

## Overview

*This report outlines unique challenges facing Arizona and current efforts toward promoting access to justice. It also provides a comparison of “increasing access to justice” programs in Arizona to the efforts made in other states.*

According to the United States Census Bureau (2009), 16.5% of Arizona’s population lives below the poverty guidelines.<sup>1</sup> In 2009, the guidelines ranged from \$10,830 for an individual to \$37,010 for a family of eight.<sup>2</sup> This means over 860,000 Arizona residents have household incomes within the federal poverty levels. The Foundation’s 2007 access to justice study, “Voicing a Need for Justice,” indicated that approximately 32% of the population had a crisis issue in the last twelve-month period where they believed an attorney’s expertise was required.<sup>3</sup> That thirty-two percent, of Arizona residents with incomes below poverty level, was equal to 276,000 Arizonans needing an attorney to assist in resolving a legal issue. ***Stated another way: Every active Arizona attorney would have to volunteer for at least 19 pro bono cases each year in order to meet the legal needs of the poorest population in the state.*** This estimate does not include the legal needs of the “modest means” population, who also struggle to afford legal services. Nor does it take into consideration the vast geographic area of Arizona and the lack of representation available in specific regions. There are approximately 1.4 million people living outside the metropolitan areas of Tucson and Phoenix; however, there are few civil attorneys available to meet the legal needs of this rural population. The multiple native languages create other unique challenges for many residents as well as the need to obtain legal expertise within the varying Tribal Court systems.

Arizona has initiated many programs, processes, and efforts to move toward equal access to justice. While the state is fortunate to have many legal aid groups targeting their services toward one specific area of the law or a specific population (see attachments), the mainstay of Arizona’s access to justice is the three legal aid agencies who are approved, monitored, and funded, by the national Legal Service Corporation. (Community Legal Services, DNA-People’s Legal Services, and Southern Arizona Legal Aid). These programs represent thousands of low income people in Arizona each year and provide community legal education to prevent people from getting into legal situations through radio spots, self-help legal clinics, brochures, videos, and other legal education. The Self Help Center in the Maricopa County Superior Courts is a nationally recognized “best practice” program. The legal information website initiatives (law for seniors, law for kids, and azlawhelp) assist thousands of Arizona residents each month. In addition, Arizona has a strong network of volunteer lawyer programs offering free legal aid, and the State Bar has taken leadership in enhancing revenue for legal aid programs through bar donation efforts and pro hac vice proceeds designations. Arizona has three law schools that each sponsor clinics offering free legal services to the public. The state provides funding for legal service assistance to domestic violence victims through their federal TANF allocation. The State

### **Arizona Access to Justice Highlights**

- County Law Libraries
- Domestic Violence Legal Assistance
- Law School Clinics
- Legal LEARN Contact Center
- Legal Websites
- LSC Legal Aid Agencies
- Modest Means
- Self-Help Centers
- State Bar Lawyers on Call
- Targeted Legal Aid Group
- Volunteer Lawyer Programs

<sup>1</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/04000.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/09fedreg.shtml>

<sup>3</sup> 2007 Voices Report - Foundation Survey Results on Legal Aid Access in Arizona

Bar created a Military Legal Assistance Committee to determine the legal needs of military families and veterans, and to make recommendations on how to help them access legal help. County Bar associations have created lawyer panels offering initial consultation at reduced rates. Other efforts include the State Bar of Arizona's Lawyer on Call program and the joint initiatives of the Modest Means program, legal aid hotlines, and coordination of a centrally-based Contact Center as a clearing house for legal information access.

The efforts made to promote equal access to justice in Arizona are exemplary and place the state's legal system, in many areas, among the leaders in the nation. Arizona is one of twenty-one states that have bar sponsored legal aid donation programs. Arizona's bar donation program ranks 7<sup>th</sup> for contributions given toward legal aid compared to other states.<sup>4</sup> There are eight state bars that have mandated either a percentage of the bar fees or a specific dollar amount of the annual fees designated to support legal aid services. While Arizona is not one of the eight that has legal aid donations required in the annual fee, Arizona is one of nine states that have a percentage of pro hac vice fees designated to assist in providing free legal aid. Along with encouraging financial contributions, Arizona also encourages pro bono involvement. There are only twenty states, including Arizona, that have a designated goal specified for pro bono hours.<sup>5</sup>

Outside of bar programs, forty-seven states have funding for some type of legal aid services through legislative filing fees, surcharges, and/or appropriations. Thirty-eight states designate an appropriation to support general legal aid services. Eight, including Arizona, have some state funding to support legal aid for domestic violence and/or crime victims. Two states support elder legal aid. The funding in four states is directed toward family law (including domestic violence), and two states target the funding to foreclosure legal assistance. Of the forty-seven states providing funding for legal aid services, through either the court filing fees and fines or state appropriation, Arizona ranks thirty-second in the amount of funding provided annually.<sup>6</sup>

### *Arizona Access to Justice Challenges*

Increased Poverty –  
Tenth in nation  
Rural areas long distance to travel  
Rural areas limited technology  
Attorney to client ratio is less  
than the national average  
Multiple tribal courts  
Multiple languages

While Arizona has shown leadership in many ways toward addressing the gap in access to justice, the state, unfortunately, is among the highest in need. There are only nine states with poverty populations greater than Arizona.<sup>7</sup> Aside from the issue of poverty, Arizona's attorney to client ratio does not meet the national average of 1 attorney for every 1,060 residents (excluding DC).<sup>8</sup> Arizona's reported ratio is 1 attorney for every 1,250 residents.

This ratio, though, does not consider the location or the area of law that the attorneys are practicing. Throughout Arizona, there are fewer than one thousand Arizona attorneys practicing in the specific areas of civil law that are

representative of the general legal needs of individuals and families.<sup>9</sup> The areas considered under this definition of civil law, for the purposes of this report, include: bankruptcy, elder, family/domestic, health, immigration, Indian law, insurance, juvenile, labor/employment, probate & trust, real estate, school/education, torts, and workers compensation. Only Maricopa, Pima,

<sup>4</sup> ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives 2010 report

<sup>5</sup> ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives 2008 report for 2007

<sup>6</sup> ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives 2010 Amounts

<sup>7</sup> US Census Bureau 2009 data

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.averyindex.com/lawyers\\_per\\_capita.php](http://www.averyindex.com/lawyers_per_capita.php)

<sup>9</sup> State Bar of Arizona 'Find a Lawyer' March 2008 – attorneys self designate

Coconino, Yavapai, and Gila counties are close to the national average ratios. La Paz and Mohave are closer to a ratio of 1 civil law attorney for every 2,500 residents. Yuma, Cochise, and Pinal are at a ratio of approximately 1 civil law attorney for every 3,100 residents. Apache and Greenlee/Graham counties' ratio is 1 civil law attorney for over every 4,000 residents. Navajo County's ratio is 1 civil law attorney for every 7,957 residents.

Comparing Arizona's poverty population and attorney/resident ratio with other states highlights the significant challenges in Arizona making legal services equally accessible to all Arizonans. The reality of the challenges at hand suggest that coordination of efforts, utilizing technology, and long standing initiatives which have proven records of making use of minimal resources for maximum impact are the 'best practices' for Arizona to consider in balancing the scales of justice in our state.

### ARIZONA STANDING IN KEY ACCESS TO JUSTICE ISSUES / INITIATIVES

Category	AZ Rank (from Highest)	Low State	AZ	High State
Attorney Population	25th	1,300	13,000	147,000
Poverty population (2000)- <i>US Census Bureau</i>	13th	55,000	723,000	4,700,000
Poverty population (2009)- <i>US Census Bureau</i>	10th	52,000	1,000,000	5,100,000
IOLTA funding (includes escrow in some states)	30th	434,000	1,000,000	24,100,000
LSC funding	8th	582,000	11,000,000	51,000,000
Cy pres awards - out of 21 states	13th	6,000	34,000	14,000,000
Bar dues contributions - out of 21 states	7th	2,000	148,000	793,000
Other Bar funds (not just state bars) - out of 39 states	26th	1,000	29,000	1,700,000
Attorney registration fees - out of 11 states	11th	75,000	75,000	2,700,000
Lawyer Fund drive - out of 47 states	24th	9,000	478,000	12,600,000
Public funds	36th	301,000	1,200,000	76,000,000
State appropriation - out of 34 states	21st	135,000	1,000,000	29,500,000
Court Fines & Fees - out of 32	33rd	50,000	0	15,000,000
Foundation/Corporate grants - out of 49	35th	9,000	187,000	37,000,000
Other strategies	26th	32,000	660,000	33,700,000
Total NON LSC funding	34th	372,000	4,900,000	164,000,000
			<b>AZ \$\$s</b>	
		<b>Total</b>	<b>Without</b>	
<b>AZ Funding Per Person - Poverty Population</b>		<b>With LSC</b>	<b>LSC</b>	<b>LSC funding</b>
Using 2000 population totals		22	7	15
Using 2009 population totals		15	5	11

## Access to Justice Initiatives

This report is not an exhaustive list of all initiatives which promote equal access to justice in Arizona. Also, it should be noted that while this section is divided into subsections, the reader will find a crossover of agencies into multiple areas of legal aid services, pro bono services, law school initiatives, court law libraries and self-help centers, technology assistance, and revenue enhancement efforts. This crossover is the positive result of ongoing collaboration among Arizona justice stakeholders.

### Legal Aid Services – Targeted

William E. Morris Institute for Justice updates a list of legal resources annually and submits to the <http://www.azlawhelp.org> website for publication. This list includes not only legal aid resources, but other resources that target their services toward the same population that legal aid agencies serve and are able to assess and/or meet the individuals' needs. Those agencies providing legal consultation or information include the following specific areas or targeted issues:

- Bankruptcy
- Civil Rights
- Domestic Violence
- Elderly
- Homeless
- Immigration
- People with disabilities
- Refugees
- Victims
- Women

William E. Morris Institute for Justice, mentioned above, deserves separate recognition as the only Arizona legal advocacy agency focusing exclusively on advocacy and class action for poverty issues. The Institute primarily addresses issues of access to public benefits, health care, unemployment insurance, housing and access to the courts. Because the Institute has the capacity and competency to file class action and major policy lawsuits, they are able to successfully challenge state agency practices that affect large numbers of poor Arizonans. Often their work affects tens of thousands of persons.

### Legal Aid Services - General

The three legal aid agencies in Arizona are recognized and approved by the Legal Service Corporation to receive federal funding: Community Legal Services, DNA People's Legal Services, and Southern Arizona Legal Aid. In addition to the general legal assistance provided to low income populations, Arizona's legal aid organizations provide leadership to the following Access to Justice initiatives:

- Statewide Consumer Law Project, providing a unified voice on consumer law issues effecting low income Arizonans.
- Domestic Violence Legal Assistance Project, providing legal assistance to over 12,000 victims of domestic violence each year.
- Strategic collaboration of each agency's Volunteer Lawyers Programs.
- Coordinated training, education and technical assistance to Arizona's legal community.

- Coordinated outreach and education to the general population about their legal rights and responsibilities including providing content and volunteers for the azlawhelp.org website.
- Coordinated statewide fundraising initiatives that include strategic messaging, marketing and recruitment of volunteers and donors.

The chart to the right highlights the impact and activities of the three Arizona LSC legal aid agencies in the twelve month period of 2010. The nearly six million in funds that were received or retained by the clients assisted is strong evidence of the value communities garner through the availability of legal aid services.

<u>Impact Activities</u>	<u>2010</u>
<b>Cases</b>	<b>42,479</b>
<b>Clients</b>	<b>23,616</b>
<b>Outreach activities</b>	<b>4,822</b>
<b>Educational/self-help materials distributed</b>	<b>93,005</b>
<b>For Clients -Dollars recovered/amounts not required to pay/ tax refunds/tax earning credit received - TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 5,832,151</b>

The 2010 breakdown of cases is as follows: Consumer fraud & illegal employment practices – 28%; Domestic Violence, Abuse Exploitation – 17%; Family – 33%; Housing – 8%; Tax Return Preparation – 3%; and, Wrongful Denial to Education, Health Care, Other – 11%.

**Pro Bono Support of Arizona Attorneys**

An Arizona lawyer should voluntarily offer public interest legal service and may “discharge this responsibility by rendering a minimum of fifty hours of service per calendar year.”<sup>10</sup> Direct support is an alternative expression and Arizona’s rule encourages lawyers to provide financial support for organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means or to the Foundation for the direct delivery of legal services to the poor. The fifty hours are not a mandate but the conduct-specific terms are set forth to encourage further volunteerism.<sup>11</sup> It also should be noted that pro bono is defined as including many other activities in addition to providing legal assistance to individuals with low incomes.

A recommendation of 50 hours of pro bono service is the practice of 16 state bar programs. Two states recommend 80 hours, another 2% of professional time, and the remaining nine offering a specific recommendation are in the twenty-hour range. Eight states have a financial contribution alternative to pro bono service with \$500 as the most common total (see Attachment State by State pro bono rules). Arizona’s court rule does not have an alternative suggested financial contribution in lieu of pro bono service, but Rule 6.1 does encourage direct financial support in addition to pro bono service.

The effectiveness of Arizona Court Rule 6.1 in encouraging volunteerism is difficult to assess because there is no mandatory reporting requirement of pro bono services. Only five states have mandatory reporting (Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Mississippi, Nevada, and New Mexico). Arizona is one of ten states where reporting is voluntary. The remaining states have no reporting of pro bono services.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Arizona Supreme Court Rules ER 6.1. Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service

<sup>11</sup> Arizona Supreme Court Rules ER 6.1. Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Service Comments [9]

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/probono/reporting/pbreporting.cfm> 2009

Available statistics show that of 5,699 Arizona attorneys who filed their annual 2009 statements on-line (about one-third of AZ attorneys), 32% of those completed the pro bono section:

<b>Total # Members</b>	<b>Total Pro bono Hrs</b>	<b>Total free Legal Hrs</b>	<b>Total Reduced Hrs</b>	<b>Total Charitable Hrs</b>	<b>Total Volunteer Hrs</b>
1,859	101,137	40,673	56,857	38,673	14,668
<b>Avg per attorney</b>	54	22	31	21	8

It cannot be assumed that lack of reporting equates to lack of pro bono service provided. With this data, though, Arizona can substantiate approximately 30% exceeding the recommended 50 hours of pro bono services.

The State Bar of Arizona, at the request of the Legal Service Corporation (LSC) funded legal aid agencies and the Foundation, presented a legal need survey, in late August 2011, to their membership database. The survey is not yet closed, but the early results of the 515 attorneys having completed the survey, 482 answered the questions relating to pro bono services. As the chart below indicates similar to the findings of the 2009 self reporting from members completing their dues statements online.

<b>On an average, how much time do you spend annually doing pro bono work?</b>		
<b>Answer Options</b>	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
<=10	29.9%	144
11 to 25	19.9%	96
25 to 50	21.2%	102
51 and more	29.0%	140

The 2011 survey also includes a question regarding the type of pro bono work that is completed. This chart, below, demonstrates that a large percentage of the pro bono work completed is with 'other community projects' instead of pro bono work directly related to the provision of legal services or assistance with law related education programs.

<b>What kind of pro bono work do you do? (mark all that apply)</b>		
	<b>Response Percent</b>	<b>Response Count</b>
Work with a Volunteer Lawyer Program	29.80%	122
Work with the Modest Means Project	5.10%	21
Offer reduced fee private legal services	37.70%	154
Offer free private legal services	53.50%	219
Assist with Law Related Education programs	24.20%	99
Assist with other community projects	50.10%	205

Arizona has a strong network of VLPs coordinating efforts to increase and recognize the pro bono free legal services provided by Arizona attorneys. The “Volunteer Lawyers Program Report to the Community 2008” report states 4,637 attorney volunteer hours were donated with a cash equivalent of \$1.16 million in donated hours. The VLP assist with the coordination of over a thousand attorneys by providing client intake, malpractice insurance, mentoring, and other support as requested. Outside of the network of the VLP many other agencies, such as domestic violence shelters, have volunteer lawyers offering their expertise and time to clients in need of legal aid.

<b>Legal Aid Agencies VLPs - 2010</b>	
<b>Volunteer Lawyers</b>	<b>2,667</b>
<b>Volunteer Law Students</b>	<b>235</b>
<b>People Benefited</b>	<b>19,150</b>
<b>Volunteer Hours</b>	<b>18,352</b>
<b>Value of volunteer lawyer time</b>	<b>\$ 3,566,900</b>

### **Law-School Initiatives**

The three law schools (ASU’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, UofA’s James E. Rogers School of Law, and Phoenix School of Law) sponsor clinics that offer legal assistance to the public, collaborate with legal aid agencies and their volunteer lawyer programs, and offer pro bono experience to the law students. The clinics offered include the following areas of law:

- Native American
- Veterans
- Immigration
- Homeless
- Artist
- Domestic Violence
- Medical Legal Partnership
- Foreclosure

Also, all three of Arizona law schools have strong pro bono service philosophies and practices. Their support assists the legal aid agencies, statewide websites, and Legal LEARN Contact Center to achieve their goals through offering interns and externs to the programs.

### **Court Self-Help Centers and Law Libraries**

In addition to providing direct support for two of the legal information websites, <http://www.lawforkids.org> and <http://www.lawforseniors.org>, the Arizona Supreme Court supports <http://www.azlawhelp.org> by allowing the hardware and software utilized by the other websites to also benefit the azlawhelp.org site. The Courts, overall, have assisted with promotion of volunteers, identification of issues, and access to self-help centers, web information access, and law libraries. Many county courts work directly with volunteer lawyer programs to provide clinics and legal resources to the public. VLPs in Maricopa and Pima Counties provide self-help services to those representing themselves. Each of Arizona’s Counties provide law library services, and a majority provide direct assistance in Self-Help Centers or provide information and resources such as filing instructions or forms online.

## **Technological Initiatives**

In areas of technology, Arizona's Access to Justice community has been quick to adapt and, in fact, lead the nation in many areas of providing legal information and assistance. In addition to the aforementioned websites, these initiatives are aimed at increasing efficiency, access, and understanding of the law:

- Lawyers on Call
- Legal line 866-637-5341
- Bankruptcy Hotline
- NELL (Native Education Legal Line – 888-888-4DNA)
- Legal LEARN
- Web-videos (in process)
- Law-related videos in legal aid offices' waiting rooms

For the purposes of volunteer lawyer recruitment and information for clients on accessing program services, each legal aid program maintains a website. The use of technology has allowed an effective triage of legal services by providing information and answers specific legal questions to a large number of people freeing up time for intake staff who before had to filter these inquiries. In 2010:

- 176,436 absolute unique visitors went to the website <http://www.azlawhelp.org>
- 7,760 absolute unique visitors (only 8 months of tracking) went to the website <http://www.lawforseniors.org>
- 653,996 absolute unique visitors went to the website <http://www.lawforkids.org>
- 2,500 legal questions were asked through the above websites
- 10,897 call received automated information on The Legal LEARN contact center
- 704 callers were helped through Contact Center staff and volunteers
- 1,243 callers were assisted through the Bankruptcy hotline
- 477 found legal assistance through the Modest Means program

## **Fundraising Initiatives**

Efforts to increase "access to justice" funding in states across the nation are commonly divided into five areas: state bar initiatives, filing fees and state appropriation, pro hac vice, cy pres, lawyer fund drives and coordinated and collaborative efforts. This section will address Arizona's participation under these areas comparing it with other states' efforts.

State Bar Initiatives. – Arizona ranks 26<sup>th</sup> in state attorney population.<sup>13</sup> Arizona is one of twenty states that have voluntary legal aid contribution programs as part of their annual fees collection. The range of total donations raised from these seventeen bar programs is from \$2,000 to \$793,000 annually.<sup>14</sup> Arizona's opt out program recommends a \$50 dollar donation and annually raises an average of \$150,000 per year. This amount raised puts Arizona's ranking among the seventeen bars with voluntarily legal aid donation programs at the 7<sup>th</sup> highest. The State Bar of Arizona also has a program where 1% of the total dues are contributed to promote pro bono services at the Foundation. The total donations raised from this program averages \$75,000 per year. These funds assist in the promotion and coordination of pro bono services across the state.

<sup>13</sup> [http://www.abanet.org/marketresearch/2008\\_NATL\\_LAWYER\\_by\\_State.pdf](http://www.abanet.org/marketresearch/2008_NATL_LAWYER_by_State.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives "Bar Dues Out and Add Ons" 2010 update

There are eight states where the dues and/or registration fees are raised to include a mandated amount toward legal aid services. Ohio is different from the other programs as their Supreme Court each year decides what amount of the total dues collected to go toward legal aid. The other states have stated dollar amounts ranging from \$20 to \$65 of the fees going toward legal aid services. The total amount generated from these mandated state programs range from West Virginia at \$150,000 to Illinois at \$2,640,000.<sup>15</sup>

Filing Fees and State Appropriations – Arizona is one of eighteen states where there is no filing fee income designated to support legal aid services. The specific filing fees vary with the states. Most use the fees associated with civil cases, but there are a few that include real estate transactions, criminal penalties, or parking/speeding tickets. The range of funds garnered through filing fee programs is from South Dakota at \$50,000 to Ohio at over \$15,000,000.

Approximately 33 states, including Arizona, support legal aid programs. The source of the appropriations varies including general funds, sale of abandoned property, federal funds given to the state (as in Arizona), fee charges from strip clubs, and crime victim compensation funds. Arizona is receiving \$1 million for the provision of legal services to domestic violence victims and ranks 20<sup>th</sup> in the amount of state funding awarded toward legal aid. The support offered ranges from \$135,000 (Rhode Island) to over \$29 million (New Jersey).<sup>16</sup>

Pro Hac Vice – Approximately half of the states have pro hac vice fees. Out of that half, nine states, including Arizona, have at least a portion of pro hac vice fees designated for funding legal aid services. Another eight states have fees ranging from \$100 to \$250 per case, and the entire amount goes toward legal aid services. In Arizona 15% of the total fee, which is equivalent to the annual dues for a state bar member, goes toward the provision of free legal services. In 2009, Arizona received \$82,522 from pro hac vice fees and in 2010 \$67,933 was received. The funds garnered by the other states range from \$150,000 to \$369,000.<sup>17</sup>

Cy Pres – There are eight states that have rules/law regarding distribution of cy pres funds to provide free civil legal assistance to the poor.<sup>18</sup> In Washington the court rule requires at least 25% of all leftover class action funds to be placed with the state's IOLTA fund. North Carolina law mandates that residual funds be dedicated to assisting in the provision of civil legal services to the indigent. California law encourages use of residual funds in class action suits to further the underlying purpose of the litigation or to promote justice for all Californians. Massachusetts states that residual funds should go to projects that benefit the class or similarity situated persons and purpose of the suit, or to the Massachusetts IOLTA Committee to support activities and programs that promote access to the civil justice system for low-income residents. Illinois requires that at least 50% of residual funds go to support legal aid. Indiana's rule reads that not less than 25% of the residual funds shall be disbursed to their foundation to support pro bono activities. Tennessee has a clarifying statement that judges and parties to class actions may enter into settlement decrees providing for unclaimed class action funds to be paid to the Tennessee Voluntary Fund for Indigent Civil Representation.<sup>19</sup> Hawaii orders that for any unpaid residue, after specific disbursements are made and requirements met, the court, with agreement to by all

<sup>15</sup> ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives report 2008

<sup>16</sup> ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives "Resource Chart, Ranked-Data Gathered 2010" 25-April-11

<sup>17</sup> ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives "Pro hac Vice Funding for Legal Services" March 2008

<sup>18</sup> "ABA Legal Services Now" April 21, 2011 Issue #78

<sup>19</sup> ABA Resource Center "Legislation & Court Rules Providing for Legal Services to Receive Cy Pres Residuals" update 1/19/11

parties, will approve the disbursement of residual funds to certain nonprofit tax exempt organizations eligible to receive indigent legal assistance fund, or the Hawaii Justice Foundation for distribution to one or more of such organizations.<sup>20</sup>

Lawyer Fund Drive – All but three states have fund-raising drives independent from the organized bar to support legal aid services. The annual drives range from Kansas raising \$9,000 to New York raising over \$12.6 million.<sup>21</sup> With support from major Arizona law firms, the “Equal Justice Campaign” foundation leads Arizona’s independent fund-raising effort. In 2009 this lawyer fund drive ranked 24<sup>th</sup> highest with \$478,000 raised toward providing free legal services. The Equal Justice Campaign funds are allocated according to poverty population percentages between the three Legal Service Corporation (LSC) Arizona legal aid agencies: Community Legal Services, DNA-People’s Legal Services, and Southern Arizona Legal Aid. It should be noted that 2011 marks the 10 year anniversary of Arizona’s statewide private bar campaign conducted by the Arizona Equal Justice Campaign Foundation.

### Summary

Arizona’s justice community has reason to be proud of the fund raising efforts and collaborative initiatives promoting equal access to justice. Unfortunately, the good work cannot keep up with the high demand. In the last decade, the Arizona poverty population has increased by over 300,000 people. In 2010, according to the year-end reports of the legal aid agencies, for every two people receiving legal services one requesting help was turned away or given very limited assistance. There is no indication that the federal funding for the Arizona legal aid agencies will increase and many indications that it could be cut further. The IOLTA funding will continue at historically low levels until the short-term interest target rates are raised which currently is not projected to be realized for the next twelve months or more.

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<sup>20</sup> Hawaii Supreme Court SCR-11-0000051 Jan 27, 2011

<sup>21</sup> ABA Resource Center for Access to Justice Initiatives. “Lawyer06Update” using 2005 figures