

# The Chief Judge's Hearings on Civil Legal Services

**The Hon. Jonathan Lippman**, Chief Judge of the State of New York, will be conducting his fifth annual series of public hearings to evaluate the continuing unmet civil legal services needs in all parts of the state and to assess the level of resources necessary to meet those needs. As requested in the June 2010 Joint Legislative Resolution, the Chief Judge will report to the Legislature on the information obtained at the hearings, as well as the continuing work of the Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York, and will request State funding to meet these unmet needs.

**The Chief Judge will conduct one hearing in each of the four** Appellate Division Departments together with the Presiding Justice of that Judicial Department (Presiding Justice Luis A. Gonzalez of the First Department, Presiding Justice Randall T. Eng of the Second Department, Presiding Justice Karen K. Peters of the Third Department, and Presiding Justice Henry J. Scudder of the Fourth Department), Chief Administrative Judge A. Gail Prudenti, and the President of the New York State Bar Association, Glenn Lau-Kee.

## THE HEARINGS WILL TAKE PLACE AS FOLLOWS:

### FIRST DEPARTMENT

Monday, September 22, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Appellate Division, 27 Madison Avenue, Manhattan

### FOURTH DEPARTMENT

Monday, September 29, 2014, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Telesca Center for Justice  
One West Main Street, 5th Floor, Rochester

### SECOND DEPARTMENT

Tuesday, September 30, 2014, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.  
Supreme Court, Richmond County  
26 Central Avenue, St. George, Staten Island

### THIRD DEPARTMENT

Monday, October 6, 2014, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Court of Appeals, 20 Eagle Street, Albany

**The purpose of the public hearings** is to receive the views of interested individuals, organizations and entities on the following issues:

- The impact of Judiciary Civil Legal Services funding of \$12.5 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2011-12, \$25 million for FY 2012-13, \$40 million for FY 2013-14 and \$55 million for FY 2014-15.
- The current state and scope of the unmet need for civil legal services by low income New Yorkers confronting legal problems involving the "essentials of life," including housing, family stability and personal safety in domestic relations, access to health care or education, or subsistence income and benefits.
- The continuing impact of Hurricane Sandy on the legal services needs of low income New Yorkers.
- The economic and social consequences of the lack of sufficient civil legal services in communities and for the courts, including the impact on the elderly and on education of children.
- The costs and benefits, to the courts, communities and the State, from the provision of civil legal services in matters involving the "essentials of life."
- The particular problems affecting the availability of legal services in rural communities and how to address them.
- The potential for reduction in the unmet need through:
  - Preventive and early intervention services by legal services providers.
  - Enhanced use of technology, including identifying areas where improvements in technology access and utilization can increase the delivery and efficacy of legal services.

- Expansion of the availability of pro bono legal services by private attorneys.
- Innovations in law school and law student involvement in serving communities in need through clinical, experiential and fellowship options for students, including the new Pro Bono Scholars Program.
- Programs being developed to assist law students in fulfilling the new bar admission requirement of 50 hours of pro bono service.
- Programs using volunteers who are not lawyers, such as the new Court Navigator Program.

**THE CHIEF JUDGE'S HEARING PANEL WILL CONSIDER BOTH ORAL TESTIMONY (BY INVITATION ONLY) AND WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS.** Persons interested in presenting oral testimony or making a written submission are asked to follow the procedures and deadlines described below. Please note that the Hearing Panel cannot accept any comments, written or spoken, addressing details of individual litigation or comments about individual judges or attorneys.

**Because of the limited time available for the hearings, oral testimony is by invitation only.** If you are interested in being invited to testify at a hearing, you should send an email to [CivilLegalServices@nycourts.gov](mailto:CivilLegalServices@nycourts.gov) **no later than 14 days in advance of the hearing** at which you propose to testify. **Proposed testimony should be no more than 10 minutes in length.** If requesting an invitation, please (1) identify yourself and your affiliation (and if you are requesting an invitation for someone else to testify, that individual's name and affiliation); (2) attach a prepared statement or a detailed outline of the proposed testimony and specify which of the topics described above will be addressed; (3) indicate at which of the hearings the testimony is proposed to be given. In advance of the hearing, invitations to testify will be issued and will include an approximate time for each presenter's testimony. For those not invited to present oral testimony, your proposed testimony will be deemed a written submission.

**Persons unable to attend a hearing, or those interested only in making a written submission,** may submit their remarks by emailing them to:

**CivilLegalServices@nycourts.gov at least seven (7) days in advance of the hearing,** or by mailing the submission to the **Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services in New York** at the address below. The Task Force is assisting the Chief Judge in preparing for the hearings and in reporting on its results.

**Email:** [CivilLegalServices@nycourts.gov](mailto:CivilLegalServices@nycourts.gov)

**Mail:** **The Task Force to Expand Access to Civil Legal Services**  
c/o Chiansan Ma, Esq.  
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP  
125 Broad Street, 32nd Floor  
NY, NY 10004-2498

For further information please visit the Task Force's website

[www.nycourts.gov/ip/access-civil-legal-services](http://www.nycourts.gov/ip/access-civil-legal-services)