

WHAT LEADERS SAY ABOUT CIVIL LEGAL AID

“Civil legal aid is a highly valuable tool for fixing some of the damage of COVID-19. It addresses critical legal problems, connects people with resources, and builds stronger communities. We need to continue to make it work for the most vulnerable among us.”

DEBRA STEPHENS, CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE WASHINGTON SUPREME COURT AND FRANCIS ADEWALE, CHAIR, SUPREME COURT ACCESS TO JUSTICE BOARD AND CITY OF SPOKANE PUBLIC DEFENDER, SPOKANE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, 1/20/21

“Our government needs to use every available lifeline to provide relief in this time of crisis. That’s why civil legal aid, an essential part of our state’s front-line response, must play an even larger role in the present emergency and during our recovery.”

FORMER WA ST. CHIEF JUSTICE MARY FAIRHURST AND SEATTLE MARINERS GENERAL COUNSEL FRED RIVERA, SEATTLE TIMES, 4/15/20

“Ensuring access to justice for everyone helps us all. Every worker should be able to secure their essential benefits, every resident able to stay safe and healthy in their home, every person protected from violence and instability, reduces the impact of this crisis on our community.”

FORMER WA ST. AG ROB MCKENNA AND FORMER WA ST. BAR PRES. SALVADOR MUNGIA, TACOMA NEWS-TRIBUNE, 6/14/20

“Timely and effective civil legal assistance can prevent problems from piling up, help families stabilize and recover, and provide a path out of poverty. Resolving these problems also reduces the strain on other public resources, which is especially important amid the economic fallout of the pandemic. Mitigating the harm of this crisis on our communities and our state requires expanding civil legal assistance to as many people as we can.”

SEN. ANN RIVERS AND REP. MONICA STONIER, THE COLUMBIAN, 8/30/20

“People denied unemployment insurance, or faced with eviction, or buried in debt, or trapped in the web of court proceedings after being the victim of domestic violence...All may find themselves facing supercharged versions of the poverty-related challenges that afflict people who have no access to legal aid for civil procedures.”

SHAWN VESTAL, SPOKANE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW, 6/5/20

The COVID-19 pandemic turned many into front-line responders to the challenges faced by millions across our state. Thanks to leadership from the Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA), the expertise of the Northwest Justice Project (NJP) and its Alliance for Equal Justice partners in the public and private sectors, Washington State has been better able to meet the civil legal needs of the most vulnerable people in our state.

**For civil legal aid help, call NJP’s CLEAR Hotline at 888-201-1014 (2-1-1 in King County)
For more information on state-funded civil legal aid, go to www.ocla.wa.gov**