

Northwest Justice Project

Advocacy Report Second Quarter, 2008



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INTRODUCTION

OVERVIEW OF GENERAL SERVICE DELIVERY

Aberdeen (Grays Harbor, Pacific Counties)

NJP's Aberdeen office has three attorneys and a legal assistant. It is responsible for providing legal services to Pacific and Grays Harbor counties. NJP Aberdeen has been providing representation in a variety of area of law, e.g., family law, housing, consumer, and public benefits. The office continues to work on various outreach projects with community focuses, including seniors, homelessness, re-entry programs for ex-offenders, LEP, tribal, housing, etc. These outreach projects continue to provide meaningful information that helps shape NJP Aberdeen's advocacy program.

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

- During the second quarter of 2008 NJP's Bellingham office successfully represented individual clients in protecting themselves and their children from domestic violence, in maintaining their rights to continued federally-subsidized rental assistance, and in regaining their rights to receive a public education. The office also continued to work with their partners to develop regional strategies for improving civil legal aid services generally in Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan Counties, and to provide information to low-income persons and community agencies in the region.

CLEAR and NJP Web Site

- During the 2nd Quarter of 2008, the Washington LawHelp web site experienced over 109,000 visitor sessions and over 500,000 page views.

Contract Attorney Program

- NJP's Contract Attorney Program (CAP) receives referrals for clients with issues in eleven counties (Asotin, Benton, Clallam, Columbia, Franklin, Garfield, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kitsap, Walla Walla, and Whitman). The CAP advocate will provide a brief service and/or refer the case to a private attorney who has agreed to handle high priority cases at a highly discounted fee (in any one year, CAP uses 30 to 40 attorneys). Once a contract attorney agrees to take a case, the CAP advocate provides ongoing consultation and assistance. The case-type priorities of CAP are similar to those of other legal services offices across the state; i.e., compelling issues which impact a critical need of the client.

Everett (Snohomish, Island Counties)

- During the second quarter NJP's Everett office continued to do outreach to the Tulalip Tribal community through brief advice given at a civil legal clinic. Assistance was provided in filing petitions and motions in the Tulalip Tribal Court on child custody issues. The other major outreach effort has been in the area of consumer law including how to identify and address problems such as debt collection, credit information, and fraud. These presentations are given to social service providers, particularly those providers serving seniors. Two attorneys in the office participate as volunteer attorneys at

the Housing Justice Project run by the volunteer attorney program for Snohomish County Legal Services. The office continues to serve clients with a wide range of civil legal problems in the areas of family law, health care law, housing and public benefits.

Farm Worker Unit

- NJP's Farm Worker Unit consists of four attorneys and two community workers based in Wenatchee and Yakima. The FWU has been helping mobile home park tenants maintain affordable housing options in the face of park closures and continues to assist workers with their employment related legal needs, as well as issues of farm worker women who experience work place sexual harassment and/or domestic violence.

Longview

- NJP's Longview office serves eligible clients in Cowlitz and Wahkiakum Counties. The office includes three attorneys and one legal assistant and enjoys a collaborative relationship with the Cowlitz County Legal Aid program.

Native American Unit

- NJP's Native American Unit (NAU) serves Native American communities 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's targeted work is supplemented by advocates in NJP's field offices. A Statewide Native American Advocacy Coordinator leads the NAU outreach and capacity building efforts, in support of NJP's expanded Native American advocacy program.

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

- NJP's Olympia office is responsible for a three county region: Thurston, Mason, and Lewis Counties. The office is staffed by four attorneys and two part-time support staff. One attorney is bilingual which allows the office to provide greater access to legal services for Spanish speaking clients. The Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services Program is co-located with the Olympia office. During the second quarter of 2008, the office served clients with civil legal problems dealing with family law, housing, health care, public benefits and consumer problems. The office also provides targeted representation to seniors and members of tribes in the region.

Port Angeles

- NJP's Port Angeles office is staffed by three attorneys and one support staff and serves Jefferson and Clallam counties. The Clallam/Jefferson Pro Bono Lawyers program is co-located with the office. During this quarter, the office represented clients in family law,

housing, probate and consumer cases and conducted outreach to the community and to the five Indian Tribes located on the Olympic Peninsula

Seattle (King County)

- NJP's Seattle office consists of 13 attorneys and 4.5 legal assistants and several other support staff. The office hosts special programs targeted to underrepresented populations:
 - 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;
 - 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;
 - 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; and
 - a City of Seattle funded domestic violence advocacy project.

NJP's Seattle DV Project is a pilot project funded by the City of Seattle. One of the Project's objectives is collaboration between the legal community and community and system advocates to better serve domestic violence survivors in family law matters. The Project provides representation and brief legal services to domestic violence survivors who reside in Seattle or whose last known address is in Seattle. The Project also provides telephone advice and referrals to advocates requesting assistance on behalf of domestic violence survivors.

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

- NJP's Spokane office priorities include family law, housing, consumer issues, public benefits and Indian law. The Spokane office's work is primarily focused in Spokane, Whitman and Lincoln Counties and is staffed with seven attorneys, including a full-time Native American Unit attorney and three legal assistants. The Colville satellite office's priorities include family law, housing, consumer issues, public benefits, and Indian law. The Colville satellite office provides assistance to clients in Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille Counties and is staffed by two attorneys and one legal assistant.

Tacoma (Pierce, Kitsap Counties)

- NJP's Tacoma office is staffed by eight attorneys, two paralegals and three support staff. The office represents Pierce and Kitsap County clients in public benefits, family, housing, consumer, education, youth and elder law, disability and civil rights cases. The advocates also advise and represent a wide range of community groups. The office is co-located with Volunteer Legal Services and TeamChild. The office provides general legal services to indigent Western State Hospital (WSH) residents through a DSHS Health and Rehabilitative Services Administration, Mental Health Division contract. Advocates meet clients at the NJP satellite office at WSH (in Lakewood) two days each week. Kitsap

County clients are provided a broad range of legal services by Tacoma-based advocates at the NJP Kitsap office which is co-located with Kitsap Legal Services in Bremerton. Tacoma advocates are expanding outreach efforts in Kitsap County and have also been actively involved in regional planning for the Kitsap County region. The Kitsap satellite office is currently staffed three days per week. Under a contract with the Washington State Developmental Disabilities Council, Tacoma advocates provide free civil legal services to certain developmentally disabled persons. These legal services are provided primarily by Tacoma advocates via a statewide special project called the Community Protection Legal Services (CPLS) Project. The CPLS Project provides services to DDD clients who are either currently enrolled in, or are being considered for, the Community Protection Program.

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

- NJP's Vancouver office is staffed by four attorneys and two legal assistants. The office continued its focus on economic security (especially the General Assistance program, health care, housing (primarily public and subsidized 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 from the opposing parent), and serving both senior citizens and youth.

Walla Walla (Benton/Franklin, Walla Walla)

- During the second quarter, NJP's Walla Walla office was staffed by four attorneys and two legal assistants. The Walla Walla office continues to focus on areas of family law, housing, public benefits, and consumer needs.

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

- NJP's Wenatchee office has five attorneys and three legal assistants and includes a two attorney, one legal assistant satellite office in Omak serving Okanogan County. The office serves as the North Central Washington component of NJP's Farm Worker Unit. Case service priorities include non-payment of wages, health and safety violations, discrimination, access to public benefits, housing, 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.

CASE EXAMPLES AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT ADVOCACY EFFORTS

NJP FIELD OFFICE SERVICES*

Consumer

- An 85 year old woman contacted NJP's Everett office after she was sued for the deficiency on a car repossessed by the lender. She had failed to file an answer and the creditor obtained a default judgment. The client was very distraught and thought she would be jailed over the debt. Her only income came from Social Security and she had few assets. NJP helped her prepare an affidavit claiming her income and assets as exempt from garnishment and also provided her with advice on her rights under the law and assured her that she would not be jailed.
- A client suffering from kidney failure was being pursued by collectors for a student loan. NJP's Everett office did an extensive investigation to see if she would qualify for a discharge of that student load based on disability. When it appeared that she could, NJP assisted in completing the necessary documentation to apply for that discharge.
- NJP's Olympia office provided advice and advocacy to a senior couple in their late 70s who had significant credit card debt and were behind in their payments for rent and utilities. The power company was threatening to turn off their power which put the health of the man at risk since he used an oxygen machine. NJP advocated with the power company to accept a payment plan. NJP then helped the couple prioritize how to pay their bills and sent letters to the credit card companies informing them that the clients were on social security and that their income was protected from any garnishment.
- NJP's Seattle office assisted a senior citizen who owns a small home but had her limited income stretched when it became necessary for her to replace the roof on her home. Unfortunately for our client, her roofing contractor did a poor job and when she disputed the bill the contractor filed a construction lien. The contractor then threatened to foreclose on her home if she did not pay. When the collection agency for the contractor filed suit, the woman contacted NJP's CLEAR and was advised of her need to timely answer the lawsuit. CLEAR was unable to find the client a private attorney to represent her so NJP represented her at trial. The plaintiff's counsel was ready for the trial and put on witnesses to testify about the bill and the workmanship. On behalf of the client, NJP cross-examined the plaintiff's witnesses and presented fact witnesses for the defense. After both sides made closing arguments, the Judge concluded that the workmanship was substandard and agreed with the defendant that she owed only about half of the plaintiff's demand.

* For case examples from NJP's Native American Unit and Farm Worker Unit see pages _____ and _____ respectively. For case examples from the Contract Attorney Program and CLEAR see pages _____ and _____ respectively.

- NJP's Seattle office assisted an incapacitated senior citizen whose home was sold at a foreclosure sale for less than one-third of its tax assessed value. NJP was approached by the client's court appointed guardian to see what assistance could be rendered. After investigating the facts it was concluded that there was a good basis to file suit against the trustee that handled the foreclosure and the bank. A complaint was filed based on the theory that the bank and trustee violated the duty they had to conduct the foreclosure in a manner that did not sacrifice the client's home equity. No court decision has been rendered at this time, but substantial discovery and research has been completed.
- NJP's Seattle office successfully assisted a client in obtaining a total loan discharge of over \$94,000 in student loans from the US Department of Education due to the client's permanent disability. This effort took more than two years as the DOE's bureaucracy proved to be extremely frustrating to deal with; among other difficulties, it issued numerous conflicting and additional directives from month to month.
- NJP's Seattle office, together with assistance from NoHLA advocates, was successful in getting a hospital to apply its own internal charity care policy to two clients who were wrongfully denied charity care for past medical bills. In total, the clients were relieved of almost \$3,000 in medical debt and collection costs.
- NJP's Omak office is assisting a senior tribal member who purchased a small pickup from a dealer. The dealer never delivered title to the vehicle. The client paid cash to the dealer but the dealer never paid off the dealer's lender for inventory including the client's pickup, and went out of business. NJP is assisting the senior to recover from the dealer's bond and to negotiate with other claimants to the bond. Some of the bond claimants are similar low-income purchasers of vehicles from the same dealer, but others claimants are corporations who are not vehicle purchasers and are therefore not entitled to recovery from the bond.

Economic Stability (Public Benefits)

- NJP's Aberdeen office represented a man whose application was denied for state assistance for financial and medical benefits. The client, who has multiple potentially terminal medical conditions, recently lost his employment and did not have health insurance. The state claimed the client was over the resource limit for receiving state assistance based on a report from the Department of Licensing (DOL) that reflected the client was the owner of a large number of vehicles. The state also claimed the client did not have the proper medical documentation to prove he was incapacitated. NJP assisted the client in showing the DOL record was in error and in fact reflected every car the client had ever owned as opposed to the vehicles the client owned at present. NJP further assisted the client in documenting that he was seriously medically incapacitated. As a result, the client's application was approved and he is now receiving the financial and medical benefits that he desperately needs.
- NJP's Everett office represented a client who was prevented from transitioning from a drug and alcohol treatment program to General Assistance cash and medical benefits when his treatment was completed. DSHS erroneously counted his mobile home as an

“excess resource” because he resided in the treatment housing when he applied for transition to General Assistance. Also, the client failed to gather the medical evidence needed to establish his incapacity. The client appealed and moved back to his home from the “clean and sober” treatment housing with NJP advocacy DSHS agreed to fund the medical assessments needed to establish incapacity. Based on this evidence, DSHS granted benefits.

- NJP’s Everett office assisted an immigrant limited English proficient senior with multiple disabilities. The client sought help to get her documents, including immigration documents, in her correct name, in order to help her with benefits and other problems. NJP assisted her in seeking a court order for name change so that she could apply for a renewed green card and other documents in the name she is known by. NJP then referred her to apply for SSI benefits and increased general assistance pending receipt of the SSI as well as for assistance in reapplying for her green card. The benefits actions were successful, providing the client with the funds needed to obtain the immigration and other documents she needs.
- NJP’s Olympia office assisted a client in restoration and maintenance of food stamp and cash benefits under GAU. When the client contacted NJP, DSHS had charged her with a \$954 overpayment. After negotiating with DSHS, it determined that not only was that overpayment non-existent, but DSHS owed the client a credit for food stamp benefits.
- NJP’s Olympia office assisted a monolingual Spanish speaking seasonal shellfish worker obtain an increase in child support from her child’s father. After trial the child support was increased from \$296 to \$702 per month.
- NJP’s Olympia office advised a client to avoid a foreclosure rescue scam that could have cost her tens of thousands of dollars.
- NJP’s Olympia office provided advice and referral on the issue of child support to a senior whose social security check was threatened by garnishment for child support. The client owed \$632 in child support each month to the state of Nevada where the divorce occurred. After the client became disabled in 2004 from a series of strokes he was not able to work and thus not able to keep up his child support payments. Because the child support order was never modified, the arrearage and penalties grew to over \$22,000. Social Security indicated they would begin to garnish the client’s social security payments. The client was worried he would not be able to pay for his chore services. NJP advised the client that if Social Security garnishes his income, the Department of Social and Health Services will increase support for his chore services. NJP also referred the client to a volunteer legal services program in Nevada to get legal assistance with a modification of his child support order.
- NJP’s Refugee and Immigrant Advocacy Project (RIAP) represented an elderly Cambodian refugee who had been denied Medicaid and Medicare due to her inability to correct her date of birth in her Social Security Records. Although she had corrected her medical records and immigration and citizenship documents, the client had been unable to correct her social security records despite years of trying. NJP represented her in a

hearing and received a favorable decision; she is now eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare.

- NJP's RIAP assisted an Ethiopian refugee family of seven who had been denied food assistance and cash when the wife in the family lost her employment and her husband became too ill to work. NJP obtained retroactive cash and food benefits along with continuing medical eligibility since the family had actually been eligible for TANF assistance several months during the preceding year.
- NJP's Seattle office successfully represented a young woman with mental retardation in her appeal of DSHS's termination of her services through its Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). DSHS claimed that the young woman, who had been receiving DSHS/DDD services for many years, did not meet the eligibility criteria because she did not have a qualifying diagnosis. Upon review of a new psychologist's report confirming her diagnosis of mental retardation, DSHS/DDD rescinded the proposed termination.
- NJP's Seattle office represented a young man with Autistic Disorder in his appeal of DSHS/DDD's proposed termination of his DDD services. DSHS/DDD based its termination decision on early medical records that suggested he had a diagnosis on the autism spectrum, but not the more specific diagnosis of Autistic Disorder. NJP was able to demonstrate to DSHS that, since that early diagnosis, treating professionals had actually changed his diagnosis to Autistic Disorder, a qualifying condition for DDD eligibility. DSHS reversed its termination decision.
- NJP's Spokane office represented a young mother in an appeal of a final administrative order to the superior court. The Department of Social and Health Services had made a 'founded' finding of abuse or neglect, based on negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, against the client four years ago. As a result of the founded finding, the client faced termination of her employment at a long-term care facility. Factually, the client struck up a conversation with an unknown man in a bar one night after work. The man placed a coin-shaped chocolate on the table and told her that it contained "shrooms" and would make her high and "see things." The client did not know if she believed the man or not, but picked up the chocolate and put it in her purse. The next day she noticed that her two-year-old child had scattered the contents of her purse on the floor, and the coin-shaped chocolate was missing. Fearing for her son's safety, she called 911 and the child was taken to the emergency room. The doctors were not too concerned and conducted no tests to determine if the child had ingested a controlled substance. The child was kept overnight for observation and released the next morning to the client. The Department concluded that the client's actions met the WAC definition of negligent treatment of a child. At the requested fair hearing, the ALJ found for the client. The Department sought review by an administrative review judge. The review judge overruled the ALJ and reinstated the 'founded' finding. An appeal to the superior court was made by NJP. After receiving briefing and oral argument on the issue, the Spokane County Superior Court judge overturned the administrative review judge and reinstated the ALJ's decision as the final order. The client was vindicated and did not lose her employment.

- NJP's Colville satellite office was successful in obtaining approval for bariatric surgery for a client. DSHS had denied the bariatric surgery because the client's doctor failed to send in the required documentation. After the doctor sent in the information, DSHS continued to deny surgery claiming the client did not meet all the requirements for the surgery. After NJP became involved, DSHS again reviewed the medical records and approved the client's bariatric surgery.
- NJP's Spokane office was contacted by a client after the Department of Veteran's Affairs sent him notice of a \$16,615.70 overpayment. The VA alleged that the client did not disclose his wife's income for a period of time. Both the client and his wife indicated that they had sent in updated financial information regularly, and had even been asked to refax information that the VA indicated they had lost. The client was unable to pay the requested overpayment because of financial hardship. The client also suffered from leukemia, COPD, asthma, total deafness in one ear, severe emphysema and chronic bronchitis. NJP drafted several overpayment waiver requests to the VA on the client's behalf, and the VA eventually agreed to waive the total amount of the overpayment.
- NJP's Spokane office represented a client whose GAU benefits were terminated after receiving a psychological evaluation that identified malingering/over-reporting. The client has a long history of both GAU and GAX approval, with her main diagnoses related to major depression and possible personality disorder. NJP obtained copies of the client's past evaluations and sent the client for another psychological evaluation. The psychologist identified generalized anxiety disorder, major depressive disorder and personality disorder NOS. Based upon this evaluation, the client was later approved for benefits prior to hearing.
- NJP's Tacoma office assisted an elderly Ukrainian woman who had her in-home care hours reduced by Pierce County Aging and Long Term Care (PCALTC). NJP assisted the client in obtaining medical records and represented the client at hearing. At hearing, the parties negotiated a settlement in which the notice reducing the in-home care hours was withdrawn and a new assessment was agreed to.
- NJP's Tacoma office assisted a client who was terminated from General Assistance cash and medical benefits by DSHS. NJP assisted the client in obtaining additional medical evidence. Based on the additional medical evidence, the client's benefits were reinstated.
- NJP's Tacoma office continues to represent a client in seeking to restore eligibility for benefits from the Division of Developmental Disabilities of the Department of Social and Health Services. NJP is presently assisting the client in seeking an evaluation to determine if his developmental disability substantially impairs his adaptive functioning under the criteria in the relevant sections of the Washington Administrative Code (WAC).
- NJP's Vancouver office helped a Clark County mother avoid a threatened WorkFirst sanction of her TANF benefits and negotiate a more appropriate Individual Responsibility Plan (IRP). The client's success in a WorkFirst on-the-job clerical placement with the county prosecutor's office led to her gaining a full-time, unsubsidized

position in a court clerk's office. Unfortunately, she lost that job under circumstances that indicate the possibilities of discrimination in job assignments and working conditions based on her Spanish-speaking ability, or retaliation for her outspokenness. (NJP referred her to private attorneys to assess her possible employment law claims.) She had to resume receiving TANF and was given a standard job search IRP despite her efforts to gain approval for an educational program that would open up new possibilities for her after her promising one ended badly. Her need for specialized child care and to arrange other services for her child with disabilities complicates her efforts to maintain perfect attendance. NJP helped her negotiate a new IRP giving her the necessary time to concentrate on applying for SSI benefits and DDD services, renegotiating the special education plan, and making reliable child care arrangements for her son.

- NJP's Walla Walla office represented a disabled woman in a dispute with DSHS over obtaining dentures. The woman objected to DSHS requiring her to have her remaining four teeth pulled to be eligible to receive dentures. NJP represented the woman and assisted her in qualifying for dentures which would not require her to have her remaining teeth extracted.
- NJP's Wenatchee office successfully advocated for an increase in state-funded caregiver hours on behalf of a developmentally disabled adult living with and being cared for by her senior citizen uncle and aunt. Since a reduction in compensable care giving hours occurred after the 2003 implementation of the CARE tool and the "shared-living rule," the caregivers had been unsatisfied with the number of care giving hours awarded under the annual assessments. When the most recent draft assessment report indicated that the number of hours would remain at a level well below what the caregivers thought fair, NJP wrote a letter to DSHS arguing that not all of the caregivers' duties had been considered in the assessment, and noting some of the duties that had been omitted. As a result of the letter, DSHS adjusted the compensable care giving hours upwards to a level that restores the compensable hours to above the pre-2003 levels, and better reflects the clients' actual care giving responsibilities.

Education

- NJP's Bellingham office represented a 16-year-old, part-Native American high school student with disabilities who was appealing her expulsion from school. The client and her mother were referred to NJP by a local state-contracted children's services advocate who had been helping the family deal with her school situation. The student had a history of mental health problems involving impulsive and aggressive behavior, depression and defiance, reportedly due in part to childhood trauma. She had also been expelled at mid-year by the same school in each of the two previous school years and was now considerably behind her age cohort in school credits. After the prior year's expulsion, she had been ordered into a residential treatment program in eastern Washington that involved attendance in another public high school. The client had done well at that school academically and behaviorally, and she had shown substantial improvement in her residential treatment and in individual counseling upon her return home. Her mother, her therapist, and the children's services advocate had actively participated in the mother's request to have the client accepted into special education at her local school in order to

develop an appropriate plan to constructively manage the client's behavior, or alternatively to have a Section 504 accommodation plan developed for the same purpose. The school had recently denied eligibility for special education and had not responded at all to the request for Section 504 accommodation. During the same time, the client had made friends with another troubled student, whom the client learned intended to confront a third student about perceived harassment. Fearing the possible negative consequences for her friend, the client intervened at the outset of the confrontation, in an attempt to avoid escalation. Instead, she and her friend were both expelled from school and NJP was asked to assist. NJP appealed the expulsion to the school district. At a hearing, NJP presented evidence supporting the client's helpful intention, her successful effort to avoid her own physical participation in the fracas, her therapist's report of the role her impulsive disorder played in her action, and the significant behavioral improvement the client had been maintaining in school all year. NJP also pointed out that the client was still able to appeal the recent special education denial and that legally required steps were not followed to assess the possible role of her disability on her behavior before any discipline was imposed. Nonetheless, the hearing officer upheld the client's expulsion. NJP then appealed her discipline case to the district school board and appealed the denial of special education eligibility to the State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The school district promptly invited negotiations on the client's overall situation. Subsequent discussions resulted in the school district agreeing to a comprehensive settlement of the disputes. The district agreed to designate the client as eligible for a Section 504 accommodation, approved her mother's request to re-admit the client to a smaller and more individualized high school in the district, convened a school team including the client's attorney and therapist that developed an appropriate accommodation plan for her return to school, and arranged for her to make up some credits during the summer. In exchange, the client withdrew her OSPI and school board appeals. The client's accommodation plan and the support of her new principal were critical in successfully resolving a later dispute in which the client was initially and incorrectly blamed for threats and harassment by other students. Plans are in place for the client, her mother and NJP to meet with school district administrators at the end of the summer to take further steps to ensure her successful participation in the coming school year.

- NJP's Bellingham office represented a 16-year-old Latina high school student in appealing her suspension from school. The client was the president of a school-based club advocating for the interests of Latino students and she and others had previously expressed concerns about unequal treatment by school staff for Latino and white students. She was immediately suspended from school for allegedly directing a profanity at a lunchroom monitor, an action the school characterized as "exceptional misconduct" under its discipline rules. Her informal appeal to the school principal was unsuccessful. With the support of her parents, she contacted NJP which filed an appeal with the school district. A hearing was held before a district administrator, at which NJP provided evidence that the client had made two appropriate complaints the same morning about obvious dress code violations by a white student, an area in which she believed Latino students had been singled out for disparate scrutiny before. When both of her complaints were ignored and unacted on, she walked away from the monitor in frustration. The client admitted uttering a profanity but insisted it was not directed at anyone at all, and two

students who had been nearby at the time testified to confirm her account of the interchange. In addition, NJP argued that even the action as alleged should not have been denominated as “exceptional misconduct,” given that the school district’s policy defined that term as involving much more serious and disruptive actions at school such as possession of a firearm or explosive device, selling drugs, or committing arson. After review, the hearing officer agreed to reverse the client’s suspension and to expunge mention of it from her discipline record. In the fall, NJP will be invited to provide information to club members and Latino students generally about their legal rights in school.

- NJP’s Seattle office successfully assisted a parent whose child has significant disabilities with obtaining a private school placement for the child from their school district. The student had struggled for years in inappropriate placements within the school district.
- NJP’s Tacoma office represented a participant in the Division of Developmental Disabilities’ Community Protection Program for the purposes of obtaining re-entry to high school following an emergency expulsion. After meeting with district officials and negotiating regarding alterations to the client’s behavior plan within his IEP, the student was re-admitted to school.

Family Stability, Safety & Security

- NJP’s Aberdeen office assisted a woman whose husband was scheduled to be released on parole after five years in prison for molesting their now-six-year-old son. The client was concerned for her safety and her son's safety, due to a history of domestic violence between her estranged husband and her, and due to the molestation of her son. Her son has had essentially no relationship with his father outside the molestation that occurred. The client wanted to dissolve the marriage, get full custody of her son, and change their names to protect their identities. Although a child’s name generally cannot be changed in a dissolution proceeding, through limited representation of the client, NJP was able to assist the client in securing all the relief requested.
- NJP’s Bellingham office represented an undocumented, monolingual Spanish-speaking woman in her efforts to protect herself from domestic abuse and to establish a court-approved parenting plan for her young child. The client was served with court papers by a friend of her abuser for his proposed parenting plan, but the abuser then assaulted her and took back the court papers. Later, without notice to her, the abuser persuaded the court to enter a default order and approve a parenting plan giving him custody of the child. The client contacted NJP, which had assisted her before, and with the help of the office’s bilingual staff, was able to have the default order and parenting plan vacated. After two court hearings, NJP succeeded in obtaining a domestic violence protection order and a new temporary parenting plan giving her custody of the child. Previously, NJP had helped this client to file a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) self-petition seeking legal permanent resident status based on prior domestic violence, but her petition had been denied on an evidentiary issue. When the client returned with the parenting plan problem, NJP also began helping her file for a “U-visa,” which provides legal status for

crime victims assisting in prosecution of a crime, on the basis of another domestic assault. That petition is pending.

- NJP's Bellingham office represented a client in seeking court protection from physical, emotional and verbal abuse by her former boyfriend and an order returning custody of their baby to her. The boyfriend was extremely jealous and frequently followed the client wherever she went. He appeared at her workplace on a regular basis to observe who she was talking to, and he objected to the client having other friendships or relationships. When the client attempted to break off their relationship, the boyfriend became enraged and yanked the then-3-month-old baby out of her arms. The baby was still breast-feeding, but the boyfriend refused to allow the client to breastfeed the baby anymore and then took the baby with him when he moved out of the home. Over the next four days, he allowed the client to see the baby for only ten minutes and told her that the situation was her fault because she wanted to leave him. NJP filed a parentage action for the client and obtained an ex parte restraining order ordering the boyfriend to return the child to the client immediately. The boyfriend returned the child after being served with the order. The court later entered a temporary parenting plan designating the client as the primary residential parent of the baby.
- NJP's Bellingham office represented a client who is a victim of domestic violence in a dissolution and custody case. The client obtained an order of protection after an argument with her husband where he disconnected the telephones to prevent her from calling for help, locked her in a closet, and then pinned her against the wall with a table. NJP represented her in a subsequent protection order hearing after the husband brought a Motion for Revision of the order claiming that there was insufficient evidence of domestic violence. The court denied the husband's motion. In the custody matter, NJP succeeded in obtaining temporary orders naming the mother as the primary residential parent of the parties' 18-month-old daughter and restricting the husband to limited, supervised residential time.
- NJP's Everett office assisted a pregnant Native American woman in receiving legal representation in a state court dependency action for the client's sixteen year-old daughter. The client's court appointed attorney informally withdrew from the case due to lack of communication with the client. NJP successfully facilitated the reassignment of the original court appointed attorney to the client's case. The client was able to demonstrate through her court appointed attorney her continued compliance with court ordered services and counseling services for family reunification. NJP attended the review hearing where the permanent plan is for reunification of the client and her daughter and case closure by the fall.
- NJP's Everett office represented a domestic violence survivor who sought an Order for Protection after the parties' minor child alleged sexual abuse by her father. The father fought against the client's protection order petition making the request to have the child testify in court. NJP successfully obtained a one year Order for Protection for the client that provides for supervised visits only until the current parenting plan can be appropriately modified.

- NJP's Everett office represented a mother who had her five year old son abducted by the estranged wife of the child's father. The child was taken outside Washington State by the estranged wife after she agreed to watch the child while the client was briefly ill. The child had an active passport and the estranged wife took the child's passport along with the child. NJP assisted the client with filing a parenting plan case and with filing for a Writ of Habeas Corpus. Once the estranged wife found out that the client sought assistance through the courts and local law enforcement, the child was sent back to the client.
- NJP's Everett office represents a domestic violence survivor who has a child with Downs Syndrome and other special needs in a modification action. The child along with the child's other sibling have been in the care and custody of their father who has been in and out of jail consistently for a year and has ignored the children's counseling and medical needs. NJP successfully obtained an Ex parte restraining/show cause order that provides the client with temporary custody of the children and the ability to make non-emergency medical decisions for the children.
- NJP's Everett office represents a mother who in 2006 sent her child to live temporarily with the child's father in order for her to successfully finish her internship. The child's father got married immediately before the child was sent to stay with him. The child has actually been residing with his wife, a fact that the father had been hiding from the mother. Once the child was to return back to the client, the child's stepmother and father refused to send the child back. The stepmother filed a third party custody action against the client for full custody of the child. NJP successfully represented the client at the adequate cause hearing and got the third party custody action dismissed for a lack of adequate cause.
- NJP's Everett office represents a monolingual Spanish speaking domestic violence survivor with four minor children in a parentage action. Once the client sought refuge in a domestic violence shelter with her children and obtained a temporary Protection Order, the father of her children filed motions for contempt and Temporary Orders against her in retaliation. NJP represented the client at her Protection Order hearing and the Contempt and Temporary Orders hearing. NJP successfully obtained a year Protection Order for the client. NJP was also successful in obtaining Temporary Orders for the client that provided the father with only professionally supervised visits. The court also denied the father's contempt motion.
- NJP's Everett office represents a disabled Spanish speaking domestic violence survivor in a dissolution action. The client and her estranged husband were married for seven years before the parties separated due to CPS involvement. The client sought assistance with obtaining a Protection Order and with filing for dissolution once her husband made death threats to her and her family. NJP successfully obtained a year Protection Order for the client that required the husband to go for treatment before having contact with the children. NJP also successfully filed her dissolution and served her husband with the dissolution pleadings.

- NJP's Everett office represented a single mother whose 15 year old developmentally delayed daughter made an allegation of sexual abuse against her father. With NJP representation, the mother was given custody of the children and all were protected by a protection order. The prosecutor declined to prosecute the father. Every few months it was necessary to defend against the father's attempts to regain custody of the children and dismiss the protection order. The father filed a motion to modify the parenting plan, and the court appointed a guardian ad litem to represent the children. During this time period the daughter had been in counseling. The GAL facilitated supervised visits with the father and daughter and then proposed the protection order be dropped and the daughter see the father only when she felt comfortable doing so. All parties agreed and orders were entered in both cases.
- NJP's Everett office represents a young mother who left a very abusive relationship with the father of her child. The client left their home with only the clothes she and her son had on their backs. The father filed a petition to establish a parenting plan where he would be the custodial parent. The mother saw his current girlfriend covered with blood and fears the effect the father's violence will have on their son. The father is alleging that the mother is unstable. The mother's circumstances are directly related to fleeing and PTSD. She is seeking services and to retain custody of her son.
- NJP's Everett office represented a young Tulalip mother who had lost custody of her daughter through a guardianship. The mother had made drastic changes in her life including sobriety, counseling, steady employment, marriage and a new baby. She petitioned to terminate the guardianship and through this process established a better relationship with the guardians. This will hopefully be a long lasting benefit for the child as well because a few days before a court hearing, the client relapsed ending her petition to return her child to her.
- NJP's Everett office is representing a mother who has not seen or talked with her children since early 2004. The final parenting plan in her legal separation was very restrictive because she had a substance abuse problem as well as mental health issues. The father stopped the visits without following the requirements of the parenting plan. The mother has now mastered her addiction and is under mental health care. The court ordered she have immediate phone contact but the father has refused to provide his phone number for such calls. A motion to have him held in contempt has been filed.
- NJP's Longview office helped a domestic violence victim obtain a final dissolution decree. NJP assisted the client with drawing up a restrictive parenting plan that ensured that the father would have only supervised visits and would have to complete drug treatment. Although the father had initially contested the client's petition for a protection order, he did not respond to the family law action, and, as a result, the client was able to finalize her divorce by default. The final orders also contained ongoing restraining orders to protect the client and her children.
- NJP's Longview office helped a client who had been served in a dissolution that would have allowed her only four hours a week of supervised visits, based on the client's alleged drug use. The client had always been the primary care-taker of the children.

Although she had used marijuana, this had been partly to help treat a chronic medical condition. NJP helped the client negotiate and obtain a temporary order that resulted in shared residential time and joint decision-making, without any of the restrictions that the husband had originally asked for.

- A Longview mother suffered serious physical abuse at the hands of her toddler's father. The father moved to Louisiana and called the client, making a racial slur and threatening to drag her and her fiancé behind a truck. The father was extradited from Louisiana to Cowlitz County and then released into the community, with no money and no means of returning to Louisiana. NJP obtained an ex parte restraining order prohibiting the father from having physical contact with the mother.
- A disabled mother of newborn twins requested assistance from NJP's Longview office in obtaining a parenting plan. While the mother was in labor, the father was both physically and emotionally abusive to the client. During the marriage, he would physically abuse her, destroy their property and call her names. The court entered a restrictive temporary parenting plan, giving the mother primary custody and requiring the father to have a supervisor present during all visits with the newborns.
- NJP's Olympia office continues to represent Native parents in tribal court dependency proceedings to ensure that the court is aware of the parent's compliance and completion of court ordered service plans.
- A client sought help from NJP's Olympia office because of problems her two children were having with their father during visitation sessions. There were accusations of emotional and sexual abuse and general neglect. The father brought a contempt action claiming that the client was depriving him of his visitation. NJP gathered declarations from the children's guidance counselor at school and their mental health counselor. The guidance counselor had made a report to CPS based on what the children said. Both counselors had serious concerns about the children having visitation with the father. Concurrently with the contempt action, the mother filed documents requesting a restraining order, temporary orders and a Summons and Petition modifying the prior final orders. NJP gathered multiple declarations and represented the client in court. After reading the declarations NJP had procured, the father decided not to pursue any relief and consented to all of the orders and findings requested by the client, including a no visitation order, a restraining order protecting the children and a finding that he had abused the children and committed domestic violence.
- NJP's Olympia office assisted a woman with cognitive delays maintain custody of her infant child, preventing her abusive husband from taking the child from her. The client had a Protection Order that gave her custody of the child and ordered the father to participate in a domestic violence assessment and parenting classes before petitioning for supervised visitation. Despite this order the father filed a petition for divorce, demanding full custody of the child. After reviewing declarations obtained by NJP supporting the woman's allegations, the husband's attorney decided to drop the request for temporary custody orders and opted to request only the appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem. The attorney argued that appointment of a Guardian Ad Litem for the child was premature

since the husband had not participated in the domestic violence assessment or the parenting classes. The court agreed and denied the husband's request.

- A client came to NJP's Olympia office for help with custody of her 14 year old son. The son lived with his aunt and uncle who had custody through a non-parental custody action. The client recently learned that the aunt and uncle were physically and emotionally abusing him. The child desperately wanted to come home with his mother. Although the litigation is still pending, NJP managed to vacate the original non-parental custody decree, thereby placing the burden on the aunt and uncle to establish that returning the child to his mother would be detrimental to the child; during the pendency of the action, the client now has court ordered visitation with the child which had previously been denied.
- A monolingual Spanish speaking client was assisted by NJP's Olympia office with a case regarding her five year old son. The child's father had been physically abusive to the client, at times in front of the child. The father wanted residential placement of the child with him, claiming that the mother was physically abusing the child. An attorney from the Olympia office represented the client at trial. After a full day trial, the Court found that the father had committed domestic violence and that there was a risk that the father would abuse again if this issue were not addressed. The father's visitation was substantially reduced and he was ordered to participate in a domestic violence assessment and follow the recommendations of the assessment. The Court stated that if he failed to participate in the assessment, the mother could come back to have the father's visitation reduced.
- A woman from Lewis County contacted NJP's Olympia office for help with a parenting plan in a paternity case. Paternity was established and the State of Washington was seeking a child support order. Included in this order was a judgment against the client for the fees charged by the Lewis County Clerk's Office for the filing of the parentage action. NJP argued at hearing that the fees were not permissible under state statute since the client was not the party bringing the action and in the alternative that the fees should be waived since the client was indigent. The court waived the fees.
- NJP's Port Angeles office represented a client, who had suffered through several years of domestic violence involving both physical and emotional abuse, in a paternity action. The mother of two boys tried to work out an informal custody arrangement with the children's father but there were constant threats and withholding of child support. NJP met with the client and filed both protection orders and proposed residential schedules. The father in response filed numerous contempt actions which were all successfully defended. After a two day trial in superior court, the client was named the children's custodian, the father was awarded defined visitation and a child support order was put in place.
- NJP's Port Angeles office conducted outreach to the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and, as a result of that outreach, a Tribal member contacted the office for representation in a dissolution. After the client obtained a protection order, the husband, who has significant income, filed for dissolution and was represented by an attorney. NJP entered the case

and after a series of negotiations a settlement was reached in which the client was awarded spousal maintenance, custody of the parties' child and child support.

- NJP's Seattle office represented a woman who was a victim of domestic violence and was seeking a modification of a parenting plan. The mother was seeking a restrictive parenting plan with supervised visitation due to the father's history of violence towards herself and her family since the original parenting plan had been entered. The father was represented by an attorney, and the mother had not properly filed or served the required documents. The modification case was in danger of being dismissed due to procedural irregularities, and there were no protective orders. NJP represented the woman in amending the pleadings, effectuating service, obtaining Temporary Orders and an Order for Protection with supervised visitation. The case is set for trial.
- NJP's Seattle-based Domestic Violence Community Legal Project (DVCLP) successfully represented a young Mexican woman in a dissolution/custody matter through settlement negotiations. The woman married her husband after she became pregnant by him. She then followed the husband to this country where he began frequently using illegal drugs and became very violent toward her. He beat her up, assaulted her sexually, threatened her, and was very controlling. She tried to leave him but he threatened to accuse her of kidnapping their young child. She returned to him but the violence toward her escalated. During a visit to the hospital, she was connected with a social worker who assisted and referred her to a domestic violence advocate. As a result of the settlement, the woman obtained sole custody and decision-making authority for the child, a Restraining Order that expires in the year 2023, and an Order of Child Support.
- NJP's Seattle-based DVCLP successfully represented a Mexican woman in a dissolution/custody matter through settlement negotiations. The woman experienced physical and emotional abuse by her husband. The husband also sexually assaulted the woman's teenage daughter from another relationship. When the sexual abuse was discovered, the husband threatened the woman and her family. The husband was arrested and spent over a year in jail. As a result of the settlement, the woman obtained sole custody and decision-making authority for the child, a long-term Restraining Order, and an Order of Child Support. In addition, the father's contact with the child depends on compliance with treatment requirements, approval by treatment providers and approval by the Washington State Department of Corrections.
- NJP's Seattle-based DVCLP successfully represented a Honduran woman at a hearing in an ongoing dissolution/custody action filed by the woman's husband. The woman separated from her husband after he continuously abused her as well as her teenage daughter from a previous relationship. The husband then filed a petition for dissolution alleging abuse by the wife toward him. At the hearing, he sought immediate custody of their two-year-old child alleging child abuse by the mother. With representation by NJP, the woman obtained immediate custody and an order of child support pending trial in the dissolution action. NJP continues to represent the woman.
- NJP's Seattle-based Domestic Violence Community Legal Project (DVCLP) represented a Laotian woman in modification of custody action, filed by the father of her children.

Because of his past abusive behavior, the father has been restricted to professionally supervised visits with the children since they were born. To support his recent petition, the father had the support of his psychologist, domestic violence treatment provider, visitation supervisor and the court-appointed custody evaluator. The matter proceeded to a week-long bench trial, and the Court denied the father's request based on incriminating testimony elicited during his deposition. The mother's lifetime protection order remains in place, and the father continues to be limited to professionally supervised contact with the children.

- NJP's Spokane office represented a woman in a dissolution action. Although there were no children at issue, there were other access to justice issues that elevated the case to one for which the office determined full representation should be provided. Specifically, the client suffered from disabilities that hampered her ability to represent herself; the opposing party was seeking to have the marriage declared invalid, but was also seeking attorney fees and maintenance from our client, even though her only source of income was disability income. The opposing party was represented by a local attorney known for his harsh treatment and propensity to bully pro se litigants. Once NJP appeared on behalf of the client, the opposing counsel offered a set of "final documents" for our client's consideration. The proposed final papers conformed entirely to the stated desires of our client. The client signed the papers, obtained her dissolution and avoided maintenance and attorney fees.
- NJP's Spokane office began representing a quadriplegic man in a custody dispute associated with a dissolution. When NJP appeared in the matter, the client was not receiving his visitation under the temporary orders because the opposing party had obtained an ex-parte restraining order prohibiting unsupervised visitation. Although visits with the client were allowed, no effort had been made by the opposing party to secure an agreeable visitation supervisor. Through the actions of NJP, the client began having supervised visits almost immediately. The parties are now working toward agreed final orders which will include overnight visitation between the client and his daughter.
- NJP's Spokane office represented a woman who sought to restrain her ex-husband's contact with their children. The children's father had engaged in numerous behaviors that endangered the children's safety and welfare, including drinking and driving with the children in the car, shooting the children with "Airsoft" guns (without padding or a face-mask), physically bullying the children, using drugs, etc. Additionally, in an independent case, the father was seeking nonparental custody of a sixteen-year-old girl (the child of another ex-wife), with whom he was carrying on a sexual relationship. The client was concerned about the effects on her children of seeing their father sexually involved with a girl barely older than they are. NJP obtained temporary restraining and custody orders limiting the father to supervised contact with the children. Over time, the father became less interested in participating in the case, and ultimately failed to show up for the trial. As a result, NJP was able to obtain a parenting plan and a restraining order that protected the client and her children.
- NJP's Spokane office represented a mother from Montana who had been denied visitation with her daughter, on a repeated basis, by her ex-husband. Through a motion

for contempt, NJP obtained an order giving the client thirty full days of make-up visits. NJP also represented the client in defending against two motions for contempt for failure to pay child support, which she could not afford due to unemployment. NJP persuaded the court to enter an order on contempt with language allowing the client to purge the contempt finding by making minimal, affordable, monthly installment payments on the back support.

- NJP's Spokane office represented a woman whose husband had fraudulently obtained a child support order limiting his payments to \$14.45 per month, for two children. Both children were primarily in the care of their mother. The younger child had special needs, as he was in treatment for leukemia, which magnified the burden of this low child support. The mother was barely able to survive financially, and was forced to work enormous amounts of overtime to make up for the time she missed at work in order to be at the hospital with the younger child, as the father refused to stay with the child at the hospital, or help with the leukemia-related expenses. NJP assisted the woman in getting the fraudulent child support order vacated, and represented her in a hearing on the father's subsequent motion for a downward modification of the child support. NJP prevailed, obtaining an order for the father to pay \$300 per month in child support, plus back support of \$400 per month during the period of time when the fraudulent order was in effect.
- NJP's Spokane office represented a client who was denied a renewal of a domestic violence protection order at hearing. The commissioner based her decision upon a lack of jurisdiction and no incidents of domestic violence since the issuance of the previous protection order. NJP filed a motion for revision and argued that no new acts were necessary, venue was proper and the client had a fear of imminent bodily harm based upon a significant history of abuse. The review judge overturned the commissioner's decision and granted a one-year domestic violence protection order.
- NJP's Tacoma office continues to represent a client in an on-going dissolution case. Since the time the case was filed and temporary orders were entered, the parties have agreed to extended visitation and some division of property. The parties share a one-year-old child together and the client/mother is the custodial parent. The visitation exchanges have occurred without reported incident.
- NJP's Tacoma office is representing a Western State Hospital patient in filing a dissolution case. The summons and petition were served on the out-of-state opposing party. NJP successfully sought to have the court waive the filing fee for the client.
- NJP's Tacoma office is providing pro se assistance to a developmentally disabled client in responding to a parentage case. The client is the mother of a one-year child. The opposing party is represented by an attorney.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a Kitsap County mother of five in a parenting plan modification action. There were reports of abuse of the children in the father's care and there was a CPS finding. The case was set for trial. NJP assisted the client in working with CPS and counselors to determine the best interests of the children. With NJP's

assistance, the client was able to reach a settlement that included safeguards for the children when visiting the other parent. The mother is able to better protect the children and avoiding a trial resulted in a better overall situation for the children and consequently the mother.

- NJP's Tacoma office represented a developmentally disabled client in administrative hearing regarding a finding of neglect from Child Protective Services (CPS). A settlement agreement between the client and CPS was reached at the hearing, and the case is pending finalization.
- NJP's Tacoma office continues to represent a client that NJP had helped obtain a sexual assault order protecting his daughter. NJP obtained temporary orders giving the father sole custody of his daughter with the mother having supervised visits based on sexual abuse. The family law case is set for trial. A settlement conference occurred and the parties were unable to resolve the matter. A GAL is on board and in the process of investigating the parents. The parties entered an agreement to settle the case in favor of the father's position. Now the father has custody of the children, and the mother has supervised visits until progress is made with the family counseling sessions.
- NJP's Tacoma office represents a young father in defending a non-parental custody action brought by his infant daughter's maternal grandparents. The child's mother has joined in her parents' petition for custody, but the father seeks dismissal of the case and primary residential care of his daughter based on his successful completion of alcohol treatment, his continued sobriety, employment and stability of his living situation.
- NJP's Vancouver office assisted an elderly grandmother obtain a protective parenting plan and permanent restraining order against the child's parents on behalf of herself and the child. The client had been de facto custodian and caregiver of the child for much of his young life because of the parents' mental illness, drug addictions, homelessness and general instability. The client was forced to take protective measures after the child's father, her son, assaulted her in her own home.
- NJP's Vancouver office assisted a mother fleeing domestic violence from the East Coast obtain assistance in North Carolina where an adversary proceeding had been filed. Due to the extreme nature of the domestic violence and previous criminal conduct of the father in his efforts to find where the mother was living NJP was able to secure a local attorney to handle her case in North Carolina and was also able to provide counsel to her regarding outstanding issues with her enrollment in the military.
- NJP's Vancouver office assisted a limited English proficient mother fleeing domestic violence from California in a custody dispute. The father had been uninvolved in the lives of the children for over two years, and had never expressed any interest in seeing them although he was able to communicate with the mother through a third party. After child support enforcement action was taken against him he filed for custody in California despite a lack of jurisdiction. NJP represented the client at a hearing to determine jurisdiction under the UCCJEA, facilitate consultation of the two judicial officers and then also represented the client at subsequent temporary order hearings. The mother was

successful in obtaining primary parenting authority over the children. NJP continues to monitor the case and is working to have the California case dismissed as to custody.

- NJP's Walla Walla office represented a 93 year old man in having a DVPO dismissed, as it was clear that his wife placed the DVPO against the client for purposes of financial control.
- NJP's Walla Walla office assisted a young teenager in petitioning to become a dependent of the state in order to prevent her return to her abusive parents and extended family in El Salvador. The client is currently residing with and will now be able to continue residing with her loving and supportive maternal aunt. NJP will continue to assist her throughout the dependency proceedings.
- NJP's Omak office is representing a domestic violence victim and mother of five in Tribal Court in a child custody case. The client is seeking primary placement of the children and child support from her former abuser.
- **NJP's Omak office is representing a mother of two children to obtain a protection order, child support, custody, and dissolution. The client has a second 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 or 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 when the husband encouraged the eldest son to also hit the client. (DEBI, I CHECKED AND THIS WAS CONTAINED IN WENATCHEE'S 4TH QUARTER 2007 AND 1ST QUARTER 2008 REPORTS. Do you know why Omak continues to submit it each quarter? This should be old business.)**
- NJP's Wenatchee office is representing a monolingual Spanish speaking mother of two children in a parentage and custody action. The client suffered significant domestic violence at the hands of the father, and fled the home last fall. When the father found the client, he began to threaten her, filed a parentage action, and obtained temporary custody of the children at a hearing in which the client was unrepresented and unprepared. NJP, however, put the children back in the mother's custody by preparing and arguing a motion for temporary custody. The matter is now set for trial.
- NJP's Wenatchee office successfully represented a victim of domestic violence in securing an order preventing the father of her two children from visitations due to the father's continued abuse of methamphetamine. Due to the father's prior history of domestic violence and drug use, arrests and convictions, the court had granted NJP's petition requesting that temporary custody of the couple's two young children be given to the mother. Because the father advised the court at the temporary orders hearing that he no longer used "meth" and was drug free, the court allowed him liberal visitation. However, after the temporary orders hearing, the father's new girlfriend was arrested for meth possession at the father's apartment. As a result of NJP's advocacy the court ordered the father to take a drug test and to place restrictions on the father's visitation upon a positive result. As the test was positive, the court terminated the father's visitation

rights until he obtains a drug evaluation and begins any prescribed treatment. The mother is pleased with this result as the father had been transporting the children more than 40 miles for visitation.

- NJP's Wenatchee office successfully represented a victim of domestic violence in securing temporary custody of her two children. The mother contacted NJP when the father was arrested after a stand off with law enforcement officials who had gone to the family home after the father threatened to kill the mother and take his own life. During the temporary orders hearing the father denied that he had engaged in domestic violence during the couple's nearly 20 year marriage and blamed the mother for his stand off as he was distraught due to her extramarital affair. Although the father asked the court for sole custody, NJP convinced the court to deny the request and, instead grant sole custody to the mother, as it was in the best interests of the children to be placed with the mother given the history of domestic violence. The client was pleased with the custody decision so that her daughters will have a stable home while the father obtains the professional services her needs.
- NJP's Wenatchee office assisted a client with obtaining a protection order. The father of the client's children threatened the client and her husband when she refused to let him have the children for unsupervised visitation after a five year absence from their life. NJP represented the client in multiple protection order hearings and advised her on the process of a step parent adoption of the children
- NJP's Yakima office assisted a victim of domestic violence in a dissolution matter after she had obtained a default judgment against her husband on her own. He sought legal counsel and attempted to vacate the judgment. Because many property issues had not been properly resolved, and because protection orders and the dissolution had conflicting language, NJP assisted the woman in settling the entire matter in a manner that provided her and her children with protection and also resolved many community liabilities that resulted in garnishment of the woman's wages for debts owed by the husband. In addition, NJP obtained orders authorizing the mother to obtain passports for her children and to travel to Mexico despite the husband's refusal to consent.
- NJP's Yakima office continues to assist several victims of domestic violence in family law cases involving the perpetrator's requests for unsupervised contact with their children under circumstances where there is a concern for the safety of the children.

Healthcare, Access and Quality of Care

- NJP's Everett office represented a senior who received a notice terminating her Medicaid funded long-term care services in her home after she returned from a facility to an apartment. The reason for the termination notice apparently was DSHS' misunderstanding that the client requested termination of services. In reality, the client had only declined to be served by aides wearing products with scents to which the client was allergic. NJP assisted her in resolving an appeal and her benefits were restored before the termination.

- NJP's Olympia office helped a Thurston County man whose personal care hours to receive in-home care were not increased after the State Supreme Court struck down the Shared Living Rule. Despite the Court decision invalidating the rule, DSHS's Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) still applied the rule to the client's case and reduced his care hours based on help the client does not actually receive. NJP sent DDD extensive information about the appropriate way to calculate care hours now that the Shared Living Rule is invalid. DDD used this information to recalculate the client's hours to the appropriate amount of 156 hours per month. Hopefully, the case will also be instructive to DDD in calculating hours for other clients.
- NJP's Olympia office helped a man with developmental delays who needs a caregiver to assist him to live independently. His mother had been his paid caregiver for the past several years of his life. However, DSHS terminated her contract because of alleged abuse to the client. The client and caregiver denied this and challenged the termination through the administrative hearing process. Because DSHS felt that the caregiver was a danger to her son, they did not allow him to choose her as his paid provider pending the appeal. The mother continued providing care during this time, however. The Administrative Law Judge overturned the Department's finding of abuse in January 2007. The Board of Appeals upheld this decision in June 2007, after DSHS appealed. In July 2007, DSHS reassessed the client's need for caregiver hours and awarded 51 hours per month even though the assessment showed the client eligible for 155 hours per month. DSHS also refused to reinstate his mother as his caregiver. NJP represented the client at hearing. The ALJ ruled orally that DSHS should have reinstated the client's caregiver of choice, and ordered them to do so immediately. The ALJ also set a new hearing date to determine what the State owed the client for current care hours as well as back unpaid hours. NJP produced extensive research, discovery, and analysis to DDD and demanded 1) a current award of 153 hours, and 2) reinstatement of the client's hours, to his provider of choice, retroactive to the date of termination. After involving the AAG's office, DDD signed a stipulated agreement awarding 153 current hours and back pay to the client's mother of over \$14,000.
- NJP's Olympia office helped a Thurston County man who is blind, diabetic, and has other complicating conditions. DSHS cut his personal care services from 122 to 69 hours per month. DSHS cut the client's hours because serious sores on his feet had improved due to his caregiver's extensive preventive care. Although the client no longer has open sores, this preventive care takes up to several hours each day. With the cut in hours, the caregiver would no longer be able to provide preventive care. There was no argument that, without this care, the sores would recur. NJP developed medical evidence and legal analysis in preparation for the hearing. Based on this information, DSHS re-evaluated the case and actually increased the client's hours, to 125 per month.
- NJP's Omak office is assisting a woman who has been denied Medicaid coverage for necessary dental work. The client has severe systematic Lupus which makes even basic tasks difficult and may contribute to her fragile teeth. Despite the excellent oral hygiene noted by her dentist the client has a failing tooth that can only be preserved with a crown. NJP is assisting the client in requesting an exception to rule (ETR) from DSHS.

Preservation of Housing & Habitability Issues

- NJP's Aberdeen office assisted an elderly, disabled man in ejecting a tenant at will (an alleged methamphetamine addict who had never paid rent) from his home. The tenant at will refused to vacate the premises and while the situation had not yet escalated to where the client felt threatened, the tenant was bringing dangerous people and an illegal element into the client's home. NJP investigated the case and prepared pleadings which were then provided to a member of the private bar who successfully represented the client *pro bono* in an ejection and evicted the tenant at will from the client's home.
- NJP's Aberdeen office represented a woman whose application for public housing had been denied on the ground that she had an insufficient rental history. The client is a cancer survivor and has spent the greater part of the past five years in and out of hospital beds, recovering from lung cancer. NJP was successful in assisting the client in clarifying her rental history to the housing authority and the client's denial was reversed. The client has now moved out of the motel she had been staying in and moved into her own apartment.
- NJP's Bellingham office represented a mentally-disabled single mother when her local housing authority sought to evict her based on its claim that she allowed drug activity in her public housing apartment because of visits from known drug users. The woman lived near another apartment that did show signs of drug traffic. A police officer who was a liaison with the housing authority surmised that the apparent drug activity involved the client's apartment as well, in part because the client is a formerly homeless, recovering drug addict herself. She thus became the object of the police officer's suspicion and the housing authority's action. When the client was served with a lawsuit to evict her, an NJP CLEAR advocate helped draft her answer to the unlawful detainer complaint and then transferred her case to the Bellingham office for further representation. In preparation for a trial, NJP deposed the housing authority employee who had served as the hearing officer in her case and had denied the client's appeal. In the middle of the deposition, the housing authority's attorney decided to dismiss the eviction action after the hearing officer's statements made it clear that the client's fundamental due process rights had been grossly violated in the hearing process, and that there was a lack of reliable evidence that the client's apartment was involved in any drug activity. The client continues to live in affordable housing. The housing authority's attorney and program manager have agreed to begin discussions with NJP to reform the housing authority's decision-making and appeals processes.
- NJP's Bellingham office represented a domestic violence survivor whose local housing authority terminated her federal rental subsidy because of an alleged failure to report household income. The client had retained the family's subsidy when she and her husband had separated. The income in dispute had been earned by her now-estranged husband at a new job he started a few months before the couple separated. The client had reported her husband's new job, but the housing authority alleged that they had not reported earnings for at least a two-month period before she reported the job. The client thought she had made a timely and complete report, but she was also aware that the extreme stress and chaos she had been under possibly caused her to make some

procedural mistakes, and she understood that her husband may not have been honest with her about when he was working. NJP represented her at an appeal hearing with the housing authority and presented strong evidence of the domestic violence the client was dealing with from her husband at the time. The hearing officer reversed the termination and authorized continued rental support for the client.

- NJP's Bellingham office represented a 19-year-old single mother who lived with her young child, her own disabled mother and her adult brother in her mother's apartment. The client's mother was receiving a federal rental subsidy from her local housing authority as the head of the household. The housing authority terminated the client's mother's rental subsidy after the client's brother was arrested and charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and trespassing/domestic violence. The mother represented herself at a housing authority hearing, and her termination was upheld. During this period, the NJP client was on the verge of receiving her own rental assistance voucher so she and her child could live independently. However, the housing authority then denied the client her own voucher on the grounds that she had been part of her mother's household that was terminated for a program violation. NJP represented the client in appealing her own denial at hearing, arguing both that the client was not in any way at fault or able to prevent her brother's criminal activity, and questioning whether her mother's termination was valid since the crimes were not ones for which housing could be terminated. The client's denial was reversed at the hearing and she was granted her voucher to seek independent housing. Once NJP had concluded the daughter's representation, NJP then began representing the 19-year-old's mother and requested that the decision on the older woman's appeal be reversed. NJP wrote a demand letter to the housing authority noting that her son's criminal activity was not covered by the federal rule establishing the grounds for terminating a voucher for criminal activity, because the son's criminal activity occurred somewhere else off the property and did not affect the housing itself or endanger anyone near the housing, and because it did not fall within the rule's definition of violent criminal activity that would allow termination regardless of location of the activity. After reviewing the information from NJP, the local housing authority agreed to reverse the older woman's termination and to reinstate her rental subsidy since her son was not living with her anymore.
- NJP's Bellingham office assisted a 59-year-old disabled man in public housing when he received a notice from the housing authority terminating his tenancy for failure to pass inspections of his unit. After his unit failed on an initial inspection, he was given a follow-up inspection, on which he also failed. Both inspections identified extraordinarily excessive clutter which presented serious safety concerns and a potential fire hazard. After interviewing the client, NJP viewed his unit personally, and observed that he seemed overwhelmed to the point of panic about how to correct the situation. The state of the apartment led NJP to suspect that he might have a hoarding compulsion. NJP negotiated an agreement with the housing authority to arrange one more inspection. Then, based on research into the tenant's hoarding problems and on consultation with other advocates about similar cases, NJP helped him devise a step-by-step plan to put some items in storage in the garage of one of his friends, reorganize his many collections, and rearrange some furniture that would allow considerably more open space and unobstructed movement through the apartment. At the client's final inspection, the

housing authority decided its previous concerns had been remedied and then rescinded its termination notice.

- NJP's Everett office represented a domestic violence survivor who was faced with losing her housing because she received a 14 Day Notice for failure to pay rent and a 30 Day Notice for failure to pay charges for the replacement of her front door. Although the client was current with her monthly rent, the housing authority maintained that she owed \$1,000 over her monthly rent because it considered the client's babysitter to be an unauthorized guest. The housing authority also wanted the client to pay for the replacement of her front door which was damaged by an intruder. NJP successfully obtained a payment plan for the client with the housing authority and was able to get the housing authority to waive the cost for the replacement of the door.
- NJP's Everett office represented a tenant with a disabled child, who was faced with an eviction for failure to pay rent after being laid off from work. NJP successfully negotiated a move out agreement that provided the tenant with more time to move.
- NJP's Everett office represented a senior in jeopardy of losing her subsidized housing due to her difficulty meeting housekeeping standards and complying with inspection appointments. She requested legal services assistance after receiving a 10-day notice to comply or vacate. NJP assisted her in seeking an impartial hearing and reasonable accommodations for the client's disabilities that had contributed to the problems. The landlord agreed to extend the time for a reinspection to allow the client to get her apartment cleaned to meet standards, and agreed to requested accommodations. These included scheduling inspections for a regular time in advance, limiting additional unscheduled inspections, and setting up special procedures to ensure the client received actual advance notice of inspections. NJP also arranged for social service assistance to help the client maintain the apartment in the required condition for health and safety. The client passed the arranged follow-up inspection, and her subsidized housing tenancy was preserved.
- NJP's Everett office represented a disabled client who faced the termination of her federal housing rental assistance voucher after being on the program for over a decade without any problems with the housing authority. The client wrote several letters to the housing authority explaining that her daughter was staying with her and that she needed to know if the housing authority required anything else from her regarding the change of circumstances. Although the housing authority provided the client with conformed copies of all the letters she sent, the housing authority never responded. Once the client had her annual review several months later, the housing authority informed the client it was terminating her voucher because her daughter was living with her without their approval. NJP successfully negotiated an agreement and preserved the client's housing.
- Two attorneys from NJP's Longview office accompanied Longview's Lower Columbia Community Action Program to River City Mobile Home and RV Park to present tenant information to residents of the park. The park had given a twelve-month closure date but then did not close on the date promised. As a result, residents were being strung along with no certainty as to when or if they'd actually need to move. During this visit,

residents were advised of their rights under the Manufactured/Mobile Home Landlord Tenant Act. A resident also complained to NJP that the night previous, the park owner's security guard, with no authority of law, ordered him to immediately remove himself and his home from River City. The owner had falsely accused the resident of allowing his friends to scrap debris from torn-down homes. Not wanting to subject himself to unaffordable impound fees, the client towed his home to a pull-off down the street from the park, to a location outside of River City. His home was illegally 'parked' and the client was without utilities. NJP immediately filed a complaint and asked for and was granted a temporary order restraining the owner or his agents from interfering with the client both as he moved back into the park and then as he continued his tenancy by lawful use of the mobile home park. The owner restored the client's tenancy and agreed to a dismissal of his case without prejudice and without fees or costs. In the process of filing suit for the above-referenced displaced tenant, NJP went to River City to have another home owner sign a declaration indicating that she used her savings and borrowed from her employer to purchase a home for \$1500 during the twelve-month notice of closure period and weeks later was told she was duped because the park was closing and she was not going to be able to move her home out of the park. Because there were no notices at the entrance and exit to the park posting this information, she was completely unaware of the park's impending closure. She asked NJP to meet her at the park and also inquired as to whether she could bring along some of her friends who also were in need of legal information. When the NJP attorney arrived, there were approximately 50-60 adults and children, all wanting to speak to her. Although the group assembled across the street from the park, the owner and his very intimidating security guard came up to the group and inquired what the purpose of the gathering was, seemingly in an attempt to intimidate the residents from seeking legal information. After a second inquiry, this time from an agent of the owner, the group reassembled in NJP office where clients were given copies of El Faro Legal and advised of their rights under the Manufactured/Mobile Home Landlord-Tenant Act.

- NJP's Longview office represented a client at a show cause hearing on a guardianship case in which the guardian attempted to evict the client and the client's significant other through the guardianship process. NJP successfully litigated that a guardianship proceeding was an improper method of removing the client and that the guardian would need to pursue eviction through unlawful detainer proceedings. The guardian chose not to do this. Instead, the client was allowed to leave the home instead of face eviction. The guardian also planned to sell the client's belongings at an estate sale. NJP was able to obtain the client's personal belongings from the house.
- NJP's Longview office represented tenant in an eviction hearing. The landlord attempted to have a Writ of Restitution entered against the resident. NJP negotiated with the landlord so that if the client were, in fact, out of the home on a date certain, the landlord would not issue the Writ. The client vacated the home on the date agreed upon. Accordingly, the Writ was not filed and the client will not have this eviction on her record.
- NJP's Longview office assisted a tenant of a Longview mobile home park avoid eviction. The landlord gave the home owner an eviction notice. The client had affirmative defenses

under the MHLTA. Although the landlord should have offered the client a one-year lease, he was only offered a month to month tenancy. The landlord had the client waive his right to a one year lease within the lease agreement itself instead of in a separate writing, in violation of the MHLTA. Since the client no longer wished to stay in the community, the landlord agreed to drop the eviction so long as client agreed to be out by a date certain. The client agreed and the landlord also returned all of the tenant's deposit.

- A long-term resident of a Longview RV park complained to NJP's Longview office that his rent was being increased mid-way through his term of tenancy. Once NJP explained to the client this was an illegal rent increase, the owner responded by making unfounded allegations that the client did not own his home and then gave a second notice of rent increase indicating that the client's rent would be more than quadrupled. The client had also complained to the Attorney General's Manufactured Housing Dispute Resolution Program and after two months of NJP and the AG's office fighting with the owner, he finally accepted the tenant's rent.
- A Cowlitz County resident rented a mobile home from her ex-husband's family and had a month to month tenancy. She was served with a complaint for eviction but denied having been served with a copy of a 20-day notice. The client lived in the home for twenty years and gave the appearance of suffering from hoarding. NJP's Longview office negotiated an extended move-out date allowing the client to remove her possessions and find suitable housing.
- NJP's Olympia office provided advice and advocacy to a senior disabled woman who lives in subsidized housing. The management of the housing complex sent the client a 10 day notice to comply or vacate because she had a ferret as a pet. Management also overcharged the client for her monthly rent and would not refund her the money. The client made a complaint to HUD regarding the ferrets. HUD responded that the management could not prevent the client from having ferrets as pets if there were no state or local ordinances prohibiting the animals. The management agreed to permit her to have her ferret and finally refunded a majority of the overcharge.
- NJP's Olympia office represented a Mason County couple who were being threatened with an eviction. The couple had a federal housing assistance voucher which would have been terminated if a writ of restitution was ordered to evict them from their home. NJP was able to have the unlawful detainer action postponed while the clients found another place to live that accepted the voucher. NJP advocated with the Bremerton Housing Authority and the Department of Social and Health Services to ensure that the paperwork was completed to process their move to the new home.
- NJP's Port Angeles office was contacted by a senior pursuant to an eviction action that was filed against the person that he was living with. He was confused by the court action and NJP entered the case. A motion to dismiss the action was filed and in oral argument the attorney successfully argued that the opposing party lacked standing to bring the action since she was not the owner of the property nor did she act with the consent of the owner. The action was dismissed.

- A mobile home landlord brought three 10 day comply or vacate notices in quick succession against a long-term tenant with disabilities regarding the condition of the outside of her mobile home and her yard. The tenant objected because her home was in good order and met the standards of the park. She also objected because the landlord was demanding that she paint her aluminum walls that were designed to remain unpainted. The landlord had not offered her mediation services. Instead he filed an unlawful detainer action against her before the last 10 day period had even expired. NJP's Seattle office represented the client and raised the defenses of compliance and procedural defects against the landlord. He agreed to allow the tenant additional time to prepare the unit for sale, as she had decided to move to an apartment to be nearer to her family. The landlord struck the hearing, and proceeded no further against the tenant. The tenant received additional time to sell her unit and the landlord withdrew his demands for compliance with higher standards than were expected of other park residents. The matter was dismissed.
- NJP's Seattle office appeared on behalf of a mentally disabled tenant who was being evicted by default for refusing to allow the landlord to inspect his apartment and for starting a small fire on his cooking stove. The client was actively delusional and could not enter into a coherent conversation with anyone or appear at any hearing on his behalf. NJP petitioned the court to stay and vacate the writ of restitution and to appoint the client a guardian ad litem. The individual was involuntarily hospitalized while the matter was pending. When even a guardian ad litem proved insufficient to handle this individual's difficulties, the Adult Protective Services petitioned for a guardian of the person and of the estate for this individual. Ultimately, following the appointment of these guardians, the client was able to move to a care facility and the matter was resolved without resort to an eviction.
- Two attorneys from NJP's Spokane office, as part of the Spokane County Bar Association's Volunteer Lawyer Program's Housing Justice Project, represented many clients at show cause dockets who were facing issuance of writs of restitution and eviction. These clients obtained advice and consultation regarding the facts of their individual cases, and, in most cases, the NJP attorneys entered into negotiations on behalf of these clients with the respective landlords' attorneys. Where negotiations were attempted, the client was given significantly more time to vacate the premises and, in most cases, avoided entry of money judgments against them for unpaid rent and the costs and fees associated with the eviction lawsuit.
- NJP's Spokane office represented a husband and wife in a real property dispute in Stevens County involving the home that they built on land that they believed they were purchasing from a local ministry. The case was originally taken as a defense to an unlawful detainer action brought by the ministry against the client. That matter was dismissed with prejudice, and significant efforts were made over many months to reach a settlement of the issues between the parties without additional litigation. The opposing party hired three different attorneys in the course of this attempted settlement process, but no real progress was made in reaching a resolution of the matter. NJP filed suit against the opposing party for declaratory relief, specific performance, breach of contract and

unjust enrichment. A trial date has not been set yet, but a more vigorous settlement conversation has begun between the opposing party's new attorney and NJP.

- NJP's Spokane office represented a woman whose landlord sought to evict her due to false allegations by another tenant. NJP stopped the attempt to evict the client, and in doing so, preserved the client's federal housing assistance voucher. Despite the landlord's agreement not to pursue the eviction, the landlord sent the client several bills for hundreds of dollars in attorney's fees. NJP worked with the landlord's attorney to persuade them to stop sending the bills. The landlord also attempted, mid-lease term, to add an improper \$20 "garbage fee." NJP objected to this fee, and prevented the landlord from attempting to collect it and from following through on their threat to evict her for failing to pay it. NJP was ultimately successful in persuading the landlord to stop harassing the client with any unlawful financial demands.
- NJP's Tacoma office assisted a client with limited English proficiency in a federal housing assistance termination case in which Tacoma Housing Authority had provided inadequate notice of the reasons for termination. NJP represented the client at the review hearing, after which the hearing officer overturned the housing authority's decision to terminate. Housing for the client and her son was preserved.
- Updating a case reported in the last advocacy report, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law were entered following a trial in an unlawful detainer action in which NJP's Tacoma office represented a formerly homeless veteran with mental disabilities who was evicted from his federal housing assistance Moderate Rehabilitation SRO based on a 3-day nuisance notice alleging that the tenant had threatened other tenants and caused excessive noise. Both before and during trial, the judge ruled against motions to dismiss due to insufficiency of notice for failing to comply with federal law and lease requirements and due to waiver. The case will be appealed to Division II.
- NJP's Walla Walla office obtained summary judgment in a case involving a disabled woman who had lost title to her home in a foreclosure rescue scam. Due to a pending foreclosure, the woman signed over title to the house to a person who represented they would help her with the foreclosure. They then attempted to evict her and take sole possession of the home and its substantial equity. NJP represented the client at the eviction and filed an action to undue the fraudulent scheme. At summary judgment, NJP quieted title in the client and obtained a monetary award for damages
- NJP's Walla Walla office represented a family of two who had been displaced by renovation work at their apartment. The landlord had cut their telephone and television service out and informed the tenants they would need to immediately leave so the landlord could renovate the unit. NJP represented the client and obtained a settlement where the client received \$4000 in relocation assistance.
- NJP's Walla Walla office assisted a mentally ill man with his utilities issue, which in turn preserved his housing. The client was distraught, as the power company had increased the amount of his payments under his equal payment plan. As a result, he was failing to pay the bill and was living with virtually no use of electricity. Because of this, he was in

jeopardy of losing his housing. NJP was able to negotiate with the power company to reduce his payment amount to the original amount he was accustomed to. The client then felt comfortable paying the bill and using his electricity.

- NJP's Walla Walla office represented a woman who was excessively billed for move out charges by the local housing authority. The client had assistance in cleaning her apartment. It was clear by witness statements that she had cleaned her apartment very thoroughly, such that one of the inspectors commented that it was the cleanest apartment he had seen. The housing authority submitted a bill for over \$400 in cleaning charges. After extensive negotiation, the housing authority agreed to remove all move out charges.
- NJP's Omak office continues to represent a senior living alone in a mobile home on land she rented for 18 years. The landlord lost the land to foreclosure without informing the client. The foreclosing corporation, an internationally active mortgage loan servicer also known as OCWEN, failed to provide notice to the tenants including the client. The court held that Bank of New York (OCWEN) did not provide notice of compliant with the foreclosure statute. The Bank of New York again commenced foreclosure proceedings but stopped before the foreclosure auction was completed. .
- NJP's Omak office represents a senior tribal member regarding foreclosure by a lender against trust land. The lender alleges that the client's sister put up the family's original land allotment as collateral for refinance of a personal loan before she passed away. The lender made no claim during probate, but now brought foreclosure proceedings in tribal court. The client is one of the two surviving siblings of five, who owned the land that is at a cross roads, contains timber, and is crossed by a creek.
- NJP's Omak office defended a vulnerable adult from financial exploitation and mental abuse by her son. The client is a 78 year old widow whose son suddenly reentered her life after a 20 year absence. The son convinced the client to sign over her property to him on the promise that he would look after her, allow her to continue to live in her house and pay off the credit card debt from her late husband. Immediately after receiving title to the land the son started attempting to constructively evict the client. The son turned off the irrigation water for the property, causing the shallow well to run dry and an increasing fire hazard as all the vegetation on the property withered. The son then attempted to prevent family members from entering the property by threatening legal action. The client cannot drive and is reliant upon these family members for basic necessities. The threatening nature of the son's correspondence and actions made the client afraid for her physical safety. NJP represented the client in obtaining a vulnerable adult protection order that secured a life estate in the property for the client and protects her from her son. NJP is now assisting the client to rescind the deed to her property and return it to her name.
- NJP's Wenatchee office continues to advocate on behalf of a group of clients, many of whom are low-income seniors, for the creation of affordable housing in the Wenatchee Valley. On behalf of the client group NJP filed a petition with the Growth Management Hearings Board challenging the City of Wenatchee's Comprehensive Plan for its failure to adequately address the need for affordable housing for all economic segments of the

population. Since the filing of the Petition, the City has hired a national affordable housing expert as a consultant. In response to the consultant's report, the City is now in the process of determining what measures to take to achieve greater equity in affordable housing in the City.

- NJP's Wenatchee office represented a disabled senior defending himself in an eviction action. Before the client contacted NJP, the landlord's attorney had already obtained a Writ of Restitution ordering the sheriff to evict the client. Once NJP received the case, however, and before the writ was executed, the attorney detected a procedural error on the part of the landlord. The landlord's attorney agreed to quash the writ and dismiss the eviction action.
- NJP's Wenatchee office successfully defended a client against being evicted from the mobile home park in which he had lived for roughly twenty-five years. The client lives in a 200 space mobile home park governed by more than seven pages of rules, many of which do not comply with the Mobile Home Landlord Tenant Act. The managers took a dislike to the client, and chose to enforce a vague rule having to do with the appearance of his mobile home lot. Meanwhile, NJP and the client documented dozens and dozens of non-complying mobile home lots in the park. After a half day of trial, NJP won the dismissal of the case through a motion arguing that the landlord had accepted the client's rent after service of the non-compliance notices, and had therefore waived its right to evict the client.
- NJP's Wenatchee office successfully protected a family from a potential judgment of thousands of dollars. The single mother was referred to NJP after an order of eviction was entered against her for non-payment of rent. She had appeared pro-se and was unable to present her defense that rent was not owing because the house was unfit for human habitation. After the judge issued the eviction order, he set the matter for trial to determine how much money the tenant owed the landlord for rent, and damages to the rental unit. NJP then entered an appearance. After entry of the writ evicting the client, however, the local code enforcement officer inspected the home and promptly condemned it, declaring the home dangerous and unsuitable for occupancy. Before trial, however, based on NJP's work developing the facts of the case, a settlement agreement was reached, and the case was dismissed without any damages or attorney's fees being awarded to the landlord.
- NJP's Wenatchee office secured funds to relocate a client who was about to become homeless. The client lived in a travel trailer located in a yard of a home. The city inspected the unit, and determined that the trailer has been placed on the property without a permit, that it was not suitable as a permanent dwelling, and the tenant had to vacate. NJP wrote a demand letter to the landlord citing that portion of the Residential Landlord Tenant Act that requires a landlord to pay, in this case, \$2,000 to relocate the tenant. The landlord agreed to pay the client \$2,000. Without this payment the client would have been unable to pay a deposit, first month's rent, and to start up utility services at a new rental unit.

- Through representation in a probate action, NJP's Wenatchee office secured a client's interest in her deceased spouse's estate, including the family home. The client is a disabled senior whose husband passed away intestate. The husband's sisters claimed that their brother's marriage to NJP's client was invalid, the client had no interest in the deceased's estate, and the sisters were therefore the sole heirs. NJP entered an appearance in the probate matter. NJP argued that the marriage was valid. The client's husband had undergone surgery, additional medical treatment, and extensive counseling in order to become a woman.
- NJP's Yakima office is assisting a family that is being evicted from their mobile home because their service/therapy animal violates the park's NO PET policy. The case involves an unlawful detainer action in Superior Court and a fair housing discrimination complaint filed by the family because a family member suffers from a disability and is in need of a service/therapy animal.
- NJP's Yakima office represented a vulnerable senior who bought a house with her son, and her son stripped her off the title and proceeded to strip the equity out of the house. The case settled with the client receiving the remaining equity in the house.
- NJP's Yakima office represented a single mother in a bankruptcy proceeding in order to assert an automatic stay to avoid an eviction from a mobile home park. The client owned the mobile home free and clear and the only basis for eviction was non-payment of rent which the mother had tendered but which was rejected because the 3-day period had run. The bankruptcy is on-going.

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

- NJP's Longview office was contacted by a mentally disabled man who was denied access to a local club that serves as a venue for disabled persons to work, do group therapy, learn life skills and have social opportunities. After several months and many telephone calls to the owner of the club, the manager of the club, the client's caseworker and the client, the local club finally reinstated the client's use privileges.
- NJP's Olympia office helped an elderly man in a Thurston County assisted living facility when he received a discharge notice because he had not paid his full bill. The facility had increased their private pay (non-Medicaid) rate by several hundred dollars per month. They were willing to keep the client at the facility if he qualified for Medicaid, but his income was too high for Medicaid. However, it was not high enough to pay the new facility rate. NJP confirmed that the Medicaid denial was correct and then negotiated with the facility for a lower private pay rate. The facility was reluctant to take the rate the client could offer. After NJP pointed out that the offer was higher than what the facility would have agreed to take from Medicaid, the facility accepted the client's offer and rescinded the discharge notice.
- NJP's Port Angeles office is representing a Makah Tribal member in a probate action filed in superior court. The client's son tragically died in a car accident and a dispute

arose between the son's significant other and the family over probate of the son's estate. NJP entered the case and successfully negotiated a settlement that gave administrative control over the estate to the Tribal member and transferred certain property to the significant other.

- NJP's Seattle DV Project represented a client who is deaf, of Nigerian descent, and for whom American Sign Language is not the first language. The client had only been in the United States for a very short time. She needed an Order for Protection as the result of repeated emotional, physical and sexual abuse by her roommate. The client had been raped repeatedly, almost daily, by her roommate for months. She was isolated, with no access to resources to escape the abusive environment in which she lived. After the client finally fled the abuse, her roommate began stalking her. The client was in fear for her physical safety. The client filed a Petition for an Order for Protection pro se. The Petition was denied at the Return Hearing. There were several errors committed by the Commissioner during that hearing, and these errors warranted filing a Motion for Revision. NJP filed the Motion on behalf of the client and represented the client at her Motion for Revision hearing. The client was granted an Order for Protection. However, the abuser, through his attorney, filed a Motion for Reconsideration of the Revision Order granting the Protection Order. The Motion for Reconsideration was denied. The client's Order for Protection remained in place.
- NJP's Seattle DV Project represented a client who is from the Philippines. The client was compelled to leave her family in the Philippines because she became pregnant. After the client arrived in the United States, her husband isolated, exploited, and physically abused her. She fled the abusive relationship, and her husband later filed for dissolution of marriage. NJP represented her in that action. The client and her husband have one child in common, and the parenting was contested. The husband had abused the client in front of their child. The husband had subjected his previous wife, who was also from the Philippines, to the same type of abuse. The husband had also abducted his oldest child from that prior marriage. NJP represented the client at her trial, where the father appeared pro se and attempted to manipulate the legal system. The father was only allowed supervised visitation with the child, was prohibited from taking the child outside of the State of Washington, and was ordered to complete a psychological evaluation, domestic violence perpetrator treatment, and parenting classes. He then filed a Motion for Reconsideration of the Court's entire ruling. The motion was denied.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a wheelchair-bound woman whose request for arranged transportation services (called "Shuttle" locally) in lieu of using the fixed-route bus system had been denied by Pierce Transit. The client's extremely narrow range of vision meant that her depth perception was similarly limited, making it virtually impossible for her to navigate down a wheelchair ramp at the regular bus stop without assistance. Pierce Transit initially denied her request on the basis that drivers often offer such assistance. However, such assistance is not required of bus drivers, who may not have time to provide it in every instance. After an administrative hearing the agency reversed its position, agreeing to provide full Shuttle eligibility to the woman.

- NJP's Tacoma office represented a Western State Hospital patient in an administrative hearing regarding the denial of his eligibility for services through the Division of Developmental Disabilities. NJP was successful in convincing the Division that they had erred in their determination that he was not eligible and settled the matter shortly before hearing. This provided the client access to special services geared towards developmentally disabled patients at the hospital and will increase his options for community placement should he satisfy discharge criteria.
- NJ's Tacoma office assisted a developmentally disabled man who had his in-home care hours reduced by the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). NJP assisted the client in obtaining a new assessment. The new assessment resulted in an increase in the client's in-home care hours.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a mentally retarded long-term Western State Hospital patient in an administrative hearing to appeal the DSHS Division of Developmental Disabilities' denial of his request to allow his discharge from the state mental hospital to a DDD-run Residential Habilitation Center. The parties are currently involved in settlement negotiations based on DDD's recent agreement to seek an appropriately structured and supervised DDD-funded community-based placement for the client as an alternative to continued institutionalization.
- NJP's Tacoma office represented a mentally retarded Western State Hospital patient in Thurston County Superior Court to seek judicial review of a DSHS final agency order terminating the client's eligibility for services provided by the DSHS Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD). In April 2008, the Superior Court Judge issued a Final Order reversing the termination of the client's DDD eligibility. The court's reversal of the DDD eligibility termination in this case has allowed planning to begin for the client's discharge from the state psychiatric hospital to an appropriately structured and supervised DDD-funded community-based placement.
- NJP's Tacoma office has sought judicial review in the Superior Court of Thurston County from a DSHS Board of Appeals (BOA) decision upholding an ALJ decision terminating eligibility for Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) benefits for a patient at Western State Hospital. This previously reported case involved a diagnosis of Alcohol Related Neurodevelopmental Disorder (ARND), which the ALJ ruled was not a medically recognized diagnosis. The BOA upheld the ALJ decision finding no errors. A petition for judicial review has been filed.
- NJP's Tacoma office recently helped an elderly woman obtain United States citizenship through the naturalization process. USCIS had previously been denied this individual's application for citizenship due to her inability to pass the required English and Civics examinations. Evidence from her treating physicians, however, demonstrated that her medical impairments prevented her from being able to learn and retain new information. As a result, the client applied to USCIS for a disability waiver of the examination requirements. Although USCIS initially denied the client's waiver request, NJP was able to obtain a reversal of this decision at hearing. USCIS subsequently approved the client's disability waiver, and she is now a naturalized citizen.

- NJP’s Vancouver office assisted a limited English speaker who failed to understand and so failed to respond to a state-initiated parentage action that sought to name him the father of a child who was not, in fact, his. NJP vacated the default orders against the client, who ultimately was relieved of any ongoing obligation to the child.
- NJP’s Vancouver office helped a Clark County senior immigrant couple from Eritrea to retain their General Assistance and medical assistance benefits after the local DSHS office terminated these benefits based on a misinterpretation of the agency’s rules for “deeming” a portion of their immigration-sponsor son’s income as if it were his parents’. The couple had adjusted their status to Legal Permanent Residents under their son’s sponsorship after their home and all other property were destroyed or stolen as part of civil strife that occurred while they were visiting their U.S. citizen son and his family. NJP pointed out to DSHS that its rules provided for no deeming of the son’s income beyond five years after he signed his affidavit to support them.

NATIVE AMERICAN UNIT (NAU)

Family Stability

- NJP’s NAU represented a client who had filed a parentage action in Tribal Court. The other parent, represented by counsel, subsequently filed an identical action in state court and noted a hearing for temporary orders. After the NAU raised the issue of the court’s jurisdiction and requested that the state court communicate with the tribal court judge as to jurisdiction, both the state superior court commissioner and the tribal court judge determined that they had proper jurisdiction to hear the parentage case and the state court denied the client’s motion to dismiss the state court proceeding. The client and the NAU worked with the opposing party on the substantive issues and ultimately the parties entered an agreed parenting plan and child support orders in tribal court.

FARM WORKER UNIT - STATEWIDE (FWU)

Economic Security (Employment)

- NJP’s Wenatchee-based FWU continues to represent a farm worker from Mexico with his industrial insurance claim. The client, who came to Washington State pursuant to an H-2A temporary agricultural worker visa, sustained a serious infection after several ladder accidents. The employer claimed that the injury was not work related. NJP submitted evidence that the injury was work related, after which the Department ordered the self-insured employer to grant the worker’s industrial insurance claim. The self-insured employer recently appealed the Department’s order to the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals. NJP is co-counseling the appeal with a private law firm that is providing pro-bono legal representation. As a result of NJP’s in the case, the Department recently ordered the self-insured employer to pay the worker an additional \$500 dollars for its prior delay in paying time loss.

- NJP’s Yakima-based FWU, working with private co-counsel, settled a case brought on behalf of nine Mexican farm workers who worked last year as H-2A guest workers in Washington State. The clients alleged that the company failed to adequately disclose the production standards at its orchards and imposed higher standards than were customary in the industry. The clients were fired in 2007 for failing to meet these productivity standards. The parties disputed whether the productivity standards were lawful and properly disclosed. The clients also brought a collective action wage claim under the Fair Labor Standards Act on behalf of themselves and all other Mexican guest workers employed by the company in 2007. The clients’ collective action wage claim was based on federal minimum wage law and recent court decisions defining how net wages received by workers in the first week of employment are calculated. If, after deducting certain pre-employment expenses incurred by the worker, the worker’s net wages fall below the federal minimum wage, courts have held that the difference must be paid by the employer. As a result, employers may be required to reimburse certain expenses that guest workers incur to come to the United States under the H-2A program, such as transportation and visa costs. Under the settlement, the approximately 600 H-2A guest workers employed by the company in 2007 who choose to participate in the settlement and submit timely claims will be entitled to receive payments averaging about \$170 per worker. The company denied that it violated any of the H-2A program requirements or other laws.
- NJP’s Yakima-based FWU is assisting a couple who were fired from their employment because the employer suspected that the couple had been responsible for filing a complaint about health and safety the previous year. The couple had been employed by the employer for about six years. The couple was allowed to finish the 2007 season, but when work started again they were not given work.
- NJP’s Yakima-based FWU is investigating a wage claim on behalf of several farm workers who are owed wages from an out of state company for their work harvesting pollen from Eastern Washington fruit orchards.
- NJP’s FWU is working with the Department of Labor and Industries to improve access of injured H-2A temporary guest workers from Mexico to the industrial insurance system, both while they are in Washington state and once they return to their home country.

NJP’S CONTRACT ATTORNEY PROGRAM (CAP)

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

Civil Rights/Access to Justice

- NJP’s CLEAR helped a developmentally disabled mother obtain court-appointed representation in a custody matter. The child lived with the father until last year. The father has been emotionally abusive and neglectful to the child for several years and

finally kicked the child out of his home last year. The child's teacher and counselor noticed that the child was doing better in school after moving in with the client. The father filed an action to obtain custody of the child after the client requested child support. The client was not able to fill out the responsive paperwork and represent herself in the action, nor was she able to obtain pro bono representation. NJP drafted a GR 33 request to ask that an attorney be appointed for the client in the action as a reasonable accommodation. The client's request was granted and the client is being represented by an attorney free of charge in the modification case.

Consumer and Debt

- NJP's CLEAR helped a disabled man preserve his subsistence income after he was served with court papers in a collection action. His only source of income is SSI but he did not know that these benefits are exempt from garnishment. NJP assisted the client in preparing an Exemption Claim Form to file with the court so that the creditor would not be able to garnish any exempt income from his bank account.
- A disabled client with serious mental health issues contacted NJP's CLEAR because he was being sued for \$10,000 on a credit card. The client's income of about \$300 per month precluded his ability to pay the debt. NJP helped the client enter a Notice of Appearance so that he was not defaulted in the lawsuit, and to prepare exemption claim forms so that his limited public benefits income would not be garnished.
- NJP successfully had a client's SSI income returned to her after it was garnished from her bank account. The client never received notice of the garnishment because she moved and therefore was not notified of her exemption claim rights. NJP prepared a motion to vacate the order but prior to filing it, the collection agency's attorney agreed to return the exempt income that had been garnished.

Economic Stability (Employment)

- NJP's CLEAR assisted a client in obtaining the L&I funds that were owed to her. The client's child's father received L&I income and L&I had been setting aside a percentage of that income each month for the child, but it had not yet been paid to the mother. NJP contacted L&I and arranged for the disbursement of the funds to the client. The client received over \$4,000 shortly thereafter.
- NJP's CLEAR helped a woman be reinstated in her job as a personal care assistant following a background check that turned up a finding of neglect of a child. The finding was from 2002 and was related to one of the client's grade school age children who often refused to attend school. Later, the child was diagnosed as having special needs and was able to successfully attend an alternative school. The client never received notice of the 2002 CPS finding of neglect and did not know it existed. She began working as a caregiver and passed at least one background check. A few years later when another background check was performed, the CPS finding of neglect from 2002 appeared on her record. NJP advised the client to appeal the finding. The client filed an administrative hearing request, and worked with NJP to prepare her evidence for the hearing. A few

days before the hearing date, the department determined the neglect was unfounded and the client was reinstated in her position.

Economic Stability (Public Benefits)

- NJP's CLEAR DV assisted a victim of domestic violence secure public assistance benefits after going through a confidential identity name change for herself and her two children. The client applied for public benefits and was required to provide proof of citizenship or lose her benefit. The client was unable to provide any of the required documentation that the state wanted because the family's birth certificates no longer matched their new names. The client did not want to release her sealed name change order to the state agency to document her status. NJP worked through the issue with a representative of the Department of Social and Health Services to provide another method of documentation to show that the client and her children were in fact citizens. The client was able to continue to receive public benefits.
- Family Safety and Security
- NJP's CLEAR assisted a client and her child, both wards of the state of Illinois, in fighting a restraining order filed by the paternal grandmother with whom the child was placed temporarily while the client complied with CPS in Illinois. After fulfilling all requirements in Illinois, the client flew to Washington to legally retrieve the child and discovered that the grandmother had filed a restraining order with a return date almost two weeks later, leaving the client stranded in Washington. CLEAR and the Family Law Facilitator in Pierce County assisted the client with two motions to shorten time, and with a response to the restraining order. The client finally had the restraining order dismissed, was reunited with her child and returned to Illinois.
- An NJP CLEAR advocate participating in the King County Mentor Program conducted a trial on a dissolution case for a victim of domestic violence. The trial was successful in attaining the client's goal, and the judge awarded a parenting plan that was even more restrictive and protective than what the client had requested. The judge also awarded her an Order for Protection lasting five years.
- NJP's CLEAR helped a woman regain residential time with her children. The client contacted CLEAR eight days before her dissolution trial. Under the temporary order, the client was not supposed to have any residential time with the children. The client had stopped using drugs and gotten into treatment, however, she had not prepared for trial and had no evidence regarding her successful rehabilitation, her parenting skills, or her current home environment. NJP assisted the client with obtaining a continuance of her trial, helped her draft a pre-trial statement, and advised her about presenting her case at trial. At the trial a month later, the client obtained a parenting plan that gave her unsupervised, regular contact with the children.
- A child who was given a confidential identity change to escape an abuser wanted to get a new birth certificate in her new name and remove the abusive father's name from her birth certificate as his parental rights had been terminated years ago for sexually

molesting her. NJP's CLEAR contacted the vital statistics office, learned that they would treat this client as a protected witness and would remove her birth certificate from its original location in the general files, issue her a new certificate and place it in a protected area of the state registrar. The client's child received a new certificate accordingly.

Education

- NJP's CLEAR helped a mother obtain an Independent Educational Evaluation for her disabled son. The client was concerned that the Marysville School District would limit her son's education if it was successful in classifying him as developmentally disabled. The proposed classification was based on testing for a deaf child, though the child was not deaf. The mother refused to sign the school district's evaluation and proposed Individual Education plan because it was flawed and she instead requested an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE). The district refused the IEE and served the mother with notice of a due process hearing. NJP had the client request a continuance based on procedural defects discovered upon reviewing the documents and request mediation with the school district. NJP advised the client to gather specific kinds of evidence to support her claim, including letters from current/past teachers who could attest to her son's skills and progress, and a request to the school district to provide her with their guidelines on what kinds of tests are given to students who require testing to see if these guidelines could reveal that her son was improperly given a test for a deaf student. NJP also advised the client to get a letter from her doctor stating that her son is neither deaf nor developmentally disabled. The client attended a mediation meeting and presented all the above-mentioned evidence. The school district's attorney reviewed it and at the end of the meeting, agreed to have the school district pay for a complete, independent IEE for the client's son.

Health

- NJP's CLEAR assisted a monolingual Spanish-speaking woman to obtain medical coupons for treatment and therapy for breast cancer. The woman had previously received medical coupons but after her yearly review she stopped receiving the coupons. The woman had received notice that she had qualified for another year of medical benefits. The woman was unsuccessful in communicating with the local DSHS office and was unable to determine why her medical coupons stopped after she was notified that she qualified for another year. NJP contacted the medical benefits department at DSHS to determine what was holding up the woman's coupons. The advocate was able to determine that the medical coupons were being withheld until the woman complied with a spenddown. CLEAR was able to help resolve the spenddown issue and was sent a copy of the woman's medical coupon. The medical coupon was then forwarded to the woman's medical providers and the client.
- A monolingual Russian-speaking senior and his wife were being charged for Medicare premiums even though they both received SSI benefits. DSHS had been paying their premiums through the Medical Savings Plan program, but when the client went to North Carolina to visit his daughter and applied for medical assistance while he was there, the benefits were terminated in Washington. When he returned to Washington, he was unable

to get reinstated to the MSP program in Washington and Medicare started charging him for the premium. NJP's CLEAR worked with DSHS in Olympia to terminate the benefits being received through North Carolina and to enroll the client in the Washington DSHS program that covers the cost of Medicare premiums for him and his wife.

Preservation of Housing & Habitability

- NJP's CLEAR helped a disabled woman maintain her subsidized housing after she received a letter from the Longview Housing Authority stating that her federal housing assistance benefits would be terminated if she did not pay a damage claim made by her former landlord. NJP helped the client write a letter to the Housing Authority and the former landlord, advising them that she would be willing to pay for damages but first needed the landlord to supply the move-in and move-out inspection reports and proof of any damages claimed. The former landlord never responded to NJP's request for documentation, and the client is still receiving her housing benefits.
- A woman contacted NJP's CLEAR after she had difficulties transferring a federal rental assistance voucher from California to Washington. The woman had fled California with her five children to escape an abusive relationship. Her application for housing assistance with the Snohomish County Housing Authority had been delayed because the Sacramento Housing Authority had failed to provide necessary documentation for transfer of the voucher. As a result, the client and her children were living in a hotel. After NJP contacted both the Sacramento Housing Authority and the Snohomish County Housing Authority, the necessary paperwork went through and the woman was approved for housing assistance.
- NJP's CLEAR helped a client secure funds to repair the roof on her home. The client had received a rural development grant for \$7,500 during the 1990s to fix the roof on her manufactured home. At the time, the roof repair cost \$5,000. When the client called CLEAR in 2008 there were additional repairs that the client needed to make to the roof, but she was not able to afford to pay for the repairs and wanted to access the remaining funds from her rural development grant. After substantial research, staff members at the Department of Agriculture, which administers the grant, were unable to locate the records for the client's original grant. Despite the lack of records, the staff was willing to process the client's application as an application for the remaining \$2,500 of the rural development grant. By the middle of June a Department of Agriculture staff member had made a site visit to the client's house and was ready to provide the client with the \$2,500 grant and a loan for any additional funds necessary to ensure the proper work would be completed on the client's roof.
- NJP's CLEAR helped a client preserve her tenancy after her rent check, along with others, was stolen from an apartment complex drop box. The client's money order was later improperly altered and cashed by a third party. Despite the fact that the manager of the apartment complex acknowledged that the drop box had been broken into, he served the client with a three-day pay-or-vacate notice. NJP contacted the attorney for the apartment complex in an attempt to clarify the situation. After the apartment management consulted with their attorney, the management drew up an agreement with the client

rescinding the pay-or-vacate notice and permitting the client to pay the back due amount of rent once the client had been refunded the money from the improperly cashed money order.

- NJP's CLEAR helped a disabled client obtain a negotiated settlement that averted an eviction for non-payment of rent. Fearful of an Internal Revenue Service letter demanding payment for back income taxes, the client used her entire Social Security income to begin paying the bill. For two months the client did not pay her rent. NJP negotiated a settlement in which a social service agency paid the client's rent and late fees, the client would pay the attorney fees and costs in two monthly payments and the landlord's attorney withdrew the eviction notice.
- A man contacted NJP's CLEAR*Sr about his inability to find permanent housing. Landlords were rejecting his applications for tenancy because of an unpaid bill to a former landlord. As a result, for a year and a half the client had been living in a motel. NJP negotiated with the collection agency to reduce the debt and arrange for payments. After a few months, the client had completely paid the bill and a barrier to finding permanent housing was removed.
- NJP's CLEAR assisted a client with drafting and filing a response to an Unlawful Detainer complaint. The client suffered from memory loss, which in part led to her landlord attempting to evict her. The client had been served with a 20 day notice terminating her tenancy, but the client did not remember when she was served with the notice or when her 20 days had expired. The client was willing to move out of the unit, but she needed more time to allow for her to receive her Social Security funds. NJP also drafted and submitted a reasonable accommodation letter on behalf of the client due to her disability. NJP worked with NJP's Spokane office to ensure that client's response was timely filed and submitted to the opposing counsel. The Spokane office was able to negotiate additional time for the client in the rental unit before she had to move out.
- NJP's CLEAR helped preserve a tenancy for a mother and special needs child with sensory issues. A new neighbor moved to the client's building recently, bringing with him a great deal of noise. After the client complained about the noise problems and explained how they were affecting her child, the landlord gave the client a notice terminating her tenancy. The client had no money for a deposit and moving would have been a great hardship. NJP advised the client to send a letter asserting that the notice was retaliatory and asking that the landlord rescind the notice. NJP followed up with the landlord and the landlord agreed to rescind the termination notice in writing.

CLIENT & COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING

ABERDEEN

- NJP's Aberdeen office held its first legal clinic in Taholah, on the Quinault Indian Nation reservation. This clinic was focused on family law issues.

- NJP’s Aberdeen office has commenced monthly meal site visits in Grays Harbor County pursuant to its Olympic Area Agency on Aging contract. This quarter’s visits included Aberdeen Senior Center, Westport Senior House and the Taholah Senior Program’s monthly tribal elders’ dinner at the Quinault Resort in Ocean Shores. Presentations are made to the senior population about NJP and how to access its services, as well as more in depth information about other legal issues.
- NJP’s Aberdeen office contacted the 13 branches of the Timberland Library in Grays Harbor and Pacific counties and now provides each with pamphlets and posters on how to access NJP/CLEAR services. NJP has commenced making presentations at various branches on substantive areas of law or topics of interest. In April, NJP delivered a presentation on our services and the legal system to 41 ESL students and teachers at a “Talk Time” event at the Aberdeen Timberland Library.
- NJP’s Aberdeen office completed filming its first season of its “Legal Education Series” at North Beach Community TV, hosted by the Aberdeen office’s senior attorney. This series, currently being edited for release, consists of seven half hour segments on various legal topics. The guests and discussions include two NJP Aberdeen family law attorneys, one NJP Seattle consumer law attorney, one NJP Seattle housing law attorney, one Columbia Legal Services Seattle attorney specializing in manufactured homes and one attorney from TeamChild Seattle specializing in education law. North Beach Community TV educational productions are viewed on Eagle TV on Comcast cable, which serves the entire Grays Harbor county area.
- NJP’s Aberdeen office was invited to have a table at a Community Forum hosted by the Division of Children & Family Services. Wendy Carpenter, legal assistant for NJP Aberdeen, attended this forum and provided information about NJP and how to access its services.
- The Olympic Area Agency on Aging invited NJP Aberdeen to speak at the Pacific County Fall Prevention event. An Aberdeen office attorney presented information to the senior population about NJP and how to access its services, as well as more in depth information about other legal issues.
- NJP’s Aberdeen office was invited to have a table at the Shoalwater Bay Tribe Health Fair in Tokeland in Pacific County.
- NJP’s Aberdeen office provided 50 complimentary copies of the National Consumer Law Center’s *Guide to Surviving Debt* (2006 ed.) with Washington supplements to its partner providers around Pacific and Grays Harbor counties, including WorkSource, DSHS, Employment Security, Olympic Area Agency on Aging, NeighborWorks, Coastal Community Action Program, Domestic Violence Center of Gray Harbor, Crisis Support Network, Goodwill, Gray Harbor College, Timberland Library (13 branches), Housing Authority for Grays Harbor, Shoalwater Bay Wellness Center, Behavior Health Services, and 2-1-1.

BELLINGHAM

- Attorneys from the NJP Bellingham office distributed information on legal rights for farm workers and answered questions at a public gathering following a Farm Worker Solidarity March in Skagit County.

CLEAR

- NJP's CLEAR assisted in planning and preparing a seminar for the 2008 Access to Justice Conference. The seminar presented at the ATJ conference was titled Pro Se Parties: Minimizing Difficulties Faced by Pro Se Individuals in Courts and Administrative Tribunals. NJP sits on the ATJ Pro Se Committee and as a member of the committee assisted with the preparation of the seminar. The advocate was involved in the presentation by providing an overview of CLEAR. The seminar was well attended and provided insight into the problems faced by pro se litigants and how the courts and administrative law judges can improve pro se access to their forums.

EVERETT

- NJP's Everett office continues its outreach to educate community organizations about consumer law issues affecting our clients. This quarter at a Salvation Army meeting NJP led a discussion that focused heavily on debt collection and auto sales abuses.
- An attorney in NJP's Everett office provided training to new volunteers for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program serving Snohomish County clients. The training included information about substitute healthcare decision-making, guardianships, powers of attorney, and directives to physicians.
- An Everett staff attorney participated as a trainer in a community education program designed by the Area Agency on Aging for Snohomish County. The event was attended by over 100 people, including Council on Aging members and many seniors residing in Snohomish County. The program included information about healthcare decision-making, guardianship, powers of attorney, and directives to physicians.

FARM WORKER UNIT (FWU)

- NJP's Wenatchee-based FWU made a presentation to a group of farm workers at the Quincy Community Health Center concerning employment rights, field sanitation, workers' compensation and wage law. The group had an opportunity to ask questions about their rights in the workplace and raise concerns about uncompensated travel time, abusive treatment by supervisors and failure to pay wages at the promised rate. Most of the 30 farm workers that attended the meeting are employed in area orchards and packing sheds.
- NJP's FWU has begun a series of community presentations in conjunction with the Northwest Fair Housing Alliance focusing on the rights of tenants and fair housing issues. The Catholic Diocese of Yakima has invited NJP to continue doing these

presentations at their various housing complexes in Central Washington. So far, presentations have been held in Mattawa and Toppenish.

- NJP's FWU published the 2008 edition of the Spanish language farm worker newspaper *El Faro Legal*. With help from throughout the legal services community this amazing outreach tool is now being passed out in outreach efforts throughout the state. *El Faro* provides information to farm workers including contact information for community resources, and their rights with regard to minimum wage, employment discrimination, domestic violence and other helpful information.
- NJP's Omak office distributed information this quarter in Okanagan County about food banks and distributed the NJP Spanish language informational newspaper, *El Faro Legal*.
- NJP's Yakima FWU has been participating in the recently formed Yakima County Asset Building Coalition. This quarter the coalition collaborated on a grass roots effort to increase access of low income residents to free tax preparation services and to the Earned Income Tax Credit. The Coalition has now been awarded a planning grant to support an Americorps volunteer to staff the EITC campaign in 2009, as well as to conduct an inventory of existing asset building services in the county to help the coalition plan.
- NJP farm worker advocates, community workers and summer interns, in collaboration with advocates from Columbia Legal Services, began another summer intensive schedule of visiting migrant labor camps to provide information about workers' legal rights. A cold spring throughout the state delayed the start of this outreach effort until well into June.

LONGVIEW

- NJP Longview and The Fair Housing Center of Washington jointly conducted a training for about twenty local social service providers. NJP's training in basic landlord-tenant law was designed to complement the Fair Housing Center's focus on discrimination and reasonable accommodation issues.

NATIVE AMERICAN UNIT (NAU)

- NJP's NAU, in collaboration with staff members in other NJP field offices, coordinated a two-day training for new Washington State legal services advocates on Indian and tribal law issues. The program provided an overview on the history of federal Indian policy and case law, jurisdiction issues that arise in tribal, state and federal law, and a primer on the tribal court system in Washington State. On the second day, a mock tribal court case was introduced and the advocates participated in preparing and arguing a tribal court motion hearing.

OLYMPIA

- An NJP Olympia office attorney worked with a tribal parent group and the ACLU to present training on student and parent rights in the local school district to the tribal community.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney, along with others on the Native American Task Force, gave a presentation about legal services to the law and justice committee of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians as well as providing an informational table to other conference attendees.

PORT ANGELES

- As part of NJP's Port Angeles office's outreach efforts, an NJP attorney held a meeting at the Forks Community Center to make a presentation about the Mobile Home Landlord-Tenant Act. Twelve manufactured home tenants attended with five of the tenants being monolingual Spanish speakers. The attorney gave a presentation on the rights and responsibilities of the tenants including a report on the Office of the Attorney General's complaint procedure. The presentation was followed by a questions and answer session and materials were available in both English and Spanish. A bilingual employee of the Olympic Community Action Program in Forks was present and provided interpretation of the presentation.
- Members of a tenant union in a federally subsidized Port Townsend apartment complex contacted NJP's Port Angeles office to give a presentation about federal law and tenant's rights. An NJP attorney spoke at the tenant's meeting and about twenty tenants attended and asked various questions about state and federal law. The NJP attorney had previously discussed the meeting with the owner and was able to informally resolve a festering dispute between the manager and a tenant.

SEATTLE/KING COUNTY

Basic Field

- An NJP Seattle office attorney has been working to expand NJP's ability to provide assistance to veterans. In addition to staffing an NJP booth at a Veteran's Benefit Fair the attorney met with people and representatives of organizations, who work with Veterans, to figure out how to best satisfy the legal needs of Veterans.
- An NJP Seattle office attorney continues to be active in addressing the recurring problem of collection agencies garnishing accounts into which only social security benefits have been deposited. Social security benefits are exempt from execution and NJP argued that the prohibition against garnishment is extended to bank accounts that contain only the proceeds from social security benefits. In some instances NJP has been able to protect clients from having funds garnished by telling them what they need to watch out for and in other instances we have had success in getting creditors to return funds after they were improperly garnished.

- NJP’s Seattle-based DVCLP attorney participated on a panel presentation entitled: “Enhancing Language Access in our Justice System” at the 20th Annual Meeting of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts attended by judges, lawyers and court administrators from across the country.
- NJP’s Seattle-based DVCLP attorney participated on a panel presentation entitled: “Representing Immigrants in Family, Employment and Criminal Cases” at the 2008 Washington State Access to Justice Conference.
- NJP’s Seattle-based DVCLP attorney made a presentation on “Family Law and the Role of a Legal Advocate” for new domestic violence advocates at Consejo Counseling and Referral Services.

Refugee and Immigrant Advocacy Project (RIAP)

- NJP’s Seattle office Senior Attorney/RIAP attorney and the King County Project Facilitator continue to coordinate the King County Regional Planning Group and have assisted in implementation of coordinated referral in King County with the use of 211 and a limited CLEAR hotline for King County cases. The group is currently conducting an evaluation of services in south King County and rural areas in an effort to improve outreach and assistance to the growing number of low income clients in these areas. They also continue to work with regional planners to improve service to targeted groups such as immigrants, African Americans, and Native Americans. The RIAP attorney met with staff at the Seattle University Access to Justice Institute to discuss reviving the student run Language Bank which provided interpreters for pro-bono cases in coordination with the King County Bar Association.
- NJP’s RIAP provided a training to over seventy social workers and agency staff (including DSHS) on the topic of “Special Issues in Immigrant Benefits.” The presentation on sponsor deeming highlighted the fact that errors are often made with the result that immigrants sponsored by a family member are denied benefits for which they are eligible. Similarly, the presentation on domestic violence victims applying for status under the Violence Against Women Act and other PRUCOL immigrants gave advocates some tips on how to ensure these immigrants are not incorrectly denied because they do not yet have a green card. Both presentations included updated brochures for use by social workers and others.
- NJP’s RIAP attorney gave two presentations at Everest Vocational College in Renton (to approximately 75 students each time) on the general topic of accessing legal services along with a presentation on assistance available through the DSHS office for young working parents.
- NJP’s RIAP attorney and a RIAP intern provided a training to seniors at the International District Housing office. Approximately 25 seniors attended and heard a discussion of the new 211 outreach in King County. The RIAP intern had previously surveyed the elders

on legal questions and presented on the topic of in home services for elderly recipients of Medicaid as many of them had questions about accessing this program.

- NJP's RIAP provided a training along with two attorneys from the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project and doctors from Harborview Medical Center. The training, attended by approximately 60 doctors, social workers and community advocates covered how to fill out the N-648, a form completed by doctors and used by immigration officers to determine whether an applicant for citizenship can be exempted from the requirement to learn English and US civics due to a medical impairment which impedes learning. The RIAP intern had developed an on line tool "The N-648 Disability Waiver, Helping Doctors Get it Right" which is now available at www.washingtonlawhelp.org and on the Harborview Ethnomed website.
- NJP's RIAP attorney and the WASCLA intern attended a meeting on LEP services provided by the Employment Security Department. They are working with staff there to improve access to interpreter and translation services.

TACOMA/PIERCE COUNTY

- NJP's Tacoma office staff manned an information table at the Western State Hospital "Recovery Fair" on April 17, 2008. The event was attended by hospital staff, patients, patients' families, and various community agencies that work with the mentally ill. NJP provided information about our services for WSH patients as well as for qualifying individuals in the community.
- An NJP Tacoma attorney participated in a panel presentation and discussion at the 22nd Annual Fair Housing Conference in Tacoma sponsored by the Fair Housing Center of Washington and the Tacoma Human Rights and Human Services Department. The panel presentation concerned fair housing and homeless shelters. The attorney spoke on the applicability of the residential-landlord tenant act to residents of homeless shelters and the applicability of the unlawful detainer act to evictions of residents of homeless shelters.
- An NJP Tacoma attorney gave a presentation on landlord-tenant law at a conference on community collaboration for re-entry housing and stabilization sponsored by DCTED.
- An NJP Tacoma attorney gave a presentation on domestic violence and landlord tenant-law at a CLE sponsored by Tacoma-Pierce County Volunteer Legal Services and the YWCA.
- Under a contract with the State Department of Social and Health Services Mental Health Division, NJP provides general civil legal services to patients at Western State Hospital in Lakewood. The Satellite NJP office at the hospital is staffed by NJP Tacoma advocates two days a week.
- NJP's Tacoma office provides civil legal services to certain clients of the DSHS Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) under a contract with the Washington State

Developmental Disabilities Council. These legal services are provided primarily by Tacoma and Spokane NJP advocates via a statewide special project called the Community Protection Legal Services (CPLS) Project. The CPLS Project provides free civil legal services to DDD clients who are either currently enrolled in, or are being considered for, the Community Protection Program.

VANCOUVER

- An NJP Vancouver office attorney provided a presentation on Guardianships, Powers of Attorney, and Assisted Living Facility residents' rights to Clark County Long Term Care Ombudsmen.
- NJP Vancouver office attorneys participated in Project Homeless Connect, a Saturday community outreach and service fair organized by the Clark County Council for the Homeless and joined by many local organizations that provide help to homeless people. The NJP attorneys joined private attorney volunteers from the Clark County Volunteer Lawyer Program and local indigent criminal defense attorneys in providing to homeless people on a walk-in basis basic legal information including LawHelp publications, referral to CLEAR or other appropriate legal assistance, and limited advice and brief service on a variety of legal problems.

WALLA WALLA

- NJP's Walla Walla office held tenant-education seminars at Benton Franklin Community Action Committee. The project is an ongoing effort to educate tenants about their rights and responsibilities in residential tenancies. The presentation for the month of June had 15 participants.
- NJP's Walla Walla office participated in outreach to seasonal and migrant farm workers in South Central Washington in conjunction with advocates from Columbia Legal Services.

WENATCHEE

- An NJP Wenatchee attorney makes regular appearances on a local cable TV show titled "Senior Moments." The program is hosted by the Executive Director of Aging and Adult Care of Central Washington and covers legal issues related to seniors. The April program covered the local Elder Abuse Prevention Council. The May program concerned legal issues related to the credit card industry.
- NJP's Omak made office an educational presentation to Wenatchee Valley College MECHA Club about immigration remedies for undocumented victims of crimes.
- NJP's Omak office presented training for local law enforcement on the immigration remedies for undocumented victims of crimes. This was a training hosted by the Support Center for local law enforcement and other professionals.

- NJP’s Wenatchee office offered a training on the topic of “Spatial Inequality” that was attended by over 100 people, including legal aid advocates from across the state, representatives of HUD, the Washington State Human Rights Commission, the US Attorney’s Office, fair housing advocates, and King County planners. The topic of the training was a cutting edge approach to civil rights advocacy that uses demographic data, GIS mapping and other data to reveal patterns of discrimination. Using maps, trainers demonstrated discriminatory patterns of failing to extend municipal water and sewer services, the unequal and targeted enforcement of housing codes, and “under bounding” or racially motivated exclusion of certain neighborhoods from city boundaries. A private attorney from a nationally recognized civil rights law firm, a California legal aid advocate, a demographer, and a geographer presented the training.

NETWORKING AND DEVELOPING COMMUNITY CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

- In June, two attorneys from NJP’s Bellingham office attended the statewide 2008 Access to Justice Conference in Vancouver, Washington.
- NJP’s Everett office continues its outreach to educate community organizations about consumer law issues affecting our clients. This quarter at a Salvation Army meeting NJP led a discussion that focused heavily on debt collection and auto sales abuses.
- An attorney in NJP’s Everett office provided training to new volunteers for the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program serving Snohomish County clients. The training included information about substitute healthcare decision-making, guardianships, powers of attorney, and directives to physicians.
- An Everett staff attorney participated as a trainer in a community education program designed by the Area Agency on Aging for Snohomish County. The event was attended by over 100 people, including Council on Aging members and many seniors residing in Snohomish County. The program included information about healthcare decision-making, guardianship, powers of attorney, and directives to physicians.
- 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 serves as president of the Lewis County Bar Legal Aid Board. LCBLA is an Equal Access to Justice partner serving low income Lewis County residents through a pro bono program, legal clinic, facilitator services and more. In this role, she has been very active in recent Access to Justice statewide planning for Region 15.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney attends monthly advocacy coordination meetings with other Thurston County providers of services to low income people. The meetings include members of the local welfare rights organization, Homeless Outreach and Advocacy

center, Community Youth Services, Tenants' Union, low income credit union, and mental/behavioral health services.

- An NJP Olympia office attorney was elected Treasurer of the Thurston County Bar Association.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney serves as the Vice-President of Thurston County Volunteer Legal Services which provides volunteer assistance to low income individuals in Thurston and Mason Counties.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney continues to serve as a member of the Gender and Justice Commission.
- An NJP Olympia office attorney serves as a member of the Supreme Court Task Force on Dissolution. This attorney has chaired the sub-committee to develop standards for parenting evaluators.
- As part of the state wide effort to implement a Language Access Plan, a Port Angeles NJP attorney attended a meeting at the Clallam County courthouse to discuss language access issues. As a result of this meeting, both superior and district courts will draft a Language Access Plan in the coming months. The NJP attorney was chosen to be the lead organizer of the process.
- The NJP Port Angeles office with the help of NJP lawyers from the Seattle, Everett and Yakima offices successfully conducted an Indian Wills Project at the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. Following a presentation and an Elder's lunch, NJP lawyers from both the Aberdeen and Port Angeles offices began meetings to draft wills for tribal elders. So far about twenty elders are being represented and the Port Angeles office will continue to work with tribal elders to draft wills.
- NJP's RIAP attorney continues to participate with advocates at Solid Ground, Columbia Legal Services, the Social Security Advocacy Project, Northwest Health Law Advocates and the Welfare Rights Organizing Coalition in a King County Benefits Advocates project to advocate with the Region IV DSHS Administrator.
- NJP's RIAP attorney continues to work with advocates and agency staff from around the state to improve legal services to victims of trafficking in Washington State. She 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.
- NJP's RIAP attorney continues to work the Seattle University Law School Community Advisory Board for the Access to Justice Institute to improve student involvement in providing legal services to the poor.

- NJP’s RIAP attorney continues to work as a member of the Access To Justice Law School Relations Committee to expand the role of the law students in the legal services community.
- NJP’s RIAP continued to serve on the Immigrant Families Advocacy Project (IFAP) Advisory Board. IFAP is a University of Washington Law School organization, supervised by an attorney at the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, which pairs students with pro-bono attorneys to help battered immigrants file self petitions under the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).
- NJP’s RIAP continued to work with NJP’s Domestic Violence Community Legal Project (DVCLP) to coordinate the Washington State Coalition for Language Access (WASCLA). More about the group can be found by going to the website at www.wascla.org and by reading the three articles written by the RIAP attorney, DVCLP attorney and a Seattle University Intern in the Spring Newsletter of the Washington State Minority and Justice Commission. In addition to working on LEP policies and a statewide directory of interpreters and translators, the group finalized presentations at the upcoming two-day conference to be held in Wenatchee on October 24 and 25. The conference, with the theme of “Building for the Future” will bring together interpreters, translators, judges, public defenders, medical providers, advocates and staff from agencies throughout Washington. Presentations will cover working with deaf and hard of hearing clients and a range of topics in working with LEP clients. These will include: responding to emergency situations for LEP clients; three sessions on working with LEP clients in court (including in immigration and criminal defense cases); interpreting in special situations such as evaluating trauma and communicating emotional testimony; updates in glossaries, interpreter training, evaluation and certification; and a number of technological innovations that make arranging for interpreters more efficient, convenient and economical. Finally the conference will screen a compelling documentary by Robert Winn entitled “Childhood in Translation” which discusses how language barriers adversely affect immigrants and their children.
- NJP’s RIAP continued to work with the Pro Bono Coordinator at Davis Wright Tremaine and with staff of Children’s Hospital, Odessa Brown Clinic and Harborview Hospital to develop a Children’s Legal Medical Project that will provide assistance to doctors and social workers to improve children’s access to legal services in the areas of health care, housing, education, immigration, and public benefits. The grant has been approved and the Seattle office of NJP is currently hiring a bilingual Spanish attorney to work on the project with the RIAP attorney and social workers and medical staff at the three medical facilities. The grant has been funded for three years and the RIAP attorney continues to work on implementing the project, securing additional funding, and developing a project evaluation in collaboration with the UW School of Social Work.
- NJP’s RIAP continues to work with another Seattle office attorney and with NJP’s advocacy coordinators and King County legal advocates (including public defenders, University of Washington Law School, Columbia Legal Services, Team Child and others) to improve access to legal services for veterans, including those who are accused of crimes or re-entering civilian life after serving a prison sentence.

- An NJP Seattle office attorney made presentations in connection with a large number of legal education programs including: speaker and chair at the King County Bar Association's April 12 seminar on bankruptcy basics; speaker at the King County Bar Association's April 25th seminar on "Foreclosure for the Rest of Us;" participating in the filming of a consumer law "question and answer" session for a public interest television program in Gray's Harbor; speaker on home foreclosure issues at the Washington Asset Building Coalition meeting that took in Yakima; speaker on consumer and housing issues at the Access to Justice Conference; and speaker on foreclosure rescue scams at the annual meeting of the Bankruptcy Section of the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Washington.
- In May, an NJP Seattle office attorney assisted a Seattle University law student with her presentation on consumer issues at the Chinese Information Service Center. After the presentation, the attorney and law student met with individual clients regarding their consumer law cases.
- An attorney from NJP's Seattle office, together with an attorney from Columbia Legal Services, co-presented "Know Your Rights" workshops on health law and consumer law to young women incarcerated at Juvenile Detention. The workshops were coordinated by the "Powerful Voices" program.
- Two attorneys from NJP's Seattle office participate in the Seattle-King County Assetbuilding Coalition. The attorneys are participating on a subcommittee that is focused on client populations that are unbanked, as well as on a Coalition pilot project.
- An attorney in NJP's Seattle office participates as an advisory board member for Columbia Legal Services' new Economic Justice Project, which is focusing on auto-related fraud as its first project.
- An attorney in NJP's Seattle office and an NJP Advocacy Coordinator continue to participate in an auto fraud workgroup coordinated by the Inclusionist, a Washington, D.C.-based think tank that is interested in developing policy solutions to problems faced by low-income people.
- An attorney in NJP's Seattle office participates in the Washington State Bar Foundation's Loan Repayment Assistance Program Advisory Committee, which has developed an LRAP program for public interest attorneys across the state.
- Two attorneys in NJP's Seattle office continue to participate in the statewide Consumer Law Task Force, which is working on combating problems related to short-term high-cost loans, illegal debt collection, medical debt, foreclosure rescue scams, auto fraud, and bankruptcy.
- An attorney in NJP's Seattle office participates in the Youthlaw Task Force, which is comprised of attorneys from NJP, Columbia Legal Services, TeamChild, the ACLU, Seattle University Law School and the University of Washington Law School.

- NJP’s Seattle-based DVCLP attorney attended a meeting of the King County Superior Court Language Access Committee which she continues to be involved in.
- NJP’s Seattle-based DVCLP attorney attended a meeting of the Washington State Court Interpreter Commission which she continues to be a member of.
- An attorney from NJP’s Seattle office continues to join other public benefit advocates in King County in meeting with the Regional Administrator for the Department of Social and Health Services’ Economic Services Division. The purpose of the meetings is to alert the administrator to common problems experienced by benefit recipients and to collaborate on improving DSHS’s services.
- An attorney from NJP’s Seattle office continues to serve on the DSHS Standing Committee on Administrative Hearings with the aim of improving client access to justice in the DSHS administrative hearing process.
- NJP’s Seattle DV attorneys continue to work with advocates and attorneys from around King County to improve legal services provided to survivors of domestic violence. They participate in the King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (KCCADV), the Family Law Task Force, the Native American Task Force, the Washington State Bar Association Family Law Section, and the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild.
- NJP’s Seattle DV attorneys continue to be present at the King County Courthouse in Seattle, on Mondays and Thursdays, providing legal services to domestic violence survivors. They collaborate with the King County Prosecuting Attorney’s Protection Order Advocates to provide advice, assistance, and representation to domestic violence survivors who are Seattle residents.
- NJP’s Spokane office continues to work with community agencies to assure they have adequate information about clients’ rights when dealing with housing issues and to develop community education presentations to help landlords and client eligible tenants form more successful working relationships with the goal of reducing the number of evictions. One attorney is working with Spokane’s Center for Justice to begin planning regular outreach programs to the city’s various neighborhood community centers, modeled after our area’s successful “Street Law” program.
- NJP’s Spokane office has two attorneys who serve on the Whitman County Legal Services Advisory Board, helping to assure that coordination and cooperation between this community agency and Washington’s staffed legal services programs results in meaningful and effective access to the justice system for the low-income residents of the southeastern county in Washington served by these programs. These two NJP attorneys have also been involved in regional planning for this region.

- NJP’s Spokane office has one attorney who serves on the Volunteer Lawyer’s Program Standing Advisory Committee, which helps enhance the coordination between the private bar and the access to justice partners providing legal services to low-income residents in Spokane County.
- NJP’s Tacoma office staff manned an information table at the Western State Hospital “Recovery Fair” on April 17, 2008. The event was attended by hospital staff, patients, patients’ families, and various community agencies that work with the mentally ill. NJP provided information about our services for WSH patients as well as for qualifying individuals in the community.
- An NJP Tacoma attorney participated in a panel presentation and discussion at the 22nd Annual Fair Housing Conference in Tacoma sponsored by the Fair Housing Center of Washington and the Tacoma Human Rights and Human Services Department. The panel presentation concerned fair housing and homeless shelters. The attorney spoke on the applicability of the residential-landlord tenant act to residents of homeless shelters and the applicability of the unlawful detainer act to evictions of residents of homeless shelters.
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- An NJP Vancouver attorney attends all Klickitat and Skamania County inter-agency social services consortium meetings.
- An NJP Vancouver attorney served on the judicial screening committee of the local Washington Women’s Lawyer chapter to rate candidates for a new Superior Court Judge in Clark County.

- An NJP Vancouver attorney serves as a director on the board of the Clark County Volunteer Lawyers Program.