activity: drug-related criminal activity, violent criminal activity and criminal activity that pose a threat to the residents' health, safety and welfare. The problem lies with the establishment of admission policies that allow discriminating against anyone with a criminal history even if this history does not preclude

Access to Housing Cont'd on page 5

LGBTQ Homeless Youth Engaging in Survival Sex

By **Olivia Phillips**
Student Writer

In February 2015, the Urban Institute published a research report entitled *Surviving the Streets of New York: Experiences of LGBTQ Youth, YMSM, and YSW Engaged in Survival Sex*. This report highlights the experiences of LGBTQ Youth, some homeless, who enter into the sex trade in order to survive on the streets of New York City. The study was funded by the U.S. Department of Justice but performed by researchers of the Urban Institute. The three year study began in 2011 in New York City. The study interviewed 283 youth (ages 13-21) to discover issues rooted in poverty, homophobia, transphobia, racism, child abuse, and criminalization.

After compiling the transcripts of every interview and sorting common data into distinct categories, this report found that youth experienced social and familial discrimination and rejection, familial dysfunction, familial poverty, physical abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, and emotional/mental trauma prior to engaging in survival sex. Many survival sex youth experience frequent arrests for "quality of life" and other misdemeanor crimes. In custody or in confrontations with the police, youth experience violence based on their perceived sexual identity and gender identification. Social service systems and providers tend to disappoint or frustrate a youth rather than help them due to the inadequate services. The youth in the study are extremely resilient in the face of external and internal challenges. They consistently find ways to adapt and survive.

For those youth involved in survival sex, the reasons behind engaging in survival sex differed for different groups of youth. For example, most LGBTQ youth experienced homophobic and transphobic violence and harassment within their support systems and thus, left home to escape this violence and harassment. Homelessness is the most common reason that youth engage in survival sex and it has been found that the number of homeless youth involved in the sex trade corresponds to the number of homeless youth. Previous studies demonstrated that homeless youth of NYC will trade sex for a place to stay due to the unavailability of shelter beds.

Furthermore, transgender youth and LGBTQ youth were more likely than heterosexual youth to trade sex for a place to stay. Transgender youth prefer survival sex or "couch surfing" (or a combination of the two) to the potentially violent and abusive experience of a foster care or shelter system. Additionally, transgender youth and gender-nonconforming youth experienced workplace discrimination and thus had no access to legal forms of income. Some even found survival sex more ethical than simply stealing the money. Survival and economic need were the most prominent factors influencing LGBTQ engagement in survival sex.

The survey asked participants to describe how much they earned, whether or not they had alternative methods of obtaining money and what they did with their earnings. The report showed that 95% of participants received money in exchange for sex, 31% received shelter, 18% received food, 15% received drugs and 11% received clothing. The average prices ranged from \$91 -

\$231, with the average amount made each day or night falling somewhere between \$356 - \$734. A little over half of participants had access to money other than trading revenue. Due to homelessness, maintaining a legal, long-term job proved difficult for some participants. Part-time jobs, government assistance, family assistance or dealing drugs were the most productive ways of obtaining money.

The last line of questioning that the researchers engaged their participants in was the youth's perceptions of survival sex. Almost all youth said that they wanted to stop trading sex. Most individuals needed access to stable income or housing in order to commit to quitting and almost everyone faced the internal dilemma of wanting to quit but also needing the money.

In their conclusion, the Urban Institute recommends some changes to assist the youth engaging in survival sex:

- Develop peer-led outreach and accessible street-based and comprehensive drop in services that engage with a wide range of services at this singular location
- Improve safe and supportive short-term shelter, long-term affordable housing, and family based placement options that are subjected to periodic review. Current shelter's stringent rules and lack of beds frustrate youth who engage in survival sex so as to find another way to live.
- Develop safe and supportive housing and placement protocols specific to transgender and gender-nonconforming youth.
- Broaden access to and improve gender-affirming

health care. Lack of these services is a barrier to living a positive and fulfilling life.

- Adopt non discrimination, confidentiality and complaint procedures in shelters, programs and out-of-home placements.
- Develop living wage employment options that don't discriminate against LGBTQ individuals. On-site training should be implemented so that youth have hands-on applications of their newly acquired skills.
- Improved food security among LGBTQ youth. Since most individuals are kicked out or leave home as minors, they don't have access to food stamps.
- Design police training curricula to improve relationships with LGBTQ youth and decrease profiling, harassment and abuse.
- Include uniform sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression questions on screening tools and intake forms.
- Encourage federal, state and local government interagency coordination. Only with the involvement of key government leaders can something change.

Meredith Dank, Jennifer Yahner, Kuniko Madden, Isela Banuelos, Lilly Yu, Andrea Ritchie, Mitchyll Mora & Brendan Conner, *Surviving the Streets of New York: Experiences of LGBTQ Youth, YMSM, and YSW Engaged in Survival Sex*, (Urban Institute, Feb. 2015). •

HUD Releases New Guidance for Transgender Individuals in Emergency Shelters

By Olivia Phillips

Student Writer

The U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) issued guidance in February 2015 to better serve transgender individuals seeking access to homeless shelters. This guidance helps clarify HUD regulations published in 2012 that provide for Equal Access to Housing in HUD Programs Regardless of Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity Rule (Equal Access Rule).

The guidance helps to address the fact that almost 40 percent of homeless youth are LGBT and the majority of them report harassment, difficulty, or even sexual assault when trying to access homeless shelters.

After HUD released the Equal Access Rule in 2012, research on transgender discrimination in shelters encouraged HUD to release additional guidance on how to provide shelter to transgender individuals in single-sex facilities. These guidelines apply to placement into single-sex emergency shelters or other facilities that make placements based on the person's gender and receive HUD funds. Under the new guidelines, the service provider shall place a potential client or a current client requesting a transfer into a shelter which corresponds to the gender that the client identifies with. HUD directs providers to give serious consideration to the client's own views with respect to personal health and safety when making the placement.

Additionally, complaints submitted by another client regarding this individual's non-conformity with gender stereotypes do not provide the basis for an assignment or re-assignment of said individual. Furthermore, asking a client's gender

identity is an appropriate line of questioning, but asking for documentation to prove medical changes or about a client's anatomy are inappropriate lines of questioning. No client shall be denied access to an emergency shelter if they offer information which would otherwise be obtained from the inappropriate line of questioning.

If a client expresses safety or privacy concerns or if the service provider becomes aware of such concerns, the service provider must take reasonable steps to address these concerns. The HUD associated funds provided to these facilities may be used to improve bathroom and changing area privacy facilities, however, the service provider may not isolate or segregate clients based on gender identity to address safety and privacy concerns. In addition, all employees and contractors who interact with clients and potential clients in these facilities need to be made aware of and comply with the Equal Access Rule and the new guidance.

This is part of HUD's overall commitment to continue expanding opportunity and advancing equality for LGBT individuals and families. For example, HUD has adopted the principle that gender identity discrimination is sex discrimination under the Fair Housing Act. Also in February 2015, HUD released new guidance for the Equal Access Rule to better serve LGBT Americans seeking to obtain a home loan. ■

Access to Housing *Cont'd from page 2*

the person from being a good tenant. Another problem deals with policies that use vague categories failing to provide applicants with notice of the prohibited criminal activity.

The most common and problematic admission policy is the denial of admission to applicants with a felony record. Felony bans are problematic because they allow the housing provider to deny housing based on the felony record while this past felony does not preclude the person from being a good tenant. Felony bans are also suspect under the Fair Housing Act because of the great impact it has on racial minorities especially among African Americans and Latinos since they possess a higher conviction rate to felonies compared to the rest of the population.

Recommendations for the Review of Applicant's Criminal History

The report advises that PHAs and other providers should be cautious in adding categories of criminal activity beside the three categories required under federal law— drug-related criminal activity, violent criminal activity and criminal activity that pose a threat to the residents' health, safety and welfare. They should avoid policies that lead to a complete ban of applicants with a past felony conviction. Past felony convictions should be a factor to consider but not an entire ban on the applicant.

Federal law requires a consideration of mitigating circumstances in admission policies, but the report found that this is underused and some written admission policies fail to reference

regulations dealing with mitigating evidence and to notify applicants of their right to present mitigating evidence in their favor.

The report concludes that PHAs and housing providers have an affirmative duty to end these policies. Clearly, a bright line rule has proved to be ineffective based on the prevalence of homelessness across the nation. Instead, a balanced approach must be implemented that protects public safety without denying essential housing to those in need. ■

PILS Members Appointed to Access to Justice Commission Committees

PILS members Kristen Lentz and Kathy Grunewald were appointed to serve as ad hoc committee members on the Florida Access to Civil Justice Commission at the recommendation of our section. Access to justice is a core part of the mission of PILS. At the January PILS Executive Council meeting, there was a long discussion about the newly formed Florida Access to Civil Justice Commission.

The purpose of the mission is to study the unmet civil legal needs of disadvantaged, low-income, and moderate-income Floridians, considering Florida's legal assistance delivery system as a whole: staffed legal aid programs, pro bono services, innovative technology solutions, and other models and potential innovations. The Commission set up ad hoc committees in the following areas: Outreach, Access to and the Delivery of Legal Services, Continuum of Services, Technology, and Funding.

Florida Bar President-Elect Ramón A. Abadin and President-Elect Designee William J. Schifino, Jr. visited with the PILS Executive Council during the January meeting at The Florida Bar Convention. The Executive Council expressed its interest in serving as a resource and being involved in the Access to Justice Commission. Chair Elect Alice Vickers attended the first meeting and reported to the Executive Council that Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice Jorge Labarga, who established the commission by administrative order on November 24, 2014, was invested in receiving ideas from many different perspectives.

The Executive Council decided to solicit interested members of the section who wished to serve on subcommittees for the Commission so that PILS could support their applications for appointment. After the meeting, PILS put out a call for interested members. Section Chair Laura Boeckman wrote a letter to the

Commission recommending PILS members for appointment to ad hoc subcommittee. Boeckman wrote, "PILS believes the following individuals have substantial experience in public interest law and working with and supporting pro bono attorneys; they can greatly assist the subcommittees with their work."

The committee chairs have sole discretion to select committee members. PILS recommended 10 members for appointment to the committees. Congratulations to PILS members Kristen Lentz (Managing Attorney, Florida Institutional Legal Services) and Executive Council member and CLE Committee Chair Kathy Grunewald (Statewide Training Director, Florida Legal Services) for their appointment to their respective subcommittees. Lentz was appointed to the Access to and Delivery of Legal Services subcommittee and Grunewald was appointed to the Continuum of Services subcommittee. ■

Up To Date: Committee Reports & Agendas

Civil Rights Committee Update

By **Christopher M. Jones, Esq.**
Committee Chair

The Civil Rights Committee has grown to approximately 20 active members.

Martha Pardo is acting as our co-chair. We have had a series of organizing calls in which the committee members have identified potential legislative positions which the committee is now exploring. Amy Guinan has volunteered to serve as the committee's representative on PILS' legislative committee. Katherine DeBriere is serving as the committee's representative on PILS' CLE committee. The committee has instituted regularly scheduled conference calls at noon on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. Our next call is May 19th. Among other topics, we will be discussing potential legislative positions and planning CLEs. New members, or anyone interested, can join the calls. The dial in number is 1-888-376-5050 and the participant code is 4201030652. For more information contact Christopher Jones (christopher@floridalegal.org) or Martha Pardo (mpardo@latinojustice.org). ▪

Homelessness Committee Report

By **Kirsten Clanton, Esq.**
Committee Chair

The PILS Committee on Homelessness is comprised of legal aid attorneys, public defenders, law professors, private lawyers, and nonlawyers who all share a passion for ending homelessness in our state. We work in a variety of areas, demonstrating the complexity of homelessness and the diversity of issues our members are tackling. On behalf of children to veterans to unaccompanied youth to former foster care youth to women experiencing domestic violence, our members work on issues related to disability, public benefits, criminal defense, family law, education, civil rights and more.

As a result, we are working to find a way to harness the expertise and interests of our members and to focus our efforts on what the legal community can do to end homelessness. At our January meeting at The Florida Bar Convention, we hosted Amy Sawyer, Regional Coordinator of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, who informed us about federal efforts to end homelessness and led us in a discussion about the role of the legal community in ending homelessness. It is a conversation we will continue to have as a committee.

At our March telephonic meeting, Florida attorney Ted Small joined us as a guest. He is the Chair of the American Bar Association's Commission on Homelessness & Poverty and facilitated a discussion about the current work of his Commission and takeaways from his involvement in efforts that resulted in the defeat of a proposed ordinance in DeLand that criminalized sitting on a bench for more than three cumulative hours per day. Our committee adopted a new legislative position, modeled after an ABA resolution, against the criminalization of homelessness.

On April 28, our committee put on a free webinar on "Public Assistance: The Good and Bad of Policies that Target the Homeless." This was an introductory-level webinar focusing on some of the unique policies and procedures that affect homeless applicants and recipients of SNAP, TANF, Medicaid and SSI in Florida. Our committee also planned a breakout session for the Florida Partners in Crisis Conference May 21-22 in Orlando on "Constructive Alternatives to the Criminalization of Homelessness."

Our next telephonic meeting will be held on Friday, May 15 from 12-1. For more information, contact Kirsten Clanton, Chair. ▪

PILS Launches New Nonprofit Legal Issues Committee

PILS recently launched the Nonprofit Legal Issues Committee, which will focus on nonprofit law, the nonprofit community and the people it serves. With the nature of public interest law practice, many current section members work at, manage or serve on the Board of Directors of nonprofit organizations. Our section members are not alone; there are 2.17 million nonprofit organizations in the United States according to the 2014 statistics. Including more than 109,651 nonprofit organizations in Florida. (See <http://www.taxexemptworld.com/organizations/florida-counties.as>). This Committee is a natural extension of the work that the Section has been performing.

There is not currently a home within the Florida Bar which brings together the many unique issues impacting nonprofits. The complicated legal issues in the creation and management of nonprofits include a combination of state, federal law and local government laws and regulations that impact nonprofit organizations. These issues include nonprofit corporate and tax matters, fundraising law, gaming law, fiduciary and ethical issues for Executive Officers and Board members, and compliance issues. There are also state and local legislative matters that impact nonprofit organizations.

Some states and local municipalities around the country are considering changes to property tax exemptions that could have a significant impact on the nonprofit community. There was also the passage of the new Benefit Corporations legislation last year by the Florida Legislature, creating a new type of corporation that is organized for good, as well as gain. Additional issues in the future decade include social entrepreneurship, data collection, performance measurement, accountability, financial management and creative financing.

After recognition of this need for leadership in this area, fellow PILS Executive Council members Jeffrey Fromknecht and John Copelan approached the Executive Council in February to approve a committee focused on nonprofits and agreed to Co-Chair this new effort. The Committee will be forming up and meeting for the first time at the Annual Meeting in Boca Raton. By 2016, the Committee hopes to hold regular webinars/conference call discussions on emerging issues; sponsor and develop CLE programs through collaborative partnerships with like minded groups and organizations; develop articles for publication in the PILS newsletter, The Florida Bar Journal and other professional publications; and the development of a

listserv for collaboration on "Hot Topics".

We will be actively recruiting our current section members to join this new committee. It is an ideal fit for attorneys who are practicing and working in this area and for lawyers who serve on the Boards of Directors of a nonprofit organization. Additionally, the committee will be recruiting affiliate members who are nonlawyers, including academics, accountants, advisors and management staff who are interested in nonprofit legal issues. Please contact John Copelan (colbun@live.com or 954-328-7747) or Jeff Fromknecht (jeff@sideprojectinc.org or 561-755-7433) if you are interested in serving on this committee. ▪

Children's Rights Committee

By **Gerry Glynn, Esq.**
Committee Chair

Children's Rights Committee has a regularly scheduled call every Third Wednesday of the month. Any PILS member is welcome to participate in the conference call.

If you have questions or suggestions for the committee, please contact the Committee Chair – Gerry Glynn, gerardfglynn63@gmail.com, or 321-441-1568.

The Florida Public Interest Journal: *Call for Submissions*

Do you have a topic you want to write about? PILS is seeking interested members willing to write about public interest law issues. Send us tips about cases, issues, or topics we should be covering.

Contact Kirsten Clanton, Esq. if you are interested at Kirsten.clanton@southernlegal.org.

Florida's Children First Wins Children's Advocacy Award

Florida's Children First (FCF) will receive the 2015 Paul Doyle Children's Advocacy Award for its Counsel for Dependent Children with Special Needs Project. The biennial award is sponsored this year by Akerman LLP and named for the Foundation's longtime director of Legal Assistance for the Poor and Law Student Assistance grant programs in recognition of his commitment to high-quality legal representation of low-income children. The award will be presented at the Foundation's annual dinner June 25.

FCF seeks to ensure that every child in Florida's child welfare system be represented by attorneys providing high quality representation. FCF has worked on this issue since the organization's inception in late 2002 using multiple strategies and innovative advocacy as it seeks to expand the number of children eligible for paid appointed counsel, improve the quality of counsel, and continue to build and support a cadre of pro bono attorneys to supplement paid counsel.

The passage of HB561 was a significant milestone in their endeavors, which secured the right to counsel for dependent children in five categories. As soon as the bill passed, FCF began working on implementation. FCF convened legal aid colleagues to gather their opinions and reach a consensus recommendation on the criteria that should be employed when selecting attorneys to serve on the registry of lawyers who can take paid appointments. FCF provided those rec-

ommendations to the Guardian Ad Litem Program and Justice Administrative Commission which incorporated many of them into the Registry Requirements.

At the same time, FCF convened all interested parties, including Legal Aid and private counsel to discuss the training and education needs for lawyers who would accept appointments. PILS agreed to lead a Training Consortium which created a Suggested Curriculum for Counsel for Children. As soon as attorneys began signing up for the Children's Registry, FCF invited them to join its resource, FLORIDA for Children and Families (www.f4cf.org) an online support center for lawyers and judges in the dependency system. It also provided all counsel with the Suggested Curriculum.

For this work, FCF was awarded this year's Paul Doyle Children's Advocacy Award which honors Paul C. Doyle, Founding Director of the Foundation's Legal Assistance for the Poor and Law Student Assistance Grant Programs (1991 to 2013) in recognition of his commitment to high-quality legal repre-



Fighting for Children's Rights

sentation of Florida's low-income children; for encouraging grantee programs to collaborate across geographic regions in order to bring the benefit of legal advocacy to low-income children regardless of their county of residence; for his strong and consistent support of Florida Bar Foundation Legal Assistance for the Poor and Law Student Assistance grantees; and for a career dedicated to promoting high-quality legal representation of the poor.

The award recognizes and encourages systemic legal advocacy on behalf of low-income children by Florida Bar Foundation Legal Assistance for the Poor General Support and Children's Legal Services Grantees. First runner-up is Gulfcoast Legal Services for its GLS Child Project, and second runner-up is the Medicaid to Age 26 Project of Florida's Children First and Florida Legal Services. ■



2015 Annual Conference & Justice Institute

May 21-22, 2015

Renaissance Orlando, Seaworld

In Partnership with the Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals and the Office of State Courts Administrator

Register Today!

Register now for the Florida Partners in Crisis Conference! **The 2015 Annual Conference and Justice Institute** is hosted in partnership with the Florida Association of Drug Court Professionals and the Office of the State Courts Administrator. The event takes place Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22 in Orlando, Florida at the Renaissance Seaworld. Last year's conference was a huge success for both attendees and exhibitors with a record number of more than 500 guests!

This conference is a MUST for judicial, legal, law enforcement and behavioral health professionals or anyone interested in the latest successful diversion, re-entry and community integration strategies for individuals with substance use and mental health disorders.

The 2015 conference integrates plenary sessions, workshops, exhibits and networking opportunities with national and state experts presenting the latest in clinical and programmatic strategies designed to help individuals maintain their recovery while improving public safety. Continuing education credits will be available for judges, Florida Bar members and health care professionals.

Law enforcement certificates will be offered by the Florida Sheriffs Association.



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Orlando, FL 32821
[407-351-5555](tel:407-351-5555)

Rate: \$139
Crystal Green: [850-878-2196](tel:850-878-2196) | cgreen@fadaa.org

Registration

Early Bird Rate: \$199.00
Vanessa Addison: [850-878-2196](tel:850-878-2196) | vaddison@fadaa.org

Sponsorship and Exhibitor Information

Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association
Rebecca Roberts: [850-878-2196](tel:850-878-2196) | rroberts@fadaa.org

Get on board: *Join a Committee*

The Executive Council of PILS has established a **Long-Range Planning Committee** to develop a strategic plan to guide our Section over the next several years. Contact Laura Boeckman, Chair.

The **CLE Committee** works to put together quality continuing legal education as a section service. Additional programs are in the planning stages. Contact Kathy Grunewald, Representative, if you are interested in joining the Committee (Kathy@floridalegal.org).

The **Legislative Committee** is responsible for the Section's legislative advocacy efforts. Contact Lisa Devitto, Chair, if you are interested in joining this Committee (lisadevitto@gmail.com).

Our substantive committees are an excellent way to connect to other public interest lawyers and work together on relevant legal issues.

Please contact the Chair of the Committee you wish to join for further information:

Children's Rights

Gerry Glynn: Gerry.glynn@cbccfl.org

Civil Rights

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Interested in developing a new committee in an area of law not listed here?
Contact

Laura Boeckman, Chair of the Section. ■

THE FLORIDA PUBLIC INTEREST JOURNAL

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Views and conclusions expressed in articles herein are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the editorial staff, or of the Public Interest Law Section of The Florida Bar.

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