



June 4, 2015

Mary K. Ryan, Esquire
Chair
Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service
American Bar Association
Center for Pro Bono
321 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60654

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Dear Mary:

I write to express my support for the recent project undertaken by the ABA's Pro Bono and Public Service Committee to implement a fifty-state interactive pro bono website based on the OnlineTNJustice model.

As you know, Legal Services Corporation-funded legal aid programs across the country lack the resources to serve the needs of the eligible client population. In addition, many eligible clients are not able to visit legal aid offices because of distance and prohibitive travel costs.

I am glad that your committee is interested in creating an on-line pro bono resource for LSC's client population. Such a tool would give legal aid intake staff a referral option for the clients to whom they unable to provide assistance. It would help address the problems of remoteness and travel expense for some clients. It may also expand significantly the number of lawyers who volunteer to provide pro bono help to low-income people by allowing lawyers to respond to inquiries from their offices or homes on a schedule that is convenient for them.

Online Tennessee Justice has operated successfully for a number of years, and the Tennessee model is being used in several other states. This is a tested and proven concept for serving people who otherwise would have no access to legal advice. I encourage its expansion.

Thank you for your committee's work in this area, and please let me know if I can be of service in supporting the project.

Sincerely yours,

James J. Sandman