



Law clinic to help low-income residents of Coachella Valley

UC Irvine School of Law, Inland Counties Legal Services team up for pro bono effort

By Vik Jolly

RIVERSIDE - Low-income residents of the Coachella Valley are set to get legal assistance as a result of a partnership between UC Irvine School of Law and Inland Counties Legal Services in weekend clinics kicking off Saturday.

The initiative's bi-monthly pro bono effort, dubbed Coachella Saturday Justice, will involve first-year law school student volunteers being supervised by ICLS and other volunteer attorneys. The program initially will include eight students under the supervision of volunteer attorneys from Orange County and ICLS helping clients with family law issues, said Anna Davis, the law school's director of public interest programs.

"Getting students inspired toward family law is something that [the] pro bono program is focused on," she said.

Added Ugochi Anaebere-Nicholson, managing attorney with ICLS' Indio office: "Family law is an area of need in our community as well as in the state of California with the highest number of unrepresented litigants in that area of law."

The Inland Empire has a resident-to-attorney ratio of approximately 1,781 to one as compared with 444 to one in Los Angeles County, according to the University of La Verne College of Law website. While Orange County has four ABA-approved law schools, La Verne is the only one in the Inland Empire, Davis pointed out.

Inland Counties Legal Services provides free legal assistance to low income Riverside and San Bernardino County residents.

"The opportunity to expose law students and volunteer attorneys to the legal needs of rural legal aid clients through this joint pro bono initiative will provide us with additional resources to provide legal services to individuals and families in our client community," Anaebere-Nicholson said in a statement.

The Coachella Saturday Justice clinic is the most recent effort by UC Irvine School of Law to assist residents of the Coachella Valley, according to the university news release.

The school's Community and Economic Development Clinic has been involved in ongoing representation of mobile home park residents in the Coachella Valley, helping them with a variety of problems, the release said. Students and faculty travel to these sites to meet with clients, testify at public hearings and appear in court, according to UCI.

According to the U.S. Census, 34.6 percent of residents live below the poverty level, making San Bernardino the poorest city for its population in California, and the second poorest in the nation next to Detroit, officials said. The unemployment rate in Indio, in

SPECIAL REPORT

Top Boutiques



Tuesday, October 21, 2014

U.S. Supreme Court

LA hotel records ordinance could yield major high court ruling

The Supreme Court's decision Monday to review a case involving a Los Angeles ordinance that allows police to seize hotel guest records could generate a ruling on the breadth of the government's power to obtain records without a warrant.

Entertainment & Sports

Required right of publicity reading

The California Court of Appeal recently clarified two important issues regarding right of publicity cases: assignability and copyright preemption. By **Jens B. Koepke**

Government

Utility watchdog presses for PG&E's private communications with state regulators

The state's main nonprofit utility watchdog on Monday pushed for Pacific Gas & Electric to hand over more private communications with state regulators - part of ongoing fallout from the revelation of emails showing improper coordination.

U.S. Supreme Court

Supreme Court to consider pro-defense ruling by 9th Circuit

The U.S. Supreme Court said on Monday it will review a controversial pro-inmate death penalty decision out of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Intellectual Property

San Diego company's patent lawsuit revived against Pfizer

San Diego-based AntiCancer Inc. had its patent lawsuit against Pfizer Inc. revived on Monday after the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit overturned a noninfringement decision favoring the New York-based drug giant.

the heart of the Coachella Valley, is above 10 percent.

At the Coachella clinics, students will work with family law attorneys interviewing clients, help with custody paperwork, assist with completion of declaration pages and attend to other basic legal client needs, officials said.

Interaction with clients is an important part of the plan and students will get credit in later clinics for their lawyering skills class, a part their curriculum, Davis said. UC Irvine students are engaged in more than 100 pro bono programs administered by Davis in a year and 95 percent of the law students do pro bono work before graduating.

Coachella Valley residents may contact ICLS at 760-342-1591 or 951-774-4416 to conduct an eligibility screening for an appointment. The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Attorney volunteers are needed to help staff the clinics, the news release said. To sign up, please contact Anaebere-Nicholson at 951-774-4411 or uanaebere@icls.org.

Additional clinics will be offered on Jan. 24, March 21, May 16, July 18 and Sept. 26 at ICLS' Indio office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The office is located at 82632C U.S. Highway 111 in Indio. Local law firms will be invited to help provide pro bono services during the July clinic, the release said.

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Corporate

Legal issues play small role in tamping down on private equity buyouts

A discernible undercurrent of circumspection among fund managers and company executives over the enhanced legal scrutiny facing take-private deals has contributed to the ongoing drought of such transactions in recent years.

Law Practice

EA's GC jumps to Pandora Media

Oakland-based Pandora Media Inc. announced Monday the hire of a new general counsel. Steve Bené replace Delida Costin.

Labor/Employment

Fresno firm takes on Wal-Mart in class action

Wagner, Jones, Kopfman & Artenian LLP is taking on Wal-Mart over the company's payout structure that compensates truck drivers on a per mile basis. The firm was recently granted certification for a class action case.

Law Practice

Manatt adds four more IP attorneys

The firm welcomes one partner from Steptoe & Johnson LLP and three more attorneys from Dickstein Shapiro LLP after last week's additions to its southern California offices.

Public Interest

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Law Practice

Orrick establishes West Africa office, a first in Ivory Coast

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP said Monday it opened an office in Abidjan in the Ivory Coast under the name Orrick RCI. Orrick is the first large international law firm to establish an office in West Africa.

Litigation

Builder testifies in defect case involving attorney's home

Ronald Arrache and his wife Nancy are defending themselves against Fred Adelman and his wife, Kristen Whitney, who in a lawsuit accuse the Arrache Construction Co. and various subcontractors of selling a defective home.

Mergers & Acquisitions

Dealmakers

A roundup of recent mergers and acquisitions and financing activity and the lawyers involved.