

HOTLINE NEWSGRAM

A Publication of The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.

January 2004

NEW JOINT INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT WLC VOLUNTEERS - PART 1

We are pleased to announce the launch of several new initiatives dedicated to supporting the good work of the many WLC volunteers and members. Through an ongoing partnership with the Maryland Legal Assistance Network (MLAN), WLC is committed to using technology to increase quality legal help for women in Maryland. This NewsGram is the first of two dedicated to the projects we have been working on over the last year to leverage our resources to expand services via the web.

Please complete the **attached survey** and fax it back by the **end of January**.



Reduced Rate Westlaw Plan!!

WLC volunteer attorneys who contribute 7 hours per year and are WLC members are eligible to participate in the **reduced rate** state-wide legal services Westlaw plan.

An **annual rate of \$641** per year per attorney offers unlimited access to the 45 on-line databases in the Maryland plan as well as technical support and training. The plan is administered by MLAN on behalf of the network of providers.

The **enrollment period** for this year **ends February 28th**. Contact Jessica Morgan at (410) 321-8761 for an information packet.

New Partnership Offers On-line Legal Support !!

The Family Law Hotline Manual has been put on-line and integrated with new materials to support WLC pro bono volunteer through a new on-line interface.

WLC and MLAN have partnered with the Legal Aid Bureau and other providers to offer this easy access point to **updated and expanded legal materials** including:

- Court procedures by county
 - Analysis of peace vs. protective orders – recent emergency DV procedures
 - Finding people using web resources
 - Directory of Supervised Visitation and Monitored Exchange Centers
 - Outlines of common questions, case summaries, rules and case flowcharts in divorce, alimony, child support, custody, domestic violence, emancipation, grandparents' rights, guardianship, marital property, mediation, military, name change, taxes, use and possession, and wills.
 - Support Calculator
 - QDRO "Tool Box"
 - Impact of divorce on federal public benefits
 - Directory of Domestic Violence (DV) Shelters
- Many more topics and tools can be found on the WLC website under "volunteer resources."

Looking for a Referral??

WLC has joined the MLAN, the Pro Bono Resource Center and Legal Aid to expand and update the referral resources from the WLC Family Law Hotline Manual and other sources:

- **Community Resources** – brief descriptions and contact information and links
- **Government/Regulatory Agencies**
- **Maryland Centralized Intake System** – database matching individual anonymous data with MLSC funded legal services providers

These resources are now on-line for your use at:

www.mdjustice.org/referral.htm



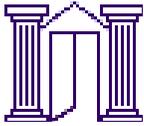
Peoples Law Library
Our partner website
www.peoples-law.org

Finding us on the web

The Women's Law Center of Maryland, Inc.
305 West Chesapeake Avenue,
Suite 201 Towson, MD 21204
Phone: 410-321-8761 Fax: 410-321-0462



Look for the "Volunteer Resources" Button
www.wlcmd.org



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MORE JOINT INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT WLC VOLUNTEERS

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PEOPLES LAW LIBRARY EXPANDED!

Our partner website, PLL significantly expanded its resources in the areas of housing, domestic violence, small claims, prescription drugs, in addition other topics – job discrimination, emancipation of minors, civil rights, and education. PLL offers self-help legal resources (where appropriate), legal information as well as tools to help the public to better assist their attorneys or to make informed decisions. For

example, an on-line, interactive Skills and Traits Quiz helps the public to decide if *they* are suited to self-representation while similar quizzes help them to identify claims for alimony and marital property

For Family Law Hotline and Legal Forms Helpline attorneys, PLL is a valuable referral for callers. WLC booklets and materials are on PLL as well as

resources from many legal services providers.

For family law attorneys in private practice, PLL can be a useful tool to orient you with clear explanations (with legal citation) to a number of common legal topic areas. PLL also contains 16 new topical **Research Guides** created by an attorney/law librarian from the University of Maryland School of Law.

~www.peoples-law.org~

PUBLISH YOUR ARTICLES ON THE WEB!!

Publishing brief tips and articles on legal matters and/or mediation can be an effective way to give back to the community as well as to display your legal expertise to the public. Our partnership with MLAN now gives WLC volun-

You can directly post your articles to the web with no special training or expertise using a special WLC username and password.

Username: LL-WLC
Password: mlan01

teers the chance to publish directly to the Peoples Law Library website. PLL is the public, legal information and self-help website designed to offer a single point of access to the resources of the nonprofit legal services providers in the state. PLL has nearly 900 pages, and over 110,000 pages are viewed by approximately 5000 unique

visitors each month.

- It is as easy as attaching a document to an email.
- The materials are vetted before made available to the public.
- Post at www.peoples-law.org
- Problems? Email mlan@mdjustice.org

MARYLAND ONLINE ADR DIRECTORY LAUNCHED!!

Mediators, arbitrators, and settlement conference facilitators can now enter profiles into a searchable Alternative Dispute Resolution Directory open to the public on the Peoples Law Library (PLL). Since mediation is key to the resolution of many family law matters, we look for-

ward to WLC members and volunteers registering with this new resource for the public. The listing is free and provides an opportunity to create a full profile of your practice. You may list yourself in one or more of 5 areas: mediator, arbitrator, ADR trainer, settlement conference facilitator,

and large group dispute resolution facilitator. Enter your information directly into the system by going to **www.MD-MEDIATE.org**.

All profiles are reviewed before being published. Details are on the site.