

Northwest Justice Project

Advocacy Report First Quarter, 2007



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**NORTHWEST JUSTICE PROJECT
2007 FIRST QUARTER ADVOCACY REPORT
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION	1
OVERVIEW OF GENERAL SERVICE DELIVERY	2
CASE EXAMPLES	5
NJP Basic Field Office Services	5
Consumer	5
Economic Stability (Public Benefits)	6
Education	8
Family Stability, Safety & Security	9
Healthcare, Access & Quality of Care.....	14
Individual Rights.....	15
Preservation of Housing & Habitability Issues.....	16
Targeted Populations (Persons with Disabilities, Limited English, Cultural and Other Barriers to Accessing Legal Services).....	20
Native American Advocacy Program	22
Native American Unit - Statewide (NAU)	22
Farm Worker Unit - Statewide (FWU)	23
Economic Security (Employment).....	23
Economic Security (Public Benefits).....	23
Individual Rights/Immigration	24
Preservation of Housing.....	24
Contract Attorney Program (CAP)	24
Coordinated Legal Education, Advice and Referral (CLEAR)	25
CLIENT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING.....	29
NETWORKING AND DEVELOPING COMMUNITY CONTACTS AND RESOURCES	34

INTRODUCTION

The first Quarter of 2007 ushered in what promises to be a year of major changes and developments at the Northwest Justice Project. With cautious optimism, NJP along with the entire Equal Justice Coalition, anticipated the 2007 Legislative session where champions for equal justice made the civil legal needs of the poor a priority for state funding. Congress had finally finished its budget work, and for the first time in many years increased federal funding for the national Legal Services Corporation, which also resulted in a modest increase for NJP. The Access to Justice Board's recently revised *State Plan for the Delivery of Civil Legal Aid to Low Income People in Washington State* was in the process of implementation through the Regional Planning process, and involved justice system stakeholders at all levels. Through it all, NJP continued its "on the ground" work providing legal help to over 5000 low income persons statewide through its on-line library of legal information materials (www.washingtonlawhelp.org), its CLEAR intake, advice and referral system, and its 10 staffed field offices, satellites and Contract Attorney Program, as well as through its partnerships with other legal aid providers throughout the state.

While these positive developments will allow civil legal aid to achieve a more stable foothold in Washington, the unmet need continued to predominate and low income persons with critical legal problems were unable to obtain the help they needed to secure their access to the justice system. Many parents, including victims and survivors of domestic violence, continued to go without legal counsel as they struggled to get legal protections for themselves and their children; tenants subject to being evicted from their homes, at times unfairly, were still by and large left without legal representation and faced imminent homelessness; and many low wage workers were not able to obtain the advice or level of legal help they needed to assert work related claims such as for unpaid wages or discrimination. Nevertheless, the cases handled by NJP show the value of legal aid. Examples include cases in which:

- NJP helped a client combat cell phone service fraud when the company made automatic deductions from a checking account for a service he never agreed to.
- NJP helped a disabled couple avoid a debt collection lawsuit after they returned a used car when the transmission gave out three days after the purchase.
- NJP represented a Deaf immigrant victim of serious domestic violence secure custody of her children and family safety after she fled to Washington from another state.
- NJP helped a young disabled child to remain in school with support services after he was charged with truancy and on a path toward dropping out.
- NJP helped a mother obtain a protection order in Colville Tribal Court against harassment and abuse by her landlord's husband.

Once again, these and many other cases reported here underscore the critical importance of legal aid in Washington.

OVERVIEW OF GENERAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Bellingham (Whatcom, Island, Skagit, San Juan Counties)

- NJP's Bellingham office has 4 attorneys, 1 paralegal and 2 legal assistants. During this quarter, the Bellingham office played a key role in the assessment phase of civil legal aid regional planning for its four-county region. Staff also worked with regional and community partners to plan for individual representation and system improvements in Whatcom, Skagit and Island Counties for domestic violence victims.

CLEAR and NJP Web Site

- CLEAR is the statewide centralized intake and referral system for the Alliance for Equal Justice. In addition to the general CLEAR system, NJP has three targeted CLEAR programs with highly specialized expertise, including CLEAR*Sr for persons 60 and over; CLEAR DV for victims of domestic violence and their advocates; and, CLEAR Native American for Indian persons throughout the state. CLEAR includes several lawyers who are bilingual in Spanish. In the first quarter of 2007 CLEAR answered 6,914 calls resulting in 5,038 new cases or clients. The Washington LawHelp web site experienced over 113,000 visitor sessions and almost a half million page views.

Contract Attorney Program

- NJP's Contract Attorney Program (CAP) consists of two part-time attorneys who receive referrals from CLEAR and other Alliance for Equal Justice members for clients with issues in eleven counties (Asotin, Benton, Clallam, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Walla Walla, and Whitman). CAP staff assesses the case and, if appropriate, refer it to one of its contract private attorneys (in any one year, CAP uses 30 to 40 attorneys who practice in those counties). CAP staff continues, as needed, to provide ongoing consultation and assistance. The case-type priorities of CAP are similar to those of NJP field offices. During this quarter, CAP provided advice, brief service and/or representation in approximately 100 cases.

Everett (Snohomish, Island Counties)

- During the first quarter of 2006 NJP's Everett office expanded its representation of clients to three tribal courts: Tulalip, Stillaguamish and Sauk-Suiattle. One attorney began spending half her time representing individuals in the tribal courts. The Indian Estate Planning Project held estate planning and will drafting clinics for Indian persons on the Chehalis, Yakima and Quileute Indian reservations. The office also continues to serve clients with a wide range of needs in the areas of family law, health care law, housing, consumer and public benefits.

Farm Worker Unit

- NJP's Farm Worker Unit consists of 4 attorneys and 2 community workers. One attorney is based in Wenatchee and 3 are based in Yakima. One community worker does outreach primarily to the Columbia Basin, but also assists with outreach statewide. The other has been helping mobile home park tenants facing eviction address relocation needs.

Native American Unit

- NJP's Native American Unit (NAU) serves Native American communities statewide in matters primarily involving tribal law and federal Indian law. The NAU conducts outreach, provides community legal education, and assists other legal services providers working with Indian clients. The NAU currently has one attorney in Spokane and one in Seattle, whose targeted work is supplemented by three advocates in the Indian Estate Planning Project. A Statewide Native American Advocacy Coordinator leads NJP's Native American outreach, regional planning, and capacity building efforts, and is working to implement NJP's expanded Native American advocacy program.

Olympia (Thurston, Mason, Lewis, Grays Harbor, Pacific Counties)

- NJP's Olympia office is responsible for a five county region including Thurston, Mason, Lewis, Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties. The office has 4 attorneys and two part-time legal assistants. The fourth attorney, who joined the office in December 2006, speaks Spanish, allowing the office to provide greater access for Spanish speaking clients. During this quarter, the office served clients with family law, housing, health care, public benefits and consumer problems and provided targeted representation to seniors.

Seattle (King County)

- NJP's Seattle based King County office consists of 11 attorneys and 3.5 legal assistants and several other support staff. The office hosts special programs targeted to underrepresented populations: (1) The Refugee and Immigrant Advocacy Project, operated in conjunction with the University of Washington School of Law, assists immigrants and refugees in the areas of public benefits and naturalization; (2) The Cross Cultural Family Law Clinic, a collaboration with the King County Bar Association through which volunteer attorneys assist domestic violence victims who have emergent family law matters and who are unable to access traditional legal resources due to language, culture, or other barriers; and (3) The Domestic Violence Community Legal Project, a collaborative project with Consejo Counseling and Referral Services and the Refugee Women's Alliance, which provides legal assistance to domestic violence victims served by those agencies. The *King County* office has lead local regional planning pursuant to the revised *State Plan*.

Spokane (Spokane, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Lincoln, Ferry Counties)

- NJP's Spokane office emphasizes work on family law issues, housing, consumer issues, public benefits and Native American law. The office has seven attorneys, including a Native American Unit attorney, two legal assistants and a receptionist.

Tacoma (Pierce, Kitsap Counties)

- NJP's Tacoma office consists of seven attorneys and two paralegals that represent Pierce and Kitsap County residents in public benefits, family, housing, consumer, education, youth and elder law and disability and civil rights cases and community groups. The Tacoma office is co-located with Volunteer Legal Services and TeamChild and provides legal services to indigent Western State Hospital (WSH) residents and staff meets clients at an NJP satellite office at WSH two days each week. A Kitsap County "satellite" office co-located with Kitsap Legal Services in Bremerton is staffed 3 days each week by Tacoma advocates. Finally, under a contract with the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, Tacoma advocates provide legal services statewide to developmentally disabled persons in the DSHS Community Protection Program.

Vancouver (Clark, Klickitat, Skamania, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum Counties)

- During this quarter, NJP's Vancouver office was staffed by five attorneys, and two legal assistants. The office continued its focus on economic security (especially the General Assistance program), health care, housing, homeownership, and private landlord-tenant matters involving longer-term tenancies), custody and visitation matters (primarily where there are serious allegations of domestic violence or other risk to the children), and serving senior citizens and youth.

Walla Walla (Benton/Franklin, Walla Walla)

- During this quarter, NJP's Walla Walla office, with a satellite office in Pasco, was staffed by three attorneys and one legal assistant. The Walla Walla office focuses on areas of family law, housing, public benefits and consumer needs.

Wenatchee (Adams, Chelan, Douglas, Grant, Kittitas, Okanogan Counties)

- NJP's Wenatchee office is staffed by five attorneys and three legal assistants and includes a satellite office in Omak serving clients in Okanogan County. The office also functions as the North Central Washington component of NJP's Farm Worker Unit. Case service priorities include non-payment of wages, health and safety violations, employment discrimination, access to health care benefits and income assistance, subsidized housing, utility shut-offs, predatory lending, home foreclosure, education access, and family law.

Yakima (Yakima, Kittitas Counties)

- NJP's Yakima office work continues to be focused on the areas of domestic violence, economic security and housing. The office has four attorneys and a Jesuit Volunteer, who assists in interviewing, research and case development for clients with economic security and domestic violence problems. The office also houses NJP's 3 Farm Worker Unit attorneys and an FWU community worker.

CASE EXAMPLES AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT ADVOCACY EFFORTS

NJP FIELD OFFICE SERVICES*

Consumer

- NJP's Everett office helped a woman who had purchased an automobile as a result of a consumer bait and switch "scam" that was specifically targeted to the Spanish speaking population. The woman's husband heard an advertisement on a Spanish language radio station, which promised that anyone could purchase a car with only a \$500 down payment. The husband speaks very little English and cannot read English. When the woman and her husband went to the dealership, the entire deal was done in English, with the woman translating for her husband. The clients did not understand the burdensome terms of the sale. NJP filed a complaint with the Attorney General's Office and has assisted with the investigation.
- NJP's Seattle office represents a victim of cell phone service fraud. A company affiliated with his cell phone company obtained his checking account information and wrote him a letter notifying him that money will be automatically deducted from his account to pay for a service he never signed up for. The letter required him to opt out of the service by a certain date to prevent the charge, but the letter arrived after the deadline date in the letter. The company has agreed to refund all of the money deducted from his account and terminate the services he never authorized. NJP will assist the client to file a complaint with the Attorney General's office and the Federal Trade Commission regarding this scam.
- NJP's Seattle office represented a disabled woman whose only income was SSI. The client lived with her adult daughter who also had SSI as her only income. The client was unable to pay her rent because their SSI funds were frozen in her bank account. NJP investigated and found out that a collection agency was about to garnish her bank account for an old medical debt. NJP filed and served an Exemption Claim on behalf of the client. The collection agency then immediately released the funds. However, the client's landlord had already given her a notice to vacate due to her nonpayment of rent. NJP then negotiated a move-out agreement so that client could have time to relocate, and not have to face a court eviction.
- NJP's Seattle office represented a woman with disabilities who had entered into a debt consolidation plan with a company based out of state. The consolidation plan involved the company debiting her bank account each month. Because her only income was SSI (which is not subject to execution) and she had newly increased living expenses, she

* For case examples from NJP's Native American Unit and Farm Worker Unit see pages 22-23 and 23-24 respectively. For case examples from the Contract Attorney Program and CLEAR see pages 24-25 and 25-29 respectively.

could no longer afford to have her account debited. NJP was able to rescind the debt consolidation plan and the woman received her full SSI amount immediately.

- NJP's Spokane office represented a couple, whose sole income was SSI, in a collection action arising from their purchase of a used vehicle. The couple financed their purchase of the vehicle through a finance company that worked with the car lot. The car's transmission gave out three days after the purchase, and the couple voluntarily returned the vehicle to the used car lot. The car lot/finance company sold the vehicle for less than the couple had paid, and the finance company assigned their claim to a collection agency to seek a deficiency judgment against the clients. NJP successfully negotiated dismissal of the lawsuit.
- NJP's Wenatchee office represents a client regarding her purchase of an improperly installed and non-permitted mobile home. The home was purchased from the former owner of the mobile home park where the home was installed. The owner subsequently sold the park. The home has fallen off its blocking and become uninhabitable, forcing the client and her children to move into rental housing. County records show that the home installation was never inspected or approved. The client paid most of the purchase price of the home as a down-payment, which the seller refuses to refund.
- NJP's Wenatchee office represents a retired monolingual Spanish speaking couple in a credit card debt collection lawsuit. The clients deny ever incurring the debt, and neither of their credit reports lists any accounts that match the obligation mentioned in the complaint brought by the debt collector. NJP answered the complaint on behalf of the clients. To date the debt collectors have failed to provide verification that the debt belongs to the clients.
- NJP's Yakima office recovered fees paid to an unscrupulous housing foreclosure scam company. The company contacted the monolingual Spanish speaking client and promised her that if she wired a fee to them, they would save her home from foreclosure. After the woman sent the fees, the company rendered no services and she was in a worse position to negotiate a workout agreement with the lender. NJP was able to recover all of the costs and interest from the company. In addition, NJP filed a complaint with the Washington Attorney General Office, Consumer Protection Division. That complaint is pending.

Economic Stability (Public Benefits)

- NJP's Bellingham office represented a limited English speaking illiterate refugee who was assessed over two thousand dollars in overpayments by the Employment Security Department (ESD). When the client moved to the Bellingham area, he was homeless and lived in a shelter. He applied for unemployment benefits over the telephone and informed the ESD that he could not read or write. ESD told him that he could file claims for his benefits over the telephone. Over the next several weeks, the client engaged in his job search as required and called the ESD telecenter each week to file his claim for benefits. The client received his mail through general delivery, including his unemployment checks. He knew when he received a check because it was yellow and came in a yellow envelope; however, he did not know what any of his other mail said and had no friends or

family in the area to read his mail to him. After several months, he stopped receiving checks and went to the local WorkSource office for help. The office set him up on the telephone with the telecenter who informed him that ESD had assessed an overpayment against him because he had not complied with requirements for benefits, including failure to attend job search review appointments and job search interviews. He was unaware of these requirements as no one had informed him about them when he first applied. The telecenter told the client that he could appeal. He again explained that he could not read or write and asked to appeal over the telephone, but was informed that he had to appeal in writing. His benefits stopped and the client obtained temporary jobs to make ends meet. Several months later, he was able to rent a room and open a bank account. When the client went to the bank to withdraw money to pay his rent he discovered that his entire bank account had been garnished by ESD to recollect the overpayment. The client again asked to file an appeal by telephone; he was again told he had to appeal in writing and they offered to send him the written information. He was evicted from his rented room because he was unable to pay rent and ended up homeless again. This time he lost all of his belongings because he had no place to store them and could not take them with him. WorkSource referred the client to NJP. NJP filed an appeal. At hearing the ALJ set the overpayments aside, stating that ESD had a responsibility to counsel and advise the client on how to deal with paperwork as the client had informed ESD that he did not read or write English. The client was reimbursed all of the funds that were garnished from his bank account and paychecks.

- NJP's Olympia office helped a Lewis County mother of 2 who emigrated with her family from Russia as refugees in the early 1980s. The client works full time at a hotel, but had to take some time off to care for her newborn child. She applied for DSHS benefits until she was able to return to work, providing proof that she is in the United States and working legally, and has applied for citizenship. DSHS approved benefits for her children, but denied any assistance to her based on her immigration status. In addition DSHS issued an overpayment for food assistance the family received while the client was working. NJP requested a hearing on the client's behalf and re-sent the documents establishing her lawful immigration status. NJP also sent a letter explaining the laws showing her eligibility for federal cash, food, and medical benefits. Based on this analysis, DSHS rescinded the overpayment and approved increased benefits retroactively to the date she applied.
- NJP's Vancouver office helped a Clark County woman who has severe fibromyalgia and lower back injuries to eventually get General Assistance cash and medical benefits. Rather than obtaining a physical evaluation from the client's established health care providers, the local DSHS office required that the evaluation be done in the Portland office of a corporation headquartered in Utah that does "independent" evaluations. Although DSHS was well acquainted with the client's medical records because her health condition was critically important to her former receipt of TANF benefits, they provided no background information to the evaluator, who did no x-rays or other diagnostic imaging. Nevertheless, he diagnosed fibromyalgia and estimated her physical limitations to be quite severe. But the local DSHS office denied benefits, disregarding the opinions of its handpicked evaluator because, in DSHS's view, there was not enough objective evidence. At the hearing the ALJ ruled that the evaluator's opinion should prevail.

- NJP's Wenatchee office assisted a severely developmentally disabled adult woman whose SSI payment and in-home caregiving benefits were threatened due to excess resources. The client and her siblings had each inherited a small amount of money a couple of years ago, and the siblings pooled their inheritances and deposited it in a bank account as a "rainy day fund" for the client. A Social Security audit revealed the funds. SSA issued an overpayment notice and the client was threatened with termination of her in-home care. NJP advised the client's surrogates in negotiations with Social Security and the client's in-home care was reinstated, and the overpayment was waived.

Education

- NJP's Olympia office assisted a 13 year old boy who suffers from Oppositional Defiance Disorder. His junior high school twice suspended him without giving him or his mother any notice of the suspensions. The school then counted the suspension days as unexcused absences and filed a truancy action in juvenile court. Meanwhile, the client's mother had requested IEP testing for four years, finally requesting it in writing at the beginning of this school year. The mother was contacted to schedule an appointment to determine if the client needed IEP testing three months after the written request was submitted. NJP prepared a comprehensive memorandum which addressed the various ways in which the school district had violated the client's rights and explained why the truancy action was baseless. In light of these legal arguments, the school district dismissed the truancy petition. Additionally, the school became diligent in processing the IEP testing and conferences for the client.
- NJP's Seattle office continues to represent a parent of a student with a disability who was being denied a free, appropriate education. Just before the due process hearing challenging the School District's recommended placement. The District agreed to reimburse the parent for six months of tuition at a private placement at which the student is currently thriving subject to re-evaluation for appropriate placement in Fall, 2007.
- NJP's Seattle office continues to represent the parent of a student with a disability who was inappropriately placed on home instruction during which time the student was barely receiving any educational services at all. The home instruction followed several unsuccessful placements in other settings. The student's Individual Education Plan team found an appropriate private placement that is able to provide the student with the "wraparound" services that he needs to be successful in school.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a monolingual Spanish-speaking parent and her 14-year-old daughter in truancy proceedings in juvenile court. Contrary to sworn statements in its petition initiating the case, the school had failed to act timely on the parents' request for the student to be evaluated for special education services. The court dismissed the truancy case and required the requested evaluations.
- NJP's Vancouver office helped a Native American high school student to return to school after he was emergency expelled three times within his first month after transferring from another district to live with his mother. The student has a learning disability that

interferes with his achievement in reading, and incompletely diagnosed mental health problems that may stem from being shifted among various caretaker relatives and schools in recent years. His father had decided to drop his Individual Education Plan (IEP) in the previous district. The third emergency expulsion, combined with a regular expulsion, was issued because the principal perceived as “insubordinate” the student’s response when asked to pull up his low-slung trousers, the subject of a previous altercation over the same dress code provision. NJP was able to demonstrate that the school had not met its responsibilities to evaluate the student for special education even after his mother’s specific request or to properly determine whether his behavior was a “manifestation” of his disabilities. In lieu of a hearing, the district agreed to reduce the expulsion to a suspension and reinstate the student at the beginning of second semester, and to timely complete his special education evaluation.

Family Stability, Safety & Security

- NJP’s Bellingham office assisted an immigrant mother to obtain legal residency in the United States after she fled from her violent U.S. citizen husband. The woman had suffered through several years of physical and sexual assault and emotional abuse, and ultimately fled with her toddler son to Washington State to escape the abuse. NJP helped her petition under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) for legal resident status. When NJP received an initial finding that she qualified for legal residency under VAWA, she and her son were able to get public assistance. She later received permanent legal residency and is now eligible for work in the United States.
- NJP’s Bellingham office represented a victim of domestic violence in a Sexual Assault Protection Order case. The client found photographic evidence that her husband had molested her son (the husband’s stepson) and filed a Petition for a Sexual Assault Protection Order. She then needed help to seal the file because it contained the minor child’s statement with explicit details of the molestation. NJP filed a motion to seal the file and represented the client at the hearing. The judge ordered that the declaration be redacted in order to protect the child’s privacy. The client also brought the evidence she had to the police and her husband was arrested and criminally charged.
- NJP’s Everett office represented a monolingual Iraqi single parent in a dissolution action. His wife had returned to Iraq and he had no way to contact her given the war in his country. He needed to establish the validity of his marriage. He had married as a refugee in a Saudi Arabian refugee camp in the middle of the desert and no documentation recorded the marriage. However he was admitted into the United States as a married man. Through both the client’s testimony and the interpreter’s explanations the marriage was recognized and then dissolved with a parenting plan for his son.
- NJP’s Olympia office helped a Grays Harbor County woman whose husband threw objects at her, threatened to “bury” her, broke his hand punching holes in the wall in anger and held a gun to his own head and threatened to kill himself if she did not stay with him. The Court awarded the client primary residential time when the husband objected to moving the children back and forth. After the separation, the husband videotaped himself interrogating and coaching the children. When he went to jail on a

DUI, the client went back to the family home and found the tapes demonstrating her husband's mental instability. NJP assisted the client to obtain a parenting plan that limits the husband's contact with the children to professionally supervised contact only.

- NJP's Olympia office represents a Grays Harbor victim of domestic violence who had primary residential care of her son. The father asked for a new temporary order giving him primary residential care. The client had declarations from school officials, former high school students and parents of students explaining that the father had lost his teaching certificate because of gross misbehavior with his students, including allowing students to surf pornographic websites on his school computer. The judge allowed the father three days to put on witnesses. At the end of the father's case, the Judge did not allow the mother to present any of her subpoenaed witnesses, saying it was unnecessary because he was not going to transfer primary residential time to the father. However, the judge substantially increased the father's visitation to every weekend, mid week visitation and required the client to use the father or father's wife as her child care provider. The court also appointed a guardian ad litem. The GAL recommended that the child remain with the mother and that visitation be decreased to alternate weekends plus an additional week every other month. The Court adopted the GAL's proposal and chastised the father for being manipulative.
- NJP's Olympia office assisted a victim of domestic violence in Grays Harbor with a custody matter. The father had primary residential care of the child. The mother lived in Texas. She traveled to Washington to pick up the child for her holiday visitation. Before her visitation began, the father invited her to go Christmas shopping with him and she agreed. When she arrived the father was high on methamphetamine, had a loaded gun, and forcibly raped the client. The client survived the attack and went to the hospital for a rape exam. The police interviewed the father who admitted that he held a loaded gun to the client's head and "had sex with her," but he insisted that the act was consensual. The father was arrested and remains in jail pending trial. Meanwhile, the father's parents sought non-parental custody of the child. The GAL on the case had previously recommended that the father have primary care because he was living with his parents and that they would, in her opinion, be the best custodians for this child. NJP assisted the client in putting together a declaration which detailed how the grandparent's behaviors contributed to and nurtured their son's addiction and propensity for violence and how this behavior is being repeated with the parties' own son. NJP also prepared a memorandum demonstrating that non-parental custody could not be ordered since the legal threshold of parental unfitness or harm to the child could not be met. The grandparents withdrew their Petition but requested visitation with the child. The Court denied that request.
- NJP's Seattle-based Domestic Violence Community Legal Project (DVCLP) represented a Mexican immigrant woman with three children in a Protection Order action against her husband. The parties began a relationship in Mexico and after she became pregnant he convinced her to marry and to come with him to Washington. After the child was born the husband became very abusive. He was jealous and possessive, wanting only attention for himself. He sexually assaulted her and physically abused the child. The client did not know anyone in the area, and did not speak English and depended completely on the husband for transportation, money, and all of her and her children's needs. As the family

grew, the husband's abuse and threats continued. When she begged him to let her work as a hair dresser, he agreed but only on the condition that he find and approve her place of employment. He also insisted that she not have any male clients and would check in on her regularly to make sure this was the case. The husband began to threaten her clients and violently dragged her from the hair salon on more than one occasion. Eventually, through some co-workers, the wife was able to get assistance to leave the husband. The husband claimed that she invented the abuse allegations because she was having an affair. NJP successfully obtained a Protection Order that required the husband to get treatment and limited him to supervised visitation pending treatment.

- NJP's Seattle office represented a monolingual Spanish speaking victim of domestic violence who was abused by the father of her 18 month old son. After she separated from the father, he started to stalk and harass her until she applied for a protection order. The father hired an attorney and sought a parenting plan making false allegations of mental instability and drug use and seeking unsupervised weekend visitation with the infant. NJP obtained a temporary order requiring professionally supervised visits pending a risk assessment by Family Court Services.
- NJP's Seattle office represents a woman who has obtained political asylum in the United States, having been subjected to torture in Liberia. The client was forced to flee from her severely abusive husband with whom she had lived with the parties children in another state. She sought emergency jurisdiction in Washington to obtain a protection order. With the help of a volunteer attorney from the Cross Cultural Family Law Legal Clinic, the client demonstrated that Washington should hear the case because the women fled the home state for the safety of herself and the children. The husband ignored the ruling and proceeded with an action in the other state. NJP assisted the client with her divorce in Washington and obtained a default against the husband. NJP has coordinated with a legal aid program in the other state to ensure that the foreign court is informed that the matter has been finalized in Washington. The client will also receive assistance from NJP to renew her protection order and to assess her ongoing safety needs.
- NJP's Spokane office represented a mother in a divorce action initiated by her husband. At the time the husband initiated the divorce, the client was involuntarily committed to the hospital in excess of 90 days on the basis that she was gravely disabled. During the period of her commitment, the parties' three children resided with their great-grandparents. The court granted the client supervised visitation with the children, while they continued to reside with their great-grandparents. After several months of supervised visits and continued counseling, the court, upon the GAL's recommendation, returned custody of the parties' children to the client. The father never contacted the GAL and did not show up for trial. The court placed the children with the mother and ordered that the father have no visitation or contact with the children.
- NJP's Spokane office represented a father in an action seeking custody of the parties' child after the mother was arrested on murder charges. The mother ultimately pled guilty to second-degree murder, and was sentenced to 18 plus years in prison. NJP successfully obtained a parenting plan for the client placing the child in his sole custody and ordering that the mother have no visitation or contact with the child except for letters.

- NJP's Tacoma office represented a woman who left her child in the care of her husband while she re-located to an East Coast state due to her husband's abuse. The husband began a dissolution action in Kitsap County Superior Court, asking that the mother have only supervised visitation. NJP represented the mother in court, a *Guardian ad Litem* was appointed, and a report was filed. After negotiations with the husband's attorney, the client was awarded custody of her child and a long-distance, supervised visitation parenting plan was ordered by the court for the father.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a woman who had lost custody of her third and youngest child to her mother approximately four years earlier in a third-party custody action. The client, who had once lived an irresponsible lifestyle which included drugs and domestic violence, had also lost custody of her two oldest children to the grandmother. NJP encouraged the client to enroll in a random UA program and with the help and intervention of many social service agencies, she totally revamped her life, gave up drugs, enrolled in college and obtained a stable home. After a year of litigation in which a GAL recommended that the child stay with the grandmother, a four-day trial was held. The judge determined that there was not clear and convincing evidence showing that the natural parent was unfit or that placing the child with an otherwise fit parent would be detrimental to the child. The judge returned the child to the mother, pursuant to a graduated parenting plan.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a hearing-impaired mother from Vancouver, Washington, in an action to modify a Pierce County parenting plan. The mother had a history of drug abuse but over the last two years had been clean, sober, and in treatment. The parties' young child lived with his father in Seattle. About a year ago the father was arrested for selling drugs to an undercover agent and went to jail. The paternal grandmother attempted to keep the child and to deny the mother any access to her son. NJP sought to modify custody. Temporary custody orders were obtained, granting the mother temporary custody. The mother eventually gained full custody of her son.
- NJP's Vancouver office represented a mother who had been denied visitation to her children. The father had been convicted of child abuse and then relocated with the children to another city without informing the mother of the children's whereabouts. NJP was able to find the father and then obtain orders granting the mother primary residential care of both children at issue.
- NJP's Vancouver office represented an immigrant victim of domestic violence to file for lawful permanent resident status under the federal Violence Against Women Act after she fled from the father of her two children after a recent assault. The father threatened to have her deported. NJP also obtained orders placing the children with the mother.
- NJP's Vancouver office helped a mother obtain court appointed counsel in a case where her parental rights to her child were at issue. She was not appointed an attorney in the hostile adoption proceeding as a matter of course. NJP drafted her motion and citation as well as a pro se notice of appearance that was filed then summarily rejected by the court clerk moments later. After NJP contacted the Superior Court Clerk the client was able to

both proceed with her motion and successfully file her notice of appearance so she would not be defaulted. She prevailed on her motion to obtain state appointed legal counsel.

- NJP's Walla Walla office assisted a client who had suffered domestic violence by her husband. Her husband had initiated the proceedings in a county of his choice, more than 50 miles from where the client lived, worked, took care of her child, and went to school. At the time, the client's car was broken and it was nearly impossible for her to attend court hearings. NJP assisted the client in successfully changing venue to her home county and having all related fees waived. The client was then able to effectively represent herself pro se in her home community, with more social services resources, more family support, more security, and a less challenging commute.
- NJP's Wenatchee office prepared court documents and advised a young father regarding custody and paternity. The client has been caring full-time for his infant/toddler daughter for the last year. The child's mother has been ordered by criminal court to attend in-patient drug treatment but has not complied. The mother's whereabouts are unknown, but when she periodically appears at the client's home to demand to see the child, she is often under the influence of drugs or alcohol and is a danger to the child.
- NJP's Wenatchee office obtained a protection order and a temporary parenting plan for a mother of two children in a dissolution action seeking custody of her children and a protection order. The client has a third grade education and does not speak English. During fifteen years, the opposing party rarely let the client leave the family's home, prevented her from attending English classes, prevented her from getting a driver's license, hit the client with a stick, drug her around the home by her hair, and sexually assaulted her with a knife. The client finally left the abusive situation with her two children after the husband encouraged the eldest son to also hit the client.
- NJP's Wenatchee office successfully modified a parenting plan on behalf of a client who was the victim of ongoing sexual abuse and domestic violence. The client, a monolingual Spanish speaking farm worker, was raped by her cousin shortly after arriving in the United States from Mexico. She became pregnant and was essentially forced into hiding because of the domestic violence and shame associated with the pregnancy. The child was born with disabilities and is mute. The abuse continued for years. Eventually the client bore another child by the cousin. She finally escaped to a safe house with her two children. Later, DSHS brought an action to have the paternity of the children determined and to establish child support and a parenting plan. The client was unrepresented in that proceeding, which went to trial and resulted in a parenting plan that awarded custody to the father because the mother worked nights. After trial, the father started working nights, and denied the client the court-ordered visitation with her children. NJP represented the client at a hearing at which the parenting plan was modified to allow the client daily, generous and specific visitation with her children. NJP is now representing the client in an effort to further modify the parenting plan and award primary custody to the client.

- NJP's Yakima office represented a victim of domestic violence that recently fled from another state to escape that violence. Agreements were reached to continue protection for the woman in Washington while arranging for representation in the children's home state to address issues in a dissolution initiated by the opposing party.

Healthcare, Access and Quality of Care

- NJP's Everett office assisted a disabled senior appealing a Medicaid coverage denial for a replacement denture. His denture was causing pain, limiting his ability to eat nutritious foods. The State adopted rules limiting Medicaid coverage of denture replacement to once in ten years, and the client's denture was made four years earlier. The State made an exception in his case due to the poor construction of his current denture. NJP assisted the client to identify a high quality Medicaid-accepting provider to make new dentures.
- NJP's Seattle office represented a Somali woman in her appeal of DSHS's denial of her application for medical assistance. The woman had been unable to work for more than a year, was suffering from mental health problems, severe headaches, and insomnia. NJP advocated for the review of additional medical evidence, resulting in the approval of medical assistance in advance of a hearing.
- NJP's Spokane office assisted a 49-year-old woman in receiving non-grant medical assistance. The client had called CLEAR because she was denied the benefits on a determination that she could still perform her past work experience as a sales clerk. The client suffered a traumatic back injury from operating small machinery in 2003, and then became very depressed and had not worked since that injury. No doctor had been able to identify the client's problems, but all agreed that her back, leg and arm pain were legitimate and impacted her ability to function in society. Since the accident, the client has been seeing a counselor and been on medications for mood stabilization and depression. NJP assisted the client with a fair hearing on the denial of her application, and submitted a neurologist's report that concluded that the client had objective limitations of range of motion, and depression of a nature that prevented her from engaging in gainful activities. The administrative law judge concluded that the client was eligible for the medical assistance program.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a client with multiple medical issues, including an uncontrolled seizure disorder, who was terminated from the Non-Grant Medical Assistance Program (NGMA). NJP assisted the client in obtaining and submitting additional medical evidence to the Division of Disability Determination Services (DDDS) who subsequently re-approved the client's NGMA. Following the reinstatement, DSHS assessed the client with a spend-down of \$453 per month because she and her husband were both receiving Medically Necessary Medicaid benefits (MN). While assisting the client, NJP determined that due to his Medicare benefits, the husband did not need the MN coverage. Once the husband's MN coverage was voluntarily terminated, the client was approved for MN coverage with no spend-down.

- NJP's Tacoma office represented another client who was denied Non-Grant Medical Assistance (NGMA). The client had multiple physical and mental conditions; had a history of only heavy-duty work; and was found to be limited to less than a full-range of sedentary work. NJP represented the client at hearing and argued that his psychiatric conditions met the Social Security Listing of Impairments for Affective Disorders. The ALJ issued an order reversing DSHS's denial of NGMA to the client and specifically found that his psychiatric condition met the Listing for Affective Disorders.
- NJP's Wenatchee office investigated and advised a disabled senior whose Medicare insurance was refused by her medical providers. Medicare was showing that the client had failed to pay her Medicare premiums. The client was facing over \$30,000 in medical debt accrued in the last months of 2006. NJP's investigation revealed that a family member who is also a DSHS employee had inadvertently entered the client's nickname rather than legal name into the system, causing the system to reflect non-payment of premiums. The error has now been corrected.

Individual Rights

- NJP's Everett office represented a former refugee seeking citizenship. This senior had been unable to learn English because of health problems stemming from trauma prior to his emigration. He requested legal services after the Citizenship and Immigration Services office denied his request for "waiver" of the English language and citizenship test. NJP obtained additional medical documents and opinions from the client's medical providers and attended the interview with him. The waiver request was granted, and he was proud to become a U.S. citizen.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a long-time, certified nursing assistant in administrative proceedings to appeal a preliminary finding that she had mentally abused a nursing home patient. DSHS' Resident Protection Program had made this preliminary finding based on evidence that consisted entirely of unsubstantiated hearsay and the statements of an admittedly unreliable witness. After NJP discussions with the Attorney General's Office, and one day before the scheduled hearing in the matter, DSHS withdrew its preliminary finding against the client. As a result, the client, who had recently been accepted to nursing school, preserved her ability to work in her chosen field of employment.
- NJP's Tacoma office continues to represent a 53-year-old, former Western State Hospital patient on a Petition for Judicial Review to appeal a DSHS administrative order that he must pay for some of the cost of his care at the state mental hospital. The client, who had been committed to the hospital to assess and restore his competency to stand trial on criminal charges, argued that compelled payment for his competency restoration commitment violated the state constitutional prohibition against charging a criminal defendant any costs associated with his prosecution. A Thurston County Superior Court Judge agreed and issued an order reversing the administrative order at issue and invalidating the agency rule requiring that patients committed to the state hospital to restore their competency to stand trial on criminal charges pay for their commitments. The state appealed and oral argument in the Court of Appeals was held in May.

- NJP’s Tacoma office assisted a client to obtain the appointment of a *Guardian ad Litem* as surrogate party for a Western State Hospital (WSH) patient who had been named respondent in a civil court matter in Cowlitz County. The client’s ex-husband had petitioned the court regarding the ownership of newly discovered community property. From the information available, it was impossible to determine whether the property at stake was acquired prior to the divorce or whether it met the definition of community property. Because of her communication difficulty, the client was unable to provide any useful historical detail regarding the funds, and it seemed unlikely that she would be able to represent her own interests in the matter. NJP assisted her in drafting an application for the assignment of a *Guardian ad Litem* (GAL) and a GAL was appointed.
- NJP’s Wenatchee office obtained temporary, interim approval of a petition filed with Immigration and Customs Enforcement on behalf of an immigrant victim of crime. The petition was made under a program known as the “U Visa,” which is available to victims of domestic violence or other crimes who help with the investigation or prosecution of the crime committed against them. The client is now eligible to obtain a work permit, and eventually, if fully approved, to become a legal permanent resident of the U.S. This U Visa petition grew out of a family law case in which the client was represented by NJP. That case started after the father of the client’s child “kidnapped” the child in Mexico and brought her to Washington. The child was conceived and born in the US after the client was repeatedly raped at the age of fifteen and physically abused by the father. NJP obtained final orders protecting the client and child from the abuser and granting full custody of the child to the client. The father was arrested at one of the family law hearings in Superior Court based on the testimony of the client. The client then further cooperated with prosecutors, which resulted in a criminal conviction and significant jail time for the abuser.

Preservation of Housing & Habitability Issues

- NJP’s Bellingham office represented a single parent who faced eviction from her public housing apartment because she was charged with a hit-and-run accident that happened about five miles away while she was fleeing from her abusive boyfriend. Although the incident posed no risk to anyone at her apartment complex, the housing authority terminated her tenancy and filed an eviction action against her. NJP defended the client based on the accident not constituting a legal basis for eviction under state or federal law. The housing authority then agreed to drop the eviction action.
- NJP’s Everett office represents the residents of ten households of a manufactured home community, all of whom have low-fixed incomes, in negotiations for relocation assistance after their receipt of a one year notice to vacate from the new landowner. The new landowners have no legal requirements to provide assistance to the displaced households. The residents sought help from Lynnwood City Council which then passed a resolution asking that the new land owners give the residents a six month extension of the eviction date and also assist the residents in accessing Washington Relocation Assistance Funds. Although negotiations are ongoing, counsel for the new land owner has offered a six month extension, reduced rent at a total cost of \$50 per month and full payment of demolition costs if needed. As there are not many available spaces for the residents to

move their homes to, the majority of the remaining households will likely have to have their homes demolished. Landlord's payment of demolition costs will result in a savings of \$3,300 to \$4,000 per household, which will help residents obtain new housing.

- NJP's Everett office represented a single disabled father with young children who faced eviction due to alleged noncompliance with his lease obligations. The client's landlord had notice of his deteriorating disability from the time the client began his five year tenancy, but served the 10 day notice for violation of lease obligations due to the presence of a service dog. His landlord also denied the client's request for a live in caregiver. NJP negotiated a settlement allowing the tenant to remain in his home with the service dog as a reasonable accommodation for his disabilities.
- NJP's Olympia office helped a 74 year old woman in Grays Harbor County when the bedroom in her subsidized apartment began leaking water through the wall. She lost the use of that room, and had to move her belongings into the very limited remaining space in the apartment. Aside from blowing a heater into the room constantly (which increased her power bill by \$40 that month), the landlord made no serious attempts to repair the problem. NJP wrote a demand letter asking the landlord to immediately complete repairs and to compensate the client for her loss of the room for 3 months and her increased power bill. The landlord agreed, and the client received \$490 as compensation. The leak is now fixed and the client can sleep in her bedroom again.
- NJP's Olympia office helped a disabled Thurston County senior who received an eviction notice after the City inspected the trailer she was renting and red-tagged the oil furnace (the trailer's only source of heat). The landlord had determined that the cost of repair was greater than the trailer's value. The client was in the midst of several medical procedures and unable to move residences. She wished to remain in her home until she was recovered enough to move and had found a new place. Because there was no heat, she also wanted the landlord to provide space heaters. NJP negotiated with the landlord so the client could stay rent-free until she found a new place, and the city agreed to take no action until she moved out, at which time the landlord planned to demolish the trailer. The landlord provided the client with 3 space heaters and did not charge her rent for 3 months. The client completed her medical procedures and has just moved into a safe one-bedroom, subsidized apartment.
- NJP's Olympia office helped a Grays Harbor family of 3 when their apartment building was condemned by the City for multiple serious violations. NJP filed a lawsuit for money damages under the relocation statute passed by the state legislature in 2005. After negotiations, the landlord settled for \$2,400 plus costs of the suit. The family was able to recover from the debts they incurred in moving and now live in a rental house more suitable to their needs.
- NJP's Spokane office represented a man in foreclosure proceedings. When a viable work-out agreement could not be established with the mortgage holder, NJP determined that the only viable defense against the foreclosure sale was to recommend that the client institute a bankruptcy proceeding. NJP referred the client to a pro bono bankruptcy

attorney. The client's bankruptcy plan was subsequently approved, and the foreclosure sale was avoided.

- NJP's Tacoma office represented a mobile home owner in an unlawful detainer action based on service of three or more 15-day comply-or-vacate notices within a 12-month period. Following a show cause hearing, the case was set for trial. The client's husband had moved out leaving her to take care of three children by herself while working full time and with the responsibility of complying with her lease by removing several inoperable vehicles and a significant amount of other clutter that he had left on the mobile home lot. The client worked in a different county, had already moved her children to a better school district near her job, and hoped to move there in a few months. She needed time within which to sell her mobile home. A settlement agreement was reached under which the woman agreed to sell her mobile home and move out after four months and agreed to a timeline to clean up her mobile home lot. The unlawful detainer action will then be dismissed.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a woman to get her federal housing assistance voucher reissued after the housing authority (HA) had withdrawn it when a landlord failed to timely execute the contract that authorized the use of the housing voucher. The woman, a domestic violence survivor, received a federal housing assistance voucher after spending about a year in various shelters after her abuser was sent to prison. The client submitted a proposed lease to the HA and requested lease approval signed by the new landlord. The HA prepared the housing assistance agreement and provided it to the landlord, asking in writing that it be signed and returned within 60 days or it would be void. The landlord failed to sign and return it for over four months. The HA offered to enter into a contract effective on the first of the month in which it was received, but the landlord refused to sign another lease and demanded payment from both the HA and the tenant for the full rental amount since she had moved in, six months earlier. The HA advised the tenant that because her voucher had not been used and no contract had been entered into with the landlord, her voucher had been withdrawn. Meanwhile, the tenant filed a fair housing complaint against the landlord. The proposed resolution by the fair housing agency included a waiver of rent claims by the landlord, and the tenant moving out immediately but this did not address the need for restoring the voucher. It was at this point that NJP became involved. The HA agreed to reissue the voucher and the client moved into a newly constructed conventional public housing unit.
- NJP's Walla Walla office assisted a client to obtain federally subsidized housing assistance. The local housing authority had recently turned the client down for assistance because of a past drug conviction. NJP appealed the denial of assistance based on the client's recent improvements in his life and his change in family status. The housing authority reversed its decision and granted the client the requested voucher. The client and his two children were then able to move from their cramped one-bedroom apartment into a larger three-bedroom unit.
- NJP's Walla Walla office represented a man who lived with and cared for his elderly father in public housing. The client had primary residential placement of his children. However, he was not able to establish to the housing authority's satisfaction the extent to

which the children resided with him. The local housing authority had threatened to move the man to a studio unit which would have created extremely cramped quarters. NJP represented the client in negotiations to successfully preserve his larger housing unit.

- NJP's Wenatchee office represents a mother of two in Colville tribal court to obtain a protection order against the client's landlord's husband, who has a long criminal record. The landlord refused to give the client a key to the premises. The husband entered the client's home whether the client was present or not, and used her phone. He did this even when the client's daughters were home alone and told him he could not come in. The landlord's husband also stole tires from the client, threatened to cut off her electricity, threatened forcible eviction, threatened to put a barrier in the driveway so that the client would be unable to exit and pick up her five year-old from the bus stop. The landlord and her husband have fraudulently sold tribal trust land to multiple immigrant victims, and then requested the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to inform the victim-buyers in writing that they "can be removed at the whim" of the owner, as non-tribal members are not allowed to own trust land. The landlord's husband fraudulently used one of the BIA's letters addressed to other victims, to try to make the client believe the BIA was ordering her from the home. Just after the client petitioned for a protection order, her tires were slashed and sugar was found in her gas tank.
- NJP's Wenatchee office successfully defended a client with disabilities from being evicted after it appeared at the show cause hearing and successfully argued that the client's counterclaims against the landlord far exceeded the landlord's claim for alleged arrearage in rent. The client had stopped paying her rent after being without electricity for months, and her landlord repeatedly failed to correct the problem. She had been living in extremely dangerous conditions after the electrical system in the home failed. The client was drawing her electricity through an extension cord from a neighboring unit that fed into a web of other extension cords throughout the apartment. The case settled on the eve of trial when the landlord corrected the defect. The landlord also made a cash payment to the client, waived all arrearages, and allowed the client to continue living in the unit for a number of months rent-free.
- NJP's Wenatchee office represents a woman defending a foreclosure action. She purchased her manufactured home from her former employer. The home was installed on the same piece of property as the workplace, and is owned by the employer. The client and the employer signed an agreement granting the client a lifetime lease on a portion of this property, and setting forth the terms of payment for the manufactured home. The employer then began to sexually harass the client in the workplace, forcing the client to quit her job. After the client quit, the seller's predatory behavior escalated, forcing the client to obtain an anti-harassment order against him. The seller was arrested and criminal charges were brought against him. In the fall of 2006 the seller stopped accepting the client's monthly payments, and in the spring of 2007 served a foreclosure lawsuit on the client. NJP answered the complaint and asserted counterclaims on the client's behalf. Trial is pending.

- NJP's Yakima office recently reached a settlement agreement in a matter involving a woman's mobile home. The landlord of the mobile home park had attempted to sell the mobile home pursuant to a landlord's lien. NJP filed suit to stop the unlawful sale and negotiated a favorable settlement, compensating the woman for her mobile home.
- NJP's Yakima office recently negotiated reinstatement of a federal housing assistance voucher belonging to a developmentally disabled woman. The voucher was terminated as a result of a series of errors made by both the housing authority and the landlord. NJP was able to get her voucher reinstated, and her stable housing situation remains uninterrupted.
- NJP's Yakima office represented a disabled couple who had contracted to purchase a home with a real estate contract. The seller wanted to terminate the contract and initiated an unlawful detainer action. Their initial appointment with NJP was on the day before trial was scheduled. NJP represented the couple at trial and the court reinstated the contract.

Targeted Populations (Persons with Disabilities, Limited English, Cultural and Other Barriers to Accessing Legal Services)

- NJP's Bellingham office represented a woman with severe mental illness who was terminated from her SSI, food assistance, and medical assistance because she got behind on paying restitution on a check forging conviction incurred during a manic spending episode. The court had issued a warrant for her arrest after she failed to appear at a review hearing on the restitution. She had no knowledge of the hearing as the court had sent all notices on the case to a decade-old address. NJP assisted her in getting continued state benefits pending a fair hearing. She was able to quash the warrant and NJP helped her get her food assistance and SSI benefits reinstated. NJP is now challenging a \$12,000 SSI overpayment for the period that the warrant was in effect due to her ignorance of the warrant having been issued.
- NJP's Bellingham office represented a U.S. citizen child in a court proceeding to register her birth and obtain a birth certificate. The client was born in the U.S. at her mother's home. The client's mother did not seek any pre-natal or post-natal care for the client or herself. The client's entire family is from a very rural area of Mexico and speaks an indigenous language. When the child turned three, her mother took her to be vaccinated and was informed by the public health nurse that the child would need a birth certificate. The nurse referred the family to NJP. NJP attempted to register the client's birth through the administrative process, but could not meet the evidentiary requirements as the family had been so isolated. NJP filed a Petition for an Order Establishing a Record of Birth in superior court. After a hearing on the Petition, the Court granted the Order and a birth certificate for the child was issued.
- NJP's Olympia office assisted a 79 year old man whose deceased wife left him several small properties. The client called saying that he had given his adopted son a Power of Attorney which the son then used to put the client's house in his own name. The client said that he is not always lucid. Upon investigation NJP discovered that the client signed

a deed granting his home to his adopted son and himself as joint tenants. The client does not remember signing this document. NJP also discovered that there is another piece of real estate that the adopted son placed in his own name using a Power of Attorney signed by the client. NJP assisted the client in cancelling the Power of Attorney. Investigation of additional claims and remedies is ongoing.

- NJP's Refugee and Immigrant Advocacy Project (RIAP) represented a client who is an engineer and had come to the United States with his wife and child but had suffered liver failure not long after arriving. Although he had applied for a liver transplant and been on a waiting list, DSHS had put him on a medical program which did not cover his transplant and he was slowly deteriorating. NJP was able to identify a program which would provide him coverage and with the help of DSHS staff he was put on a program that would have paid for his medical care all along.
- NJP's RIAP was contacted by a Vietnamese woman on behalf of her mother. The client was a refugee who would lose SSI if she could not become a citizen. However, due to her disabilities, the client is unable to speak or understand English. As a result she needed a special waiver from taking the oath of citizenship. RIAP assisted the daughter to become the guardian for her mother and helped prepare the necessary documents to get the oath waived along with the requirement to learn English and civics. The client was approved for citizenship and Immigration agreed to administer the naturalization ceremony while the client was in the office.
- NJP's Seattle office is currently representing a deaf, limited English proficient immigrant client in a divorce. The client fled with her child from a severely abusive relationship in another state, and has been in Washington for nearly two years. The father sought to establish visitation with the child. The client seeks to limit the father's contact with the child in order to protect the child and her own safety and to assure that appropriate supervision is used for the visitation that will occur. NJP is collaborating with Abused Deaf Women's Advocacy Services in order to effectively provide culturally competent services.
- NJP's Tacoma office continues to represent a 71-year-old, former Western State Hospital patient in a claim under the Americans with Disability Act that the local transit authority wrongfully denied his request for paratransit, special needs, bus service. The transit authority denied the client's request for service despite medical evidence that the client's cognitive difficulties, associated with chronic schizophrenia, limit his ability to use the regular bus service, and that he has pulmonary disease that limits his ability to walk the 1.5 miles from his group home to the nearest bus stop. Trial is pending.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a developmentally-disabled, 12-year-old in appealing the DSHS denial of his request for Adaptive and Augmentative Communication ("AAC") equipment. DSHS had originally denied the client's request on the grounds that he had not adequately demonstrated his ability to use the requested equipment to communicate with others. DSHS' position, however, was based solely upon the lay opinions of its employees, and was supported neither by objective evidence nor by the professional opinions of the client's treating providers. Working with the client's legal guardian, NJP

gathered sufficient evidence to demonstrate the client's ability to use the requested equipment for its intended purposes. After a day long hearing, an administrative law judge reversed DSHS' denial and ordered that the client's request for the AAC equipment be granted.

NATIVE AMERICAN ADVOCACY PROGRAM

NATIVE AMERICAN UNIT (NAU)

Family Stability, Safety and Security

- NJP's Seattle-based NAU represented a mother in a dependency case pending before Muckleshoot Tribal Court. The client and her son are members of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Nation. The case originated while the client was residing with her son on the Muckleshoot Reservation. The child was subsequently placed with non-relative foster families away from the Muckleshoot community, first in Sunnyside and then in Roy, Washington. The client relocated back to the Colville reservation where she had the support of her family and community. As a result, the mother and child were separated by a distance of hundreds of miles, making visitation extremely difficult. During this time, the child had no contact with extended family at either Muckleshoot or Colville. NJP asked for the case to be transferred to the Colville Tribal Court so that the child could be placed near the client and with family, or in the home of another Colville tribal member. The request was initially denied. NJP then sought the support of the Colville Tribe. The Colville Tribe subsequently appeared in the case, also moving for transfer over the objection of the Muckleshoot ICW Department. After the two tribal courts conferred, the motion was granted. The child returned to the Colville reservation where his mother resides at the end of the school year.
- NJP's Spokane office assisted a Native American elder, who was under hospice care, when it was discovered that her daughter was mishandling the client's financial affairs. The client's hospice social worker confirmed that the daughter had a drug addiction and was taking her mother's money and possessions to fund that addiction. NJP assisted the client in revising her Power of Attorney so that her daughter no longer had access to the client's finances and revised her Will so that the daughter was no longer the personal representative. NJP also assisted the client in selling her surface rights interests in individual allotments on the reservation to her tribe. That money was used by the client's personal representative to pay for the client's final medical bills. The client passed away at a hospice house after the Will was revised and land transaction completed.
- NJP's Spokane office completed a nonparental custody action for two teenagers whose mother passed away the day before Thanksgiving 2006, and whose father is incarcerated until 2024 for molesting an older half sibling. The children are descendants of the Spokane Tribe of Indians. The client was a long time friend of the mother and had promised the mother that she would take care of the children. The Spokane Tribe's Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee declined to intervene. While the client herself had a somewhat troubled history, she was now stable and well-placed to care for the children. The father agreed to the placement, and the children are doing well.

Indian Child Welfare Act

- NJP's Spokane-based NAU represented a federally recognized Indian tribe in obtaining support services from the state of Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS) to help a mother and her two children who were residing in Washington and were the subjects of a tribal court dependency several states away. NJP helped negotiate an agreement with the local DCFS office that resulted in both financial and support services to establish a home for the family, transport the children to their new home and put services in place for the mother and the children. This, in turn, resulted in successful reunification of the family.
- NJP's Spokane-based NAU is working with a federally recognized Indian tribe representing the interests of children in tribal court dependencies. In the first quarter of 2007 NJP represented 14 children in efforts to assure their safety, care and successful and permanent reunification with their families.

FARM WORKER UNIT - STATEWIDE (FWU)

Economic Security (Employment)

- NJP's FWU assisted two farm workers who have reached a settlement with their former employer several years after they filed discrimination claims with the Washington State Human Rights Commission. One of the clients filed a claim after he was refused further work at the farm based upon the false rumor that he suffered from epilepsy. After he filed a discrimination complaint, his father, a long-time employee of the same company, was fired in retaliation for supporting his son's discrimination claim. After a lengthy investigation, the Human Rights Commission upheld the discrimination claims. Shortly thereafter the parties were able to reach settlement, including a back pay award.

Economic Security (Public Benefits)

- NJP's FWU successfully represented a Limited English Proficient (LEP) farm worker who had a workplace injury in requiring the employer's Industrial Insurance Self Insurer to translate all notices into her native language and to provide interpretive services as needed. The client contacted NJP when she failed to receive the bi-monthly time loss payment and was unable to communicate with the employer's Self Insurer as no one there spoke Spanish. NJP contacted the Self Insurer and learned that they had no means of communicating with LEP claimants and would bring in a non-employee relative of the office manager to translate. However, as of July 2006, the Department of Labor and Industries had a regulation requiring Self Insurers to communicate with injured workers in their native language. The Department followed up on NJP's complaint by sending out a memo to all Self Insurers, spelling out the requirements. Now, Self Insurers must provide interpretive services for all medical appointments, independent medical examinations, meetings with vocational counselors, phone calls with the claimant, employer or their representative, and all written communications to or from the Self Insurer to the Claimant must be translated.

Individual Rights/Immigration

- NJP's FWU represented a farm worker victim of domestic violence in her application to adjust her immigration status to permanent resident pursuant to the Violence against Women's Act. NJP filed her adjustment application and represented her during her interview. The client's application was approved and she is now a permanent resident.

Preservation of Housing

- NJP's Wenatchee-based FWU represents a mobile home park tenant association, most members of which are low income farm workers. The park owner plans to close the park and construct more than 400 upscale condominium units and a 65 room hotel on the site. When the park closes, approximately 40 mobile home owners and their families are likely to lose their homes as there are insufficient vacant mobile home park spaces in the community to accommodate the large number of homes. The mobile home park owner, for the first time in State history, voluntarily offered to purchase property elsewhere on which to develop a new mobile home park for the residents. NJP is working with the park owners, the City and the State Department of Commerce and Economic Development (DCTED) in an effort to identify a park site and maintain the long-term affordability of the proposed mobile home park.
- NJP's Wenatchee FWU, in collaboration with a local pro-bono team of attorneys, secured more than \$30,000 for a 79 year-old retired monolingual Spanish-speaking farm worker. After immigrating to the United States from Mexico 35 years ago, he worked as an agricultural laborer and saved a substantial nest egg for his "golden years." However, soon after he retired due to poor health, a nephew took a significant portion of the client's life savings to purchase a property. The nephew promised, but never gave the client a half-interest in the property. Later, another relative discovered that the nephew forced the client to sleep on a foam mattress in a utility closet and locked the client in the closet so that he could not escape from the home. NJP filed a complaint against the nephew. Later, a private, local law firm agreed to litigate the case on a pro-bono basis as long as NJP's bilingual advocate would help them communicate with the client. The pro bono firm obtained a default judgment and order allowing the client to sell the property, and thereby recover an amount in excess of his initial investment.

NJP'S CONTRACT ATTORNEY PROGRAM (CAP)

- NJP's Contract Attorney Program (CAP) assisted a Whitman County woman who contacted CLEAR DV seeking help to recover her child from the child's abusive father. The client became pregnant at age 15 (the father was 21) and after the child was born the father became physically abusive and threatened to kill the client and the baby. When the child was about two years old, the father and his mother absconded from Washington with the child. The client had significant difficulty obtaining legal assistance to recover the child and had not seen the child for almost a year when she contacted CLEAR DV after discovering the father was living in Alabama. The CLEAR DV advocate identified potential jurisdictional issues that would allow the client to bring an action in

Washington to establish custody and recover the child. A CAP attorney represented the client and the child was returned to her care.

- NJP's CAP assisted a Kitsap senior who was faced with eviction from a senior subsidized housing complex owned by the local housing authority. The client had a sex offender registration requirement from an 18 year-old offense. The housing authority was not aware of the client's registration requirement and sought to evict him when the client's status became apparent. The client contacted CLEAR, and the CLEAR advocate was able to negotiate a stay of the eviction pending the client's petition to the court to lift the registration requirement. A CAP attorney represented the client in bringing the petition and thereby preserved his housing.
- NJP's CAP represented a monolingual Spanish-speaking client in Franklin County who contacted CLEAR DV following an incident where the father of her child physically assaulted her in a parking lot. The client secured a no-contact order against the abuser, but he continued to harass and threaten her by phone from jail. He was subsequently charged with violation of the no-contact order. A Spanish-speaking CAP attorney represented the client in an action to establish a parenting plan that would protect the mother and her child from further abuse.
- NJP's CAP helped a Whitman County domestic violence victim/survivor who contacted CLEAR DV from a shelter seeking to protect herself and her 17 month-old child from the abusive father. The father had been physically and sexually abusive to the mother throughout the relationship, including throwing items at her, breaking bones, and pushing her through a sliding glass door. The client was residing in a shelter after fleeing the father and contacted CLEAR DV upon the advice of the police after the father began threatening to come to her location and take the child. A CAP attorney represented the client to establish a parenting plan to protect the mother and child.
- NJP's CAP continues to represent a Kitsap county client in a case to establish a parenting plan where allegations have been made against the father concerning sexual abuse of children. The guardian ad litem turned up evidence that the father likely provided alcohol to the teenaged daughters, engaged in sexual abuse of these children, and was using a "sex tape" to blackmail the client. The CAP attorney has pursued orders that will protect both the client and the client's children from further abuse by the father.

COORDINATED LEGAL EDUCATION, ADVICE AND REFERRAL **(CLEAR)**

CLEAR DV (Specialized Domestic Violence Hotline System)

- CLEAR DV was contacted by the mother of a 9 year-old boy from the legal aid office in a southeastern state. The client resided in Washington, but she had traveled to the other state in order to visit her adult daughter, who was very ill and waiting to receive a heart transplant. The boy's father, who lived in that other state, took advantage of the mother's presence and retained the child at his home, refusing to release him. There had never been a custody order from any state. The father had had little involvement with the child

since 2002 and he had a significant history of domestic violence, some involving gun threats. CLEAR DV worked closely with the legal aid attorney in the other state to ensure that the child was initially returned to the mother and that jurisdiction under the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) remained in Washington, the child's home state. As soon as the client returned to Washington, the CLEAR DV attorney helped her to prepare, file and serve the paperwork to commence a parenting plan action. The court in the other state declined jurisdiction and ordered that all future issues regarding the child be resolved in Washington.

- CLEAR DV assisted a former client to respond to a hearing charging her with contempt and modifying a parenting plan. The father alleged that the client was not allowing him to visit with his children per the parenting plan. However, the father had sexually assaulted the children during a visit and CPS issued a Safety Plan stating that the client could not allow him to see the children. If she did, the children would be removed from her custody. CLEAR DV advised the client on how to respond to the contempt hearing, prepare for court, located resources, helped prepare her declaration and response documents, and referred the case to NJP's Everett office, which immediately went to work to further assist the client.
- CLEAR DV successfully helped a client obtain a permanent Protection Order. The client originally petitioned the court for the Protection Order in October 2006. The opposing party had a criminal charge pending for assaulting the client and obtained repeated continuances on the Protection Order. He then filed a number of declarations denying the domestic violence and disparaging the client's character. CLEAR DV helped the client file a reply declaration. The court entered a final Protection Order against the abuser.

Consumer and Debt

- CLEAR helped a disabled client who was the victim of identity theft. The client received a bill for a credit card that she had not requested, received or used. CLEAR contacted the credit card company and determined that the client had been a victim of identity theft. The credit card company released the client from the bill.
- CLEAR helped a client avoid entry of a long term, invasive order by a judgment creditor. The judgment creditor asked the client to sign an authorization to release all of her Employment Security Department records to the judgment creditor to be effective for the full ten years of the judgment. Based on a Motion and Memorandum of Authorities CLEAR prepared, the court denied the request.
- CLEAR*Sr assisted an elderly King County woman after her Social Security benefits were garnished from her bank account. A CLEAR Sr. attorney prepared exemption claim paperwork and sent it to the client along with detailed instructions on how to file it with the court. Shortly thereafter, the garnishment was released and the client's income was re-deposited into her account.

Economic Stability & Income Maintenance

- CLEAR*Sr assisted a Pacific County man who received a notice from the Social Security Administration that he had incurred a \$17,787 overpayment. Based on the waiver requested by the CLEAR*Sr attorney, the Social Security Administration reduced the debt to \$3,400 and limited repayment to \$25 per month.
- CLEAR helped a monolingual Spanish-speaking woman preserve her right to an Unemployment Compensation Hearing. The client had appealed a denial of unemployment benefits and assessment of an overpayment for the benefits previously received. When the client arrived at the Employment Security Department office for a telephonic hearing, all of the Spanish-speaking staff was in a meeting and she could not explain to the only employee available that she had a hearing. Although the office administrator called the Office of Administrative Hearings to explain what had happened, the Administrative Law Judge would not agree to hear the case and entered a default. The client filed an appeal to the Commissioner, but the Commissioner said the client did not have good cause for missing the hearing. CLEAR helped the client prepare and file a Petition for Review in Superior Court. The advocate then referred the case to the Unemployment Law Project for continued representation.

Family Stability, Safety and Security

- CLEAR helped a Spanish-speaking woman obtain collection of maintenance payments by the Division of Child Support (DCS). The client's dissolution decree ordered DCS to collect both child support and maintenance from the noncustodial parent, but DCS failed to collect maintenance payments. Upon contact by a CLEAR advocate, DCS admitted its error, and began collecting and paying the client the amount to which she was entitled pursuant to the dissolution decree.

Health Care, Access and Quality of Care

- CLEAR assisted a Spanish-speaking farm worker to obtain medical benefits for her children under the Children's Health Program. The client had applied but never received a determination about eligibility for benefits. CLEAR contacted DSHS' medical eligibility determination unit and was told that all decisions were supposed to be made within 45 days but that there was a backlog in the unit so that determinations were not being made in a timely manner. Upon further negotiation with a supervisor, DSHS immediately processed the application and issued the medical coupons to include the two prior months when medical bills for the client's children had been incurred.
- CLEAR assisted the legal guardian for a severely disabled client to respond to a DSHS determination that they (the guardian/caregiver and the client) were overpaid long-term in-home care benefits for over a year. CLEAR discovered that the overpayment was entirely due to administrative errors caused by DSHS, and collaborated with an attorney with the caregivers' union to convince DSHS to drop the case and absolve the guardian and child of any wrongdoing.

- CLEAR*Sr helped a 72 year-old man for whom DSHS denied payment for his Medicare Part B premium under the Medical Savings Program. DSHS based its decision on the man's income level, did not include his wife as part of the household, even though she lives with him and is totally dependent on him for support. The client filed an appeal challenging the way DSHS defined household size when determining eligibility as being inconsistent with federal law that directs eligibility for the Medical Savings Program be determined by looking at the family size. A CLEAR advocate represented the client at the administrative hearing. The client prevailed and is now receiving payment for his Part B Medicare premiums.

Individual Rights

- CLEAR assisted a client with disabilities with her application for paratransit services. The client had been denied full services several times by Pierce Transit even though she submitted evidence that she was legally blind and had severe disabilities that prevented her from utilizing bus services and other means of transportation. CLEAR submitted a letter requesting reasonable accommodation along with supporting documentation of her physical and mental disabilities. The client was approved for full paratransit services.

Preservation of Housing & Habitability

- CLEAR assisted a client with disabilities who received a bill from his former landlord for more than \$7,000 based on an allegation that the client had broken his lease. The client had been evicted, through no fault of his own, after his payee had misappropriated the client's rent money. CLEAR notified the former landlord that such damages were improper because a lease is forfeited at the time of an eviction unless its terms expressly allow for collection of unaccrued rent. Moreover, the unit had been re-rented, so the landlord could not continue to bill the client for rent in any case. As a result the client was able to settle the debt and preserve his subsidized housing benefits.
- CLEAR*Sr assisted a Snohomish County senior residing in subsidized housing when the new manager of her building began changing rules and engaging in practices that were experienced by tenants as harassing. CLEAR*Sr advised the client about her grievance rights and, through the grievance procedure, the tenants succeeded in getting the manager replaced. The client felt greatly empowered by her ability to effect this positive change for herself and the other tenants.
- CLEAR helped a client retain his federal rental assistance after his landlord attempted to terminate his tenancy unlawfully, force the client to pay for utilities, and to raise the rent while the client had a valid lease for a specified amount of time. CLEAR wrote several letters to the landlord and Housing Authority after which the landlord backed down. The client maintained his rent without obligation for utilities and was guaranteed the security of his voucher until the expiration of his lease.
- CLEAR helped a mobile home owner retain her tenancy in a mobile home park. Although she was behind in her rent, the client had worked out a payment plan with the park's bookkeeper and was surprised when she received an eviction Summons. A

CLEAR advocate advised the client regarding the steps she needed to take to respond to the Summons and Complaint. CLEAR helped the client prepare and file an Answer. Two days later, the park notified CLEAR that they had resolved everything and the client would not be evicted.

CLIENT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

BELLINGHAM

- NJP's Bellingham office staff made a presentation on NJP, Washingtonlawhelp.com, and office priorities to twenty Skagit County WorkSource staff.

EVERETT

Indian Estate Planning Project

- NJP's Indian Wills Project conducted a wills clinic for tribal elders in White Swan, Washington, a remote and rural part of the Yakama Nation Reservation, and for the Chehalis Community. Approximately 35 people attended the Chehalis community presentation and about 20 people requested wills and other estate planning documents. Approximately 25 people executed wills as a result of the White Swan clinic.
- NJP's Indian Wills Project also conducted an Indian Estate wills clinic for the Quileute Tribal community in La Push. Twenty wills were drafted.

FARM WORKER UNIT (FWU)

- NJP's Wenatchee FWU made a presentation at George Community Hall to residents of a local mobile home park with assistance from the Quincy Health Clinic and a student from Quincy Senior High School (as part of a required Senior Project). NJP met with the residents, who are low income Hispanic farm workers, after the office received numerous inquiries about problems at the park. During the meeting, one resident explained that the travel trailer he purchased from the park owner had blown over during a severe windstorm in January. The resident had asked the park owner to help him upright the home with some heavy equipment owned by the park. The owner refused. However, without notice to the resident, the owner placed the home on its wheels, removed all of the residents' possessions and placed them in a dumpster including infant clothing, bedding and feeding bottles. The Grant County Volunteer Attorney Services program agreed to meet with the client concerning his legal rights. NJP is currently following up with the residents concerning individual legal issues.
- In March, the Yakima NJP office coordinated with the regional office of the EEOC and with Oregon Law Center to present a training on sexual harassment for Eastern Washington service providers. The response was overwhelming. The EEOC Regional Attorney gave his presentation at the local YWCA to an audience of over 80 people. The attendees, DV and sexual assault advocates, health care workers and case workers, confirmed that sexual harassment of farm worker women was a serious problem in the

community that needed to be addressed. The group discussed the cultural, financial and language barriers faced by farm worker women suffering from sexual harassment and committed to work together to address the problem. Two farm worker women affiliated with the Amigas domestic violence program accompanied two NJP advocates to the first national conference on combating sexual harassment of farm worker women in Atlanta. Meanwhile, NJP's community worker has begun giving presentations on sexual harassment directly to farm workers at school and day care parent meetings throughout the area.

- NJP's FWU continued to provide information to the client community over the radio in a monthly Spanish language KDNA radio show. In January, an IRS representative and a KDNA accountant joined NJP in informing the community about tax laws affecting the immigrant community. In February, NJP led an on-air discussion about sexual harassment. In March a Yakima NJP lawyer presented information about housing law.

OLYMPIA

- An NJP Olympia office attorney presented information and materials at the Thurston County Senior Action Network, to a group of 50 or more senior service providers for Thurston, Mason, & Lewis Counties. The presentation focused on housing, mobile home, and senior fraud issues, as well as free legal resources for seniors.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney trained 5 new volunteer long term care ombudsman and related advocates for Thurston, Lewis and Mason Counties. Training covered guardianship, powers of attorney, living wills, and alternative decision-making solutions, as well as legal resources for seniors.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney met with 12 social workers and nurses from Sound Home Health and Hospice, a case management and home health agency serving Thurston County to discuss protection and care for seniors with impaired decision-making. NJP provided materials and resources about powers of attorney, living wills, guardianship, and statutory provisions related to decision-making issues.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney presented information and materials on fraud and scam issues and free legal resources for seniors to resident family members and senior providers at a Thurston County assisted living facility.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney offered brief advice and consultation, training, and materials about decision-making issues and free legal resources to 25 attendees at the Alzheimer's Early Memory Loss group meeting held at the Olympia Senior Center.

SEATTLE/KING COUNTY

Basic Field Office

- An NJP Seattle office attorney gave a training to social workers at the Community Psychiatric Clinic (CPC) in Seattle's Belltown neighborhood on consumer rights, particularly focused on consumers with public assistance incomes.
- An NJP Seattle office attorney along with two attorneys from Solid Ground and an advocate from the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition presented to 50 social service providers on issues concerning childcare and WorkFirst and its sanction rules.
- An NJP Seattle-based Domestic Violence Community Legal Project (DVCLP) attorney made a presentation on "Practical Knowledge about Protection Orders" to domestic violence advocates from across the state of Washington at a conference entitled "Cross-Borders Training" in Mount Vernon, WA.
- NJP's Seattle office worked with a group of attorneys and legal advocates from the King County Bar Association, the King County Prosecutor's Office Protection Order Advocacy Program, and the private bar to re-establish a "Revision Squad" designed to assist low income clients in obtaining necessary review of commissioner's rulings denying protection orders. The group organized and presented a continuing legal education program for the general public and to train volunteer attorneys who serve on a panel to assist clients that come through the program. NJP serves as an advisor to the attorney who coordinates the volunteer program and the volunteer attorneys.
- An NJP Seattle office attorney spoke on a panel of legal services providers at Seattle University School of Law's Public Interest Law Student event entitled "From Civil Rights to Civil Legal Needs: Washington's Legal Aid Community." The attorney talked about NJP and her practice.

Refugee and Immigrant Advocacy Project (RIAP)

- NJP's RIAP and DVCLP attorneys coordinate the Washington State Coalition for Language Access (WASCLA). The group has continued to develop its website and to work on LEP policies and training around the state. They are planning another conference to discuss a statewide language bank for September 2007 and continue to have regular conference calls and meetings.
- NJP's RIAP attorney was invited to attend a Federal Interagency Conference on LEP in Washington D.C. on March 15th and 16th. The conference presented information and models on serving LEP populations in medical, legal and other agency services.
- NJP's RIAP attorney and one of the RIAP clinic students presented a training to social workers and staff working with immigrants with HIV/AIDS. The training covered immigrant eligibility for benefits and housing, introducing a new student developed CLEAR brochure which describes immigrant eligibility for public housing.

- NJP's RIAP attorney presented at the SSI Consortium training in Everett Washington and covered immigrant eligibility for SSI. Approximately 65 agency staff attended.
- An NJP Seattle attorney was appointed by the Supreme Court of Washington to the Washington State Court Interpreter Advisory Commission after being nominated by the WSBA Board of Governors for appointment.

SPOKANE

- NJP's Spokane-based NAU attorney worked with the Washington State CASA program to present training on the Indian Child Welfare Act training curriculum to new and experienced volunteers representing Indian children in dependency proceedings.
- NJP's Spokane-based NAU attorney presented training to members of the Spokane County Indian Child Welfare Advisory Committee (LICWAC) on federal and state laws affecting Indian children in state court dependency proceedings. LICWACs are created by state regulation to assist the Department of Health and Human Services to develop case plans and find placements for Indian children in the dependency system. The training was intended to help the LICWAC members better understand the laws that apply and their role in the system.

TACOMA/PIERCE COUNTY

- In collaboration with the Tacoma Pierce County Bar Association's Volunteer Legal Services, an NJP Tacoma office attorney organized and participated in a CLE on unlawful detainer defense to train and recruit volunteer lawyers to defend tenants in eviction cases, and gave a presentation on common landlord-tenant law issues to potential law clinic volunteers.
- NJP's Tacoma office was one of many agencies who participated in a resource fair held at St. Joseph's Hospital in Tacoma. The event was primarily for patients of the St. Joseph dialysis unit and their families. NJP had printed information available including pamphlets on Living Wills, Powers of Attorney and Physicians' Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment.

VANCOUVER

- An NJP Vancouver office attorney participated at the request of a Vancouver School District board member, and colleague on the Clark County Community Action Advisory Board, in a Future Search Symposium which was the first step of public involvement in the District's process for developing its first long-range plan since 1989.
- Two NJP Vancouver office attorneys gave a legal information presentation to the Clark County Kinship Care Coalition on the changes in the law allowing caregivers to consent to healthcare for minors, and on education law issues.

- Two NJP Vancouver office attorneys provided in-service training to the staff of the Vancouver Housing Authority.
- An NJP Vancouver office attorney provided training to Long-Term Care Ombudsmen.
- NJP's Vancouver office conducted outreach to low income Spanish speakers at two ESL classes in Vancouver.

WALLA WALLA

- An NJP Walla Walla office attorney has been part of a local Tri-Cities task force which is addressing the enforcement of protection orders for domestic violence victims trying to obtain custody of their children. NJP provided significant input on a proposed memorandum of understanding between the local prosecuting attorneys, sheriffs, chiefs of police, and the local Superior Court regarding the authorized scope and implementation of these protection orders.
- NJP's Walla Walla office has been involved in a series of meetings addressing the City of Walla Walla's Comprehensive Plan, which is undergoing its mandatory review. NJP has provided ongoing input about the details of the housing elements as they affect low-income community residents.
- An NJP Walla Walla office attorney gave a presentation at a meeting of the Walla Walla Rental Properties Association and met with the President of Benton-Franklin Rental Owners' Association to discuss common issues. Both of these interactions have led to productive problem-solving for clients threatened with eviction and habitability problems.
- NJP Walla Walla office advocates presented information about civil legal aid in Washington to a full staff meeting of the Walla Walla DSHS office, at which several ideas for possible future co-developed projects were discussed.
- NJP's Walla Walla office staff expanded their involvement with the Christian Aid Center, the largest long-term homeless shelter in Walla Walla, to provide increased access to justice for very low-income and homeless people. The organizations partnered in reserving a block of time one morning per week when CAC staff can make appointments for their clients to have a "fast-track" intake meeting with one of the NJP advocates.
- NJP Walla Walla office staff conducted outreach meetings with: the STAR Project to discuss civil legal issues affecting people reentering society from incarceration; with Broetje Orchard program directors about legal issues facing agricultural workers in the region; and with students, staff and faculty at the Walla Walla Community College about civil legal issues in southeast Washington.

WENATCHEE

- NJP's Wenatchee office made a presentation to an Okanogan High School accounting class in regard to tax preparation, earned income tax credit, and refund anticipation loans.
- NJP's Wenatchee office recorded a fifteen minute radio show in Spanish about the earned income tax credit. The recorded show was aired twice.
- NJP's Wenatchee office also made a presentation to a church parish explaining how to access civil legal services in Chelan and Douglas counties.
- NJP's Wenatchee office spearheaded a free, bilingual tax preparation site for low-income people in Okanogan County. Between January and March it prepared dozens of tax returns for more than fifty customers. NJP recruited trainers from Seattle, Idaho, and Walla Walla to come and train local volunteers in Okanogan County. NJP convinced Wenatchee Valley College Omak campus to host the electronic tax prep site, and obtained licensing to do online tax preparation. An NJP attorney and one of the volunteers appeared on a local Spanish language radio program to explain about the tax site and the earned income tax credit. The tax prep site is a free, bilingual, electronic alternative to tax preparers who sell Refund Anticipation Loans.

YAKIMA

- NJP's Yakima office engaged in several rounds of community education on landlord-tenant issues. One was to a group of mobile home owners who live in a manufactured housing community regarding their rights under the Mobile Home Landlord Tenant Act and how to create a safer community. An NJP attorney also gave a presentation in conjunction with the Sunnyside Police Department about the Mobile Home Landlord Tenant Act.
- An NJP Yakima office attorney gave a presentation on tenants' rights to a new landlord group. Yakima Neighborhood Health Services contracted with HUD to administer transitional housing for homeless people. The attorney explained tenant's rights under the Residential Landlord Tenant Act.
- An NJP Yakima office attorney helped develop a team of mentors who can assist low income clients find housing to avoid or end homelessness. The attorney developed a 6-part training curriculum for potential mentors that included providing training herself on the Residential Landlord Tenant Act and fair housing protections. In addition, the Yakima attorney arranged for training on working with mentally ill people, people who are chemically dependent, and conflict resolution skills.

NETWORKING AND DEVELOPING COMMUNITY CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

- An NJP Bellingham office attorney continues to participate in a work group to draft a statewide Limited English Proficiency Plan for state courts to address legal requirements

for providing interpreters at all levels of courts in the state, and necessary elements for providing adequate services to limited English proficient persons.

- NJP’s Bellingham office organizes and hosts a monthly meeting of Whatcom County agencies involved with domestic violence survivors and domestic violence protection orders. NJP provided training to two agencies on how to assist clients with writing an effective declaration for a DVPO hearing.
- NJP’s Everett office participates in periodic meetings of the “Healthy Kids, Healthy People, Snohomish County Health Care Access Forum.” This quarter the group discussed racial disparities in health and health care outcomes in the community and the role that access plays. The group also worked to finalize materials produced by a limited health district project that supplies information about health care access for children in Snohomish County.
- NJP’s Everett office participates in a group to help reduce barriers to serving special populations, including seniors with below-poverty income, with limited English, of minority ethnicity, or age 75 and older. The group provided input to the county human services department about successes and difficulties in serving these communities, and suggested ways the department can support efforts to improve access.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney serves on the board of the Lewis-Mason-Thurston Long Term Care Ombudsman Advisory Council, which generates referrals and consultations from volunteer ombudsmen regarding the rights of residents in long term care facilities.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney continues her long-time service as a board member for Lewis County Bar Legal Aid, an Alliance for Equal Access partner serving low income Lewis County residents through a pro bono program, legal clinic and facilitator services.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney participates in group negotiations with the Aging and Disability Services Administration’s policy staff and Assistant Attorney Generals to develop practice and policy around Exception to Rule services for elderly and disabled clients who require personal care services.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney participated in a local tribe’s housing fair to provide information on legal services to Indian clients and communities.
- An NJP Seattle office attorney participates on the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCCADV) Family Law Workgroup. This group was formed in response to a report describing the experiences survivors of domestic violence have with the family law system in King County, Washington (“I Just Wanted to Be Safe: Battered Women’s Experiences with the Family Law System in King County” available at <http://kccadv.org>). The report was funded by the City of Seattle, whose Domestic Violence Prevention Council was interested in understanding more about problems survivors face in the civil legal arena, and whether or not they can be addressed through policy or advocacy efforts. The group includes representatives from community and criminal justice based victim advocacy programs, King County Superior Court, City of

Seattle and King County domestic violence policy coordinators, family law attorneys serving domestic violence survivors, a model supervised visitation program, and batterers' intervention.

- Several NJP Seattle office attorneys participate in a Child Support Advocacy Project involving collaboration between NJP, the King County Bar Association, and Seattle University in an effort to provide much needed services to clients in an area of unmet need, specifically clients with legal matters involving child support.
- An NJP Seattle office attorney participates in the Washington State Bar Foundation's Loan Repayment Assistance Program Advisory Committee, which has developed a new LRAP for public interest attorneys across the state. The Committee has chosen its 2007 recipients of the LRAP.
- An NJP Seattle office attorney participates in ongoing talks with leaders at the Department of Social and Health Services on the Customer Service Advisory Group to discuss improving customer services at DSHS.
- NJP's Seattle office continues to host the Cross Cultural Family Law Clinic through which clients with family law legal matters involving child custody and who have experienced domestic violence and who have cultural or legal barriers meet with volunteer attorneys for advice, consultation and brief service. NJP provides the space, the administrative support and attorney oversight of the clinic which is run in collaboration with the King County Bar Association's Neighborhood Legal Clinic Program. The clinic assisted approximately 35 clients in the first quarter of 2007.
- NJP's RIAP attorney is a member of the Washington Advisory Committee on Trafficking (WASHACT) and the Rescue and Restore campaign to work on both coordination of legal resources and community education and outreach.
- An NJP Tacoma office staff attorney serves as a board member on a Pierce County social service agency that operates five group homes, day programs, and a farm-and-garden work program for developmentally disabled adults.
- An NJP Vancouver office attorney continues to chair the Advisory Board of the Clark County Community Action Program
- An NJP Vancouver office attorney serves as Treasurer of the Board of Directors of the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program (CCVLP).
- An NJP Vancouver office attorney serves as a Board Advisor to the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Legal Aid Program.
- An NJP Walla Walla attorney received an award for "Providing Pathways Out of Poverty" from the Benton Franklin Community Action Committee, at their annual banquet.

- An NJP Walla Walla office advocate became the newest member of the WSBA Practice of Law Board.
- An NJP Walla Walla office advocate was asked to be a member of the United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties “Blue Ribbon” advisory board for their Community Solutions long range planning initiatives.
- NJP’s Walla Walla office staff met with the President of the Walla Walla Clergy Leadership Board to discuss how the faith community and NJP can collaboratively identify legal problems in the region.
- An NJP Walla Walla office advocate was asked to be a Board Member of Blue Mountain Heart to Heart, which provides education and support to people living in southeast Washington with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C.
- NJP’s Wenatchee office staff serve on a variety of community boards, including the Wenatchee Community Center, Community Foundation of North Central Washington, Chelan-Douglas County Volunteer Attorney Services, Charity Golf Classic for Kids, North Central Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, United Way, the Wenatchee Valley College Latino Advisory Education board, and Café (a local Latino issues and education group).