

# JUSTICE - ILAG

## LEGAL AID NEWSLETTER

No: 19

May and June 2011

### Welcome

Over 80 of us met in Helsinki for the ILAG conference. For those unable to attend, the less satisfactory – though still educational – option remains of reading the papers. These are available on the website (<http://www.ilagnet.org>). For those content with an impressionistic account aimed at an English audience, copied below is an account for the *Law Gazette* published by the Law Society of England and Wales.

One of the most interesting threads of discussion was about the use of new technology to provide advice services. This is a development of great appeal to those responsible for funding legal aid provision around the world; great concern to those currently responsible for giving advice to the poor, powerless and marginalized (from which constituency, Kerri Joffe writes in the second article in the newsletter); and great interest to observers interested in what genuine improvements can be made and which claims are but smoke and mirrors. Further contributions on this subject are welcome. Particularly useful would be accounts of what can be done by the use of such techniques as the use of video avatars.

Those interested in the developing interface between journalistic English and lawyers will have enjoyed the previous use, recorded in earlier editions of this newsletter, of the expression 'rort' (as in 'Lawyers accused of legal aid rort', *New Zealand Herald*, 4 July 2009). You may derive similar pleasure from 'Govt hears cooee for more bush lawyers' from Australia's *New Lawyer* listed in the news coverage. Overall, the news reports are, alas, rather less positive. Very few governments are hearing (or calling) cooee for legal aid and its lawyers at the present time. Global news remains dominated by squeals of pain from the three jurisdictions of the United Kingdom. All face major cuts. In England's case, this is the cause of the newfound 'silence of the English' to be observed at gatherings of legal aid such as the Helsinki conference and noted in the article below. The role of global leader of legal aid policy awaits the jurisdiction bold enough to seize the chance. Those attending the conference will have seen how well the Finns, albeit with a small and relatively homogenous population, provide people with assistance from what would be called in legal aid circles a 'mixed model' of salaried and private practitioners.

The next newsletter comes out in September. Contributions welcome.

Roger Smith

## **Getting away from it all**

*Roger Smith reports on the recent ILAG conference*

Every couple of years, legal aid administrators from around the world meet with concerned academics. In June they gathered in Helsinki. This was less eventful than the previous conference in New Zealand. There, a government minister used his welcoming speech to announce the enquiry that led to the demise of the host organisation and its chief executive. These International Legal Aid Group (ILAG) conferences, socially pleasurable for delegates other than those given notice of their departure, have aided communication and the spread of ideas for almost twenty years. They also provide a good indicator of what is happening around the world.

The major change from previous years was the relative silence of the English. Since ILAG started meeting in 1992, our Legal Services Commission and Ministry of Justice have been big players. Steve Orchard, the late and still revered chief executive of the Legal Aid Board, attended regularly. Hitherto, at some stage in the proceedings, the English delegation stood up to inform their audience of the latest developments in franchising, competitive tendering, CLACS, CLANS (once touted bodies whose initials no longer merit translation) and the work from the Legal Aid Board's/Legal Services Commission in-house research arm. In 2007, the government even sent the Solicitor General, Vera Baird, to attend the ILAG conference in Antwerp.

Alas, we have joined our predecessors, the Americans, as countries that once led the world on legal aid developments. There is very little chance of spinning the current cuts as anything other than a slashing of entitlement to the poor and powerless. Wisely perhaps, no English official tried to do so. In our absence, the Scots emerged in full force. Not without *schadenfreude* at the sad fate of their cousins south of the border, the Scots set out how they had been able to control their budget and extend eligibility. And they had a point.

The Scots are hoping to deliver their cuts without the Draconian slash and burn tactics adopted by Ken Clarke. Their line is that you can reduce expenditure but not services. In consequence, few Scottish lawyers

are great fans of the Scottish Legal Aid Board which has been happy to squeeze remuneration; use a few public defenders to encourage the profession to keep in line; and tighten up on merits tests for legal aid. However, Scottish managers claim to have won a significant battle in getting the Scottish government to look at legal aid as an element within the whole justice system and one which has identifiable social and economic benefits. Notably, they have avoided, at least to date, the siren calls of grand gestures like franchising and competitive tendering that so seduced the English without delivering very much.

The conference revealed another new development. The 86 delegates came from 26 countries. Legal aid may be on the ropes in countries like the US, Canada, Australia and the UK but, elsewhere, albeit from a low base, others are hastening to build up their legal aid provision. Brazil, for example, is expanding its national network of public defenders at a major rate. The People's Republic of China was represented in force at the conference. The stimulus for many of these other countries is, in one way or another, human rights and the standards of international human rights treaties. Brazil has expressly enacted a statutory commitment to defence of 'the fundamental rights of the needy encompassing individual, collective, social, economic, cultural and environmental rights'. For countries in, or aspiring to join the EU, there is the extra incentive to meet requirements for defence rights in criminal cases because of the EU programme to protect the rights of suspects and defendants. This was one issue on which the otherwise contented Scots were on the back foot – a recent Supreme Court decision has required them belatedly to establish a police station duty solicitor scheme. The European Convention has, of course, provided some measure of defence for criminal and public law from the current round of English cuts. Overall, international conventions on fair trial rights are beginning to play a larger role both in the expansion and reduction of legal aid services.

Some of the most interesting Helsinki discussion related to the use of new technology and the web. The Dutch government has even invested in a consortium of organisations that run a website named [www.innovatingjustice.com](http://www.innovatingjustice.com). This is designed to keep the Dutch at the cutting edge of new developments in the delivery of legal services. Even more interesting is the development of various forms of online dispute resolution (becoming known as ODR), where the medium becomes the message: the net provides the resolution of the dispute. Understandably, the US leads the world in this area. You can get online legal assistance with sites such as [www.legalzoom.com](http://www.legalzoom.com) offering document preparation. Chicago-Kent University has developed a programme, A2j, which goes one step beyond and helps you, should you wish to do so, to build a programme that takes the user through a legal process, for example, changing their name. This

provides an avatar to guide you. At the moment, she is a static cartoon rather than the fully mobile versions that infiltrated Pandora's Eden in the movie, Avatar. However, things will clearly develop that way.

Helsinki is a pretty agreeable location to spend a couple of days reviewing the global direction of legal aid. Finland actually has an excellent legal aid scheme that combines salaried and private providers. Publicly funded legal services have been delivered in Helsinki for over 120 years, probably the longest anywhere in the world. For the silenced English, attendance provided all too short a respite from the chill winds that cross our once fertile, but now barren, legal aid landscape.

### **Internet and Telephone-based Services in Ontario's Community Legal Clinics**

Kerri Joffe, Staff Lawyer (on leave), ARCH Disability Law Centre

*This article is, in part, a response to an article published in the newsletter last year, and available on the ILAG website, entitled Applying New Client Service Technologies Legal Aid Ontario, Canada by Charles Lafortune, Director, Strategic Technology and Innovation*

Some recent significant changes to legal aid in Ontario have involved a move towards internet-based and call centre services, many of which have replaced in-person services. For example, in 2008 Legal Aid Ontario launched a call centre that now provides thousands of low-income individuals access to general information, referrals and summary legal advice each year. Despite this change, most of the over 70 community legal clinics in Ontario continue to provide most of their services in person. However, it appears that community legal clinics may soon come under pressure to implement a similar shift towards telephone and internet-based services. Legal Aid Ontario has, for example, recently allocated a significant sum of money for interpretation and translation towards a telephone-based interpretation service.

Some argue that a move towards electronic and telephone services increases efficiency, improves our ability to measure customer satisfaction, and allows for overall cost-savings, an increasingly important consideration. Others feel that such a shift creates boiler-plate lawyering, reduces the quality of services provided, and is not an appropriate service delivery model for many legal aid clients.

To consider how this kind of change may impact Ontario's community legal clinics and their clients, it is important to understand the unique position of clinics in their communities. Most clinics define and organize their services based on the communities they serve. The majority of Ontario clinics are small organizations that

deliver legal services to particular neighbourhoods or geographically defined communities. In addition, there are several clinics that provide legal services to various low-income communities of interest such as persons with disabilities, seniors, South Asian Canadians, injured workers, and other groups. Clinics are similar to more traditional legal aid services, in that both provide legal advice and representation to low-income clients. However there are several defining characteristics that all clinics share which distinguish them from more traditional services: community governance, poverty law practice, and delivery of a broad range of services.<sup>1</sup>

Each clinic is governed by a community-elected Board of Directors, which must include members of the community that the clinic serves. Boards participate in decisions about which services and what legal issues should be prioritized according to community need. This is one way in which clinics stay connected to the legal issues that concern their clients and it ensures that the services a clinic provides are those that are most needed by its community. It also ensures that each clinic is accountable to its particular community, whether geographic or interests-based. Community governance enables clinics to be flexible and responsive to the needs of their particular communities.

Clinics practice poverty law, an area of law and/or type of practice that is not easy to define. Generally, clinics practice in areas of law that particularly affect low-income individuals and disadvantaged groups, such as housing, social assistance, income maintenance, pensions, workers' compensation, employment insurance, human rights, education, and various types of government programs and benefits. Poverty law also includes systemic legal issues that impact a clinic's broader community, such as inadequate social assistance rates or discrimination against students with disabilities in education. Unlike more traditional legal aid work, which is generally limited to the needs of individual clients, poverty law practice is concerned with the welfare of individual clients and the community as a whole. Such an approach recognizes that the legal problems of low-income and disadvantaged groups cannot be remedied by individual casework alone, but must also be addressed at a broader policy level.

Clinics use a broad array of services to advocate on behalf of their individual clients and communities. Most clinics provide the following services: legal advice and representation to individual clients or groups; referrals for legal and non-legal services; law reform, involving advocacy to reform existing laws, programs and policies that

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<sup>1</sup> For a much more detailed analysis of the characteristics that define community legal clinics please see: Lenny Abramowicz, "The Critical Characteristics of Community Legal Aid Clinics in Ontario" (2004) 19 Journal of Law and Social Policy 70.

have an adverse impact on a clinic's community or advocacy to create new laws, programs or policies; public legal education, involving the publishing of written materials or delivery of presentations; and community

development, involving various kinds of capacity-building activities that support individuals and communities to self-advocate. Some clinics also conduct test case litigation. The availability of a variety of tools to tackle legal problems makes clinics uniquely able to address poverty law issues. For example, a clinic may litigate a successful test case, then conduct a law reform campaign to ensure that laws and policies are updated to reflect the test case win.

Community governance, poverty law practice, and delivery of a broad range of services determine the unique kind of community lawyering practiced in Ontario legal clinics. These qualities give clinics their strengths: an ability to address systemic legal issues, strong ties to the communities they serve, and an ability to adapt and provide services that are uniquely tailored to the needs of their communities. Changes in service delivery models, such as the move towards telephone and internet-based services, have the potential to either enhance or erode these strengths.

Increasing the capacity of clinics to provide services by telephone or over the internet can create greater accessibility for some clients, such as those who live in rural or remote parts of Ontario, those with mobility disabilities, or those who are not able to leave their homes. However, a move towards telephone and internet-based services often corresponds with a reduction in in-person services. Relying too heavily on telephone or internet services would reduce accessibility, creating barriers for clients such as those who require in person contact in order to communicate effectively. Another concern is that a move towards telephone and internet-based services erroneously assumes that many or all clients have or can get access to these technologies. This is simply not the case for many low-income and homeless clients. As legal practitioners, an important consideration is that client confidentiality may be jeopardized, depending on the type of technology used and the service being delivered.

Perhaps most significant is the danger that too great an emphasis on the use of telephone and internet-based services could erode the broad range of services clinics provide and the amount of systemic work they do. Along with a move towards telephone and internet-based services often comes an emphasis on measuring efficiencies and client satisfaction. While both are important to clinic work, these measurements may not be appropriate for systemic projects, which are often on-going in nature, require the participation of multiple staff and partners, and have long-term outcomes that may only be realized months or years after the project was begun. Clients may continue to experience similar legal problems and frustrations while a law reform campaign

or community development project is underway, and may only report positive results a long time after the project was initiated or completed. Moreover, even if it is successful, some systemic work does not have an immediately obvious effect for clients. For example, the impact of a successful test case may not be felt by clients for several years until a similar issue is brought before a court that applies the test case ruling. Since efficiencies and immediate client satisfaction are often inappropriate measurements for systemic projects, increasing the use of these measurements may reflect poorly on clinics, thereby creating a disincentive for clinics to continue conducting systemic work.

Expanding the use of telephone and internet-based services can have a very positive impact on Ontario's community legal clinics. Many clinics already utilize technologies such as email, websites, internet message boards, and Skype to increase the accessibility and quality of their services. However, too great an emphasis on the use of telephone and internet-based services can create barriers that prevent clients from accessing services, reduce the extent to which clinics conduct systemic work, and ultimately erode some of the characteristics that give clinics their strength and uniqueness. Any move towards increasing telephone and internet-based services must respect clinics' connections with their communities by allowing individual clinics to determine how and to what extent such a move will be implemented. This will preserve each clinic's ability to adapt to and meet the needs of its own community. In addition, an increase in telephone and internet-based service must not mean a decrease in the capacity of clinics to provide in-person services. Rather, technologies can and must be used to enhance the various ways in which clinics reach their communities. Attention must be paid to the ways in which legal aid and clinic work is measured and evaluated. Inappropriate measurements may erode systemic legal work, ultimately harming low-income clients and communities. If we want to preserve a strong legal aid system, any shift towards telephone and internet-based services must be implemented in a way that supports the unique kind of community lawyering practiced by Ontario legal clinics.

## News

These reports are largely compiled from news reports on the internet on the basis of a simple search under the words 'legal aid'. Readers must, just as buyers, beware of authenticity. The links worked at the time of writing but some will fail after a period of time. This section is compiled by **Paul Ferrie** of the *University of Strathclyde*.

There seems to be somewhat of a recurring negative theme in the news section of this newsletter. It would be great if this edition was different and there was a multitude of positive news items, but alas, although there are some, it looks that negativity will continue to dominate the news for some time to come.

Looking at the positive developments first, both Ghana and India are talking steps in the right direction. In Nigeria and in certain parts of the United States also there have been encouraging signs and a slight improvement in 'access to justice'.

Turning to the not so good news, the announcement that the legal aid cuts in England and Wales are to go ahead have not been received well and there is a real fear of the effect of these cuts. There are also clear problems in Northern Ireland with the legal aid bill being 'out of control'. New Zealand, China and Scotland are three other jurisdictions with clear problems that need to be addressed quickly. They are by no means the only ones.

Much of the news continues to paint a bleak future for legal aid and access to justice in most jurisdictions. This means the next few months and years will undoubtedly be challenging for us all. I have been informed thought that the overall feeling following the ILAG Conference, which took place in June 2011, was one of optimism for the future. This can only be a good sign.

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### Australia:

#### **Legal Aid Queensland Update** - April 2011

Read more: <http://www.legalaid.qld.gov.au/media/Media-releases/Pages/Last-month-at-Legal-Aid-Queensland-April-2011.aspx>

#### **Legal Aid Queensland Update** - May 2011

Read more: <http://www.legalaid.qld.gov.au/media/Media-releases/Pages/LastmonthatLegalAidQueensland-May2011.aspx>

#### **Govt hears cooee for more bush lawyers** – The New Lawyers (Australia) – 23/05/11

Read more: <http://www.thenewlawyer.com.au/article/Govt-hears-cooee-for-more-bush-lawyers/529756.aspx>

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### Bangladesh:

#### **Intensive efforts for ensuring human rights stressed** - The Financial Express Bangladesh – 11/06/11

Read more: [http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news\\_id=138906&date=2011-06-12](http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news_id=138906&date=2011-06-12)

#### **'Judges, lawyers should be more sincere on legal aid to the helpless'** - The Financial Express Bangladesh – 27/06/11

Read more: [http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news\\_id=140834&date=2011-06-28](http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news_id=140834&date=2011-06-28)

#### **Accessing of the legal system by the poor** - The Financial Express Bangladesh – 29/06/11

Read more: [http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news\\_id=140942&date=2011-06-29](http://www.thefinancialexpress-bd.com/more.php?news_id=140942&date=2011-06-29)

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### Canada:

#### **New French legal advice line in South-western Ontario** – Legal Aid Ontario – 25/05/11

Read more: [http://www.legalaid.on.ca/en/news/newsarchive/1105-24\\_newfrenchlegaladviceline.asp](http://www.legalaid.on.ca/en/news/newsarchive/1105-24_newfrenchlegaladviceline.asp)

#### **Funding justice must be made a priority** – Canada.com – 04/06/11

Read more: <http://www.canada.com/Funding+justice+must+made+priority/4892993/story.html>

**Legal Aid Ontario in 2010: A year in review** – Legal Aid Ontario – 06/06/11

Read more: [http://www.legalaid.on.ca/en/news/newsarchive/1106-06\\_LAOin2010.asp](http://www.legalaid.on.ca/en/news/newsarchive/1106-06_LAOin2010.asp)

**Downsized court delays trials due to sheriff shortage** – The Vancouver Sun – 09/06/11

Read more:

<http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Downsized+court+delays+trials+sheriff+shortage/4917244/story.html#ixzz1RAQtyhni>

**Rule of law: Canada lags in access to civil justice** – The Vancouver Sun – 13/06/11

Read more: <http://communities.canada.com/vancouversun/blogs/cayo/archive/2011/06/13/rule-of-law-canada-lags-in-access-to-civil-justice.aspx>

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## China

**Plug the loophole in our legal aid system** – China Daily – 14/06/11

Read more: [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/hkedition/2011-06/14/content\\_12686898.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/hkedition/2011-06/14/content_12686898.htm)

**Beleaguered Chinese Church to Provide Legal Aid to Members** – Compass Direct News – 30/06/11

Read more: [http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/china/article\\_114340.html](http://www.compassdirect.org/english/country/china/article_114340.html)

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## East Timor

**Neediest Timorese face losing legal aid** – Trust Law – 28/06/11

Read more: <http://www.trust.org/trustlaw/news/neediest-timorese-face-losing-legal-aid>

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## England and Wales:

**London cabbies 'sound off' about Legal Aid cuts** – The Telegraph – 16/05/11

Read more: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/law-and-order/8514804/London-cabbies-sound-off-about-Legal-Aid-cuts.html>

**Looming legal aid cuts inspire family lawyer's book to help those in family courts who cannot afford a lawyer** – Response Source – 26/05/11

Read more: [http://www.responsesource.com/releases/rel\\_display.php?relid=64926](http://www.responsesource.com/releases/rel_display.php?relid=64926)

**Legal-aid cuts of £350m will bring chaos to courts, judges fear** – The Guardian – 06/06/11

Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/06/legal-aid-cuts-chaos-courts>

**Legal aid: a necessary safety net** – The Guardian – 13/06/11

Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/13/legal-aid-safety-net>

**Legal aid cuts will stop cases like Trafigura, UN official warns** – The Guardian – 16/06/11

Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/16/united-nations-legal-aid-cuts-trafigura>

**Two women a week die from domestic violence; legal aid cuts will see more** – Left Foot Forward – 16/06/11

Read more: <http://www.leftfootforward.org/2011/06/impact-of-legal-aid-cuts-on-domestic-violence/>

**How crime DOES pay: 500 legal aid barristers earning more than the PM** – Mail Online – 18/06/11

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2004915/500-legal-aid-barristers-earning-David-Cameron.html#ixzz1R3oB4lsB>

**Campaigners angry at legal aid cuts** – The Independent – 21/06/11

Read more: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/campaigners-angry-at-legal-aid-cuts-2300568.html>

**Government confirms Jackson civil litigation reforms and legal aid cuts** – Legal Week – 21/06/11

Read more: <http://www.legalweek.com/legal-week/news/2080580/govt-implement-civil-litigation-reforms-amid-legal-aid-cuts>

**Legal aid changes being pursued** – BBC News – 21/6/11

Read more: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-13854282>

**This attack on legal aid is an attack on justice** – The Guardian – 21/6/11

Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/libertycentral/2011/jun/21/legal-aid-cuts>

**Legal aid cuts 'a slap in the face for ordinary families'** – The Guardian – 22/6/11

Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/housing-network/2011/jun/22/legal-aid-cuts-slap-ordinary-families>

**Squatters should not be occupying legal aid arguments** – The Guardian – 22/06/11

Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/22/legal-aid-arguments-overshadowed-squatters>

**Ignore the warnings about legal aid changes and risk meltdown in courts** – The Guardian – 23/06/11

Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/23/legal-aid-changes-lawyers-concerns>

**Bar Council and Resolution criticise Legal Aid proposals** – Family Law Week – 24/06/11

Read more: <http://www.familylawweek.co.uk/site.aspx?i=ed84204>

**Legal aid reform could end right to a free solicitor** – The Guardian – 25/06/11

Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/25/legal-aid-reform-free-solicitor>

**Public handed bill for celebrity legal aid as acquitted stars claim massive fees** – The Mirror – 27/06/11

Read more: <http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/top-stories/2011/06/27/public-handed-bill-for-celebrity-legal-aid-as-steven-gerrard-pockets-311k-in-legal-aid-115875-23229094/#ixzz1RAicepzz>

**The political mood has changed – and justice will be the loser** – The Telegraph – 27/06/11

Read more: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/columnists/maryriddell/8601693/The-political-mood-has-changed-and-justice-will-be-the-loser.html>

**Legal aid bill for immigrants' visa appeals soars to £20m** – London Evening Standard – 28/06/11

Read more: <http://www.thisislondon.co.uk/standard/article-23965017-legal-aid-bill-for-immigrants-visa-appeals-soars-to-pound-20m.do>

**Supreme Court judge warns legal aid cuts will hit poorest** – The Guardian – 28/06/11

Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2011/jun/28/supreme-court-judge-legal-aid>

**Legal aid reforms will hit the most vulnerable hardest, warns top judge** – The Independent – 29/06/11

Read more: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/politics/legal-aid-reforms-will-hit-the-most-vulnerable-hardest-warns-top-judge-2304086.html>

**Mounting concerns over legal aid cuts** – BBC News – 29/06/11

Read more: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-13951626>

**Ken Clarke hit by Legal Aid protest** – The Telegraph – 30/06/11

Read more: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/politics/8607552/Ken-Clarke-hit-by-Legal-Aid-protest.html>

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## Europe:

**Justice in Times of Austerity – Safeguarding the Efficient Protection of Rights** – eGov Monitor – 21/06/11

Read more: <http://www.egovmonitor.com/node/42454>

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## Ghana:

**Legal Aid Scheme receives support from Fordham University** – Ghana News Agency – 27/06/11

Read more: <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/details/Social/Legal-Aid-Scheme-receives-support-from-Fordham-University/?ci=4&ai=30426>

**Ghana Legal Aid Scheme improves on arbitration of cases** – Ghana News Agency – 30/06/11

Read more: <http://www.ghananewsagency.org/details/Social/Ghana-Legal-Aid-Scheme-improves-on-arbitration-of-cases/?ci=4&ai=30558>

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## India:

**BJP to provide free legal aid to Bhatta-Parsaul farmers** – IBN Live – 11/06/11

Read more: <http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/bjp-to-provide-free-legal-aid-to-bhattaparsaul-farmers/723238.html>

**Legal aid clinics to help jail inmates get justice** – IBN Live – 24/06/11

Read more: <http://ibnlive.in.com/generalnewsfeed/news/legal-aid-clinics-to-help-jail-inmates-get-justice/737241.html>

**Legal aid centre opened at central jail** – The Times of India – 25/06/11

Read more: [http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-06-25/guwahati/29702793\\_1\\_jail-inmates-legal-aid-clinic-national-legal-services-authority](http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2011-06-25/guwahati/29702793_1_jail-inmates-legal-aid-clinic-national-legal-services-authority)

**Freedom at last - thanks to state-backed legal aid** – Mangalorean – 29/06/11

Read more: <http://mangalorean.com/news.php?newstype=local&newsid=248031>

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## Indonesia:

**Fauzi blames staff for halting legal aid group's budget in 2007** – The Jakarta Post – 28/05/11

Read more: <http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2011/05/28/fauzi-blames-staff-halting-legal-aid-group%E2%80%99s-budget-2007.html>

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## International:

**Legal aid costs: Is there any justice in international comparisons** – Full Fact.org – 29/06/11

Read more: [http://fullfact.org/factchecks/legal\\_aid\\_international\\_comparisons\\_ken\\_clarke\\_law\\_society-2799](http://fullfact.org/factchecks/legal_aid_international_comparisons_ken_clarke_law_society-2799)

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### Jamaica:

**40 million paid to legal aid lawyers** – Jamaica Observer – 19/04/11

Read more: <http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/-40-million-paid-to-legal-aid-lawyers>

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### Kenya:

**Fair Deliverance of Justice Top of Kenyan's Expectations** – All Africa – 22/05/11

Read more: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201105240346.html>

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### New Zealand:

**Extra \$157m to Help Make Communities Safer** – Voxy – 19/05/11

Read more: <http://www.voxy.co.nz/politics/extra-157m-help-make-communities-safer/5/90380>

**Legal aid costs targeted** – The Press – 19/05/11

Read more: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/the-press/business/5026340/Legal-aid-costs-targeted>

**Legal aid lawyers threaten industrial action** – TVNZ – 30/05/11

Read more: <http://tvnz.co.nz/national-news/legal-aid-lawyers-threaten-industrial-action-4199413>

**Criminal lawyers urged not to strike** – New Zealand Herald – 31/05/11

Read more: <http://www.nzherald.co.nz/new-zealand/news/article.cfm?id=71&objectid=10729130>

**Legal aid debate to get even hotter** – The Marlborough Express – 31/05/11

Read more: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/marlborough-express/news/opinion/5079472/Editorial-Legal-aid-debate-to-get-even-hotter>

**Civil justice in tatters** – Stuff (New Zealand) – 05/06/11

Read more: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/5101412/Civil-justice-in-tatters>

**Legal aid tribunal named** – Otago Daily Times – 08/06/11

Read more: <http://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/163865/legal-aid-tribunal-named>

**Law Society defends its actions over legal aid** – Stuff (New Zealand) – 10/06/11

Read more: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/5125993/Law-Society-defends-its-actions-over-legal-aid>

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## Final Note

This newsletter has been compiled by **Roger Smith** of **JUSTICE** in London, UK. If you would like to be taken off the circulation list, add someone or contribute some content, please contact Roger by emailing [rsmith@justice.org.uk](mailto:rsmith@justice.org.uk).