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IOWA LEGAL AID'S PRIVATE ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT PLAN FOR 2013

Introduction:

Each year Legal Services Corporation funded programs are required to set forth their plan for involving private, government and corporate lawyers in providing legal services to low-income people. The plan for involving volunteer lawyers in the delivery of legal services to low-income Iowans set forth below is consistent with the approach that has been taken by Iowa Legal Aid for the past 25 years.

This Private Attorney Involvement Plan for 2013 sets forth the plans for Iowa Legal Aid's involvement of private, government and corporate lawyers in the delivery of legal services to low-income Iowans. This plan will use the existing placement operations of the Iowa Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers Project, the Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project and the Pro Bono Project of Scott/Clinton Counties. These entities will continue their work with the Iowa State Bar Association Public Service Project.

Volunteer lawyers are needed to help provide hope, dignity and justice to low-income Iowans:

There are three primary reasons why assistance is needed from volunteer lawyers.

- Volunteer attorneys can make dramatic and long lasting differences in the lives of low-income Iowans by providing assistance in critical legal problems. This impact is evidenced by these comments by clients who received assistance from volunteer attorneys:

“I heard about this assistance through my therapist and from DHS. I was at a horrible point at that time and you guys came to my rescue. I had nobody, no money, no furniture, and no clue how I would be able to afford an attorney. Thank you so much for all of the help I got to be blessed with.”

“A big burden lifted off my shoulders and now I can try to focus on getting better through my cancer treatments. Thanks so much.”

“I know that I have the proper paperwork completed in case I get sick or need my power of attorney and everything will be taken care of.”

“During my court case the attorney was able to convey to the judge the problems and total disruption my life had gone through because of my

former relationship. Up until that point I felt like no one was listening to me or taking me seriously, including the police and the county attorney's office. I am deeply grateful for everything my attorney did for me.”

- In the Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 6.1, Iowa lawyers are encouraged to provide at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services per year, the substantial majority of which should be provided to persons of limited means or organizations that are designed primarily to assist persons of limited means, and, in addition to providing pro bono services, Iowa lawyers are encouraged to contribute financial support to organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means.
- There is an increasing justice gap in Iowa and throughout the United States which results in fewer low-income Iowans receiving access to the legal assistance they need in civil cases.

Iowa Legal Aid closed 22,186 cases in 2011, serving an estimated 53,500 Iowans, 23,500 of whom were children. The number of cases closed in 2011 is almost 17% less than the number of cases closed by Iowa Legal Aid in 2010. This is not a result of reduced need. In fact, the most recent census data indicates that 499,474 Iowans meet Iowa Legal Aid's income eligibility guidelines. This is up from 359,741 in the 2000 Census. Iowa Legal Aid, however, has experienced reductions in revenue, while expenses have continued to increase. It is operating under a hiring freeze and currently has 17 fewer attorneys and 8 fewer support staff than it had at the beginning of 2010. As a result, Iowa Legal Aid has had to restrict intake in several areas of law. Although the number of persons eligible for legal assistance is increasing, Iowa Legal Aid projects that it will serve fewer low-income Iowans in 2012 because of the reductions in revenue and resulting reductions in staff.

Background on Volunteer Lawyer Project Structure in Iowa:

The Iowa Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers Project (Iowa Legal Aid VLP) is a project of Iowa Legal Aid operated in cooperation with the Iowa State Bar Association (ISBA). The Iowa Legal Aid VLP places cases with volunteer attorneys in 96 Iowa counties. The Pro Bono Project of Scott/Clinton Counties (Scott/Clinton Pro Bono) is operated out of the HELP Legal Assistance office in Davenport and works with attorneys in Scott and Clinton Counties. The Iowa Legal Aid VLP and the Scott/Clinton Pro Bono project are in-house projects of Iowa Legal Aid offices. The Polk County Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project (PCBA VLP) is a project of the Polk County Bar Association and operates without funding from the national Legal Services Corporation. Therefore, the Polk County Bar Association VLP is available to accept clients who do not qualify for services of Iowa Legal Aid due to federal restrictions on services provided by LSC grantees. Almost one-half of the clients served by the PCBA VLP are from sources other than Iowa Legal Aid referrals. These three organizations place clients in need of legal assistance with attorneys willing to provide pro bono assistance. They are also involved in special projects described more fully below.

Each of these placement entities works with Iowa State Bar Association Public Service Project (formerly known as the Iowa State Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project). The main focus of the ISBA Public Service Project is on pro bono recruitment, program development and public service efforts.

While the main focus of the three volunteer lawyers projects that place cases with attorneys is the referral of cases between clients and participating attorneys, important support services are provided to volunteer attorneys through continuing legal education events, the Iowa Legal Aid VLP *Practice Resources*, and backup through access to experts in various substantive areas. A significant source of support provided to volunteer attorneys is the website, www.probono.net/Iowa, which provides a comprehensive collection of information on legal topics, upcoming events such as continuing legal education opportunities, and resources about civil law practice for members of Iowa's justice community.

The Iowa Legal Aid VLP is an integral part of the services Iowa Legal Aid provides to low-income Iowans. Iowa Legal Aid's VLP was established in 1982. The PCBA VLP was established by the Polk County Bar Association in 1984. Iowa Legal Aid's Board is also involved in establishing priorities which directly affect the types of cases referred to the three volunteer lawyers project placement entities.

The records and personnel for the Iowa Legal Aid VLP are located in the Central Administrative Office of Iowa Legal Aid, 1111 9th Street, Suite 230, Des Moines, Iowa. The records and personnel for the Polk County Bar Association VLP are located in the offices of the Executive Director of the Polk County Bar Association at 625 E Court Ave, Des Moines, Iowa. The records and personnel for the Scott/Clinton Pro Bono are located in the HELP Legal Assistance Office, 736 Federal Street, Suite 1401, Davenport, Iowa.

Recognition of volunteer contributions of Iowa attorneys was changed in 2009. The Iowa Supreme Court is involved in recognition events in each judicial district. Attorneys recognized are those who, in the prior reporting period, closed cases that totaled 50 hours or more of donated time. These attorneys are recognized for meeting the aspirational goals set forth in Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct 6.1.

Also, all volunteer attorneys who close cases in the preceding reporting period are recognized in the Annual Honor roll printed in the *Iowa Lawyer*.

It is anticipated that in 2013, Iowa Legal Aid's AmeriCorps members will continue to be involved in Iowa Legal Aid's Volunteer Lawyers Project recruitment efforts, by making direct contact with attorneys who are not yet signed up to participate.

Recent Developments in Private Attorney Involvement

The national Legal Services Corporation has undertaken a review of the manner in which LSC grantees around the country involve private attorneys in the delivery of legal services to low-income clients. As a part of this review, Iowa Legal Aid's Board of Directors adopted a resolution recommitting Iowa Legal Aid to private attorney involvement activities. The resolution can be found at <http://www.probono.net/iowa/library/attachment.134375>.

The resolution reiterates Iowa Legal Aid's commitment to working to improve the lives of low-income Iowans through involving private attorneys in all aspects of Iowa Legal Aid's work as set forth throughout the remainder of this plan. Iowa Legal Aid is also in the process of reviewing various aspects of the plan, as set forth in more detail below, to enhance this aspect of Iowa Legal Aid's work.

The Supreme Court of Iowa adopted a Resolution on Pro Bono Legal Services on October 19, 2009, in which the Court stated in part:

The Court recognizes that many Iowa lawyers serve the public good and honor their professional commitment by donating thousands of hours of pro bono services and making financial contributions to legal service organizations and pro bono programs. The Court commends these attorneys for their important contributions, which benefit our state, our justice system, our communities and, most of all, the clients they serve.

The Court urges all Iowa attorneys to devote at least 50 hours of pro bono legal services a year.

In addition, the October, 2009, issue of the *Iowa Lawyer* contained an article on pro bono. Chief Justice Ternus was quoted in the article as saying,

Iowa can take pride in the fact that several thousand Iowa lawyers volunteer to serve as a lifeline for low-income Iowans who have serious civil legal problems. Yet, despite the tremendous response from attorneys, there is a large gap to fill. The need for pro bono service has never been greater.

Pro bono service is the most important and unique way in which lawyers can serve their communities and contribute to the common good of our society. It is also an important responsibility that attaches to the privilege of being a lawyer.

The national Legal Services Corporation established a task force on pro bono activities that issued a report in October 2012. Iowa Legal Aid is currently reviewing this report to determine whether additional modifications should be made in Iowa Legal Aid's private attorney involvement and Volunteer Lawyers Project activities.

Referral Process:

The types of cases handled by the volunteer lawyers projects in Iowa are limited to civil law matters. Persons contacting Iowa Legal Aid Regional Offices are screened for income and resource eligibility, as well as type and merit of legal problems. The regional office staff make the decision as to whether the case is appropriate to refer to a volunteer lawyers project or whether Iowa Legal Aid staff will provide advice, representation or referral of the client.

There is far more demand for pro bono legal assistance than can be handled by Iowa Legal Aid's limited staff. The Iowa Legal Aid VLP, PCBA VLP and Scott/Clinton Pro Bono all substantially expand the ability to meet the civil legal needs of low-income Iowans, but it is still not possible to address all of the problems confronted. Therefore, the program's Board of Directors must formulate Priorities and Case Acceptance Criteria.

In 2010, Iowa Legal Aid undertook an extensive priority setting process. The process included surveys to former clients, information in the *Equal Justice Journal*, surveys to volunteer attorneys, a web survey, and discussions among regional office Advisory Councils and staff. Staff prepared an analysis of trends in Iowa Legal Aid's case closure data over the past five years in relation to relevant poverty data and statistics on persons with limited English proficiency in the state.

The priority setting process conducted in 2010 did not result in any substantive changes to Iowa Legal Aid's Statement of Priorities and a revised set of Case Acceptance Criteria. Iowa Legal Aid's priorities include:

- Preserving Safety and Stability of Individuals and Families
- Preserving the Home
- Maintaining or Improving Economic Stability
- Obtaining Necessary Health Care
- Preserving Fundamental Rights for Populations with Special Vulnerabilities
- Obtaining Assistance in Emergency Situations
- Ensuring Access to Advice and Referral
- Increasing Knowledge Through Legal Education
- Expanding Access to Resources Through Partnerships
- Obtaining Improved Delivery of Legal Services

The Statement of Priorities, as adopted by Iowa Legal Aid's Board of Directors and the Case Acceptance Criteria utilized by staff, set forth the cases that Iowa Legal Aid offices accept. These cases are targeted to those legal needs related to access to food, shelter, safety, health care, or income maintenance.

The Case Acceptance Criteria used by all Iowa Legal Aid offices is divided into three categories. This is a continuation of a priority system that has been in place since 1991.

1. One category involves those cases most likely to be handled by Iowa Legal Aid staff.
2. The second category involves those cases handled by Iowa Legal Aid staff only when time permits or through the provision of community legal education or other alternative service delivery including referrals to the Iowa Legal Aid VLP, PCBA VLP and Scott/Clinton Pro Bono.
3. The third category includes intakes that will be conducted and referrals made only when a private attorney has indicated a willingness to handle that type of case.

This system of priorities is needed in order to balance the number of clients on which intakes are conducted and those on which more extended representation is being provided. If an inordinate amount of staff time is needed merely to conduct intakes, then there is not time available to provide ongoing assistance in matters that have been identified as cases on which Iowa Legal Aid staff should be providing more extended representation. Given the current economic conditions that have resulted in more Iowans being eligible for legal services and the impact of reduced resources and reduced staff for Iowa Legal Aid, adjustments have been made to reduce the numbers of intakes so that extended representation can be provided.

Because of decreased funding and the resulting reductions in staff, Iowa Legal Aid has had to reduce its intake hours and the types of matters on which applications are taken. The number of new intake applications processed by Iowa Legal Aid staff is down 27% when comparing the first three quarters of 2010 with the same period of time in 2012.

Priorities and case acceptance criteria are considered by staff in screening of cases to be referred to the volunteer lawyers projects. Cases that have been identified as most important to low-income Iowans by the Board of Directors are most likely to be handled. The expertise and

interest of Iowa lawyers participating in the volunteer lawyers projects, however, is also taken into account so that when volunteer attorneys are available to handle particular types of matters, referrals of clients with those types of problems can be made. Volunteer cases have tended to fall into the priority areas of family law/domestic abuse, Social Security¹, landlord/tenant, wills, debt counseling and other consumer problems. Unfortunately, some attorneys receive few referrals because the types of cases they are willing to accept are rarely presented to Iowa Legal Aid offices by low-income clients. In recent years, Iowa Legal Aid has made concerted efforts to better utilize attorneys who have volunteered, but who are not able to take cases in areas identified as highest priorities for low-income people. Staff will continue to explore in 2013 whether there are other options that would allow for increased utilization of volunteer attorneys.

Participation in volunteer lawyers projects in Iowa is very good. In round figures, 2,900 attorneys are signed up to take cases with Iowa's three volunteer lawyers projects. It is important to note, however, that in 2011, approximately 900 attorneys and firms (instances where a firm accepted a case rather than an individual attorney in the firm) actually accepted cases through these volunteer lawyers projects.

The Polk County Bar Association VLP, Scott/Clinton Pro Bono and Iowa Legal Aid VLP are instrumental in Iowa Legal Aid's ability to provide services to clients with whom Iowa Legal Aid has a conflict of interest. In many instances where Iowa Legal Aid regional offices have a conflict, a referral is made to a volunteer lawyers project and, after minimal screening by volunteer lawyers project staff, attempts are made to place the eligible client's case with a participating attorney. No merit determination is made on these cases.

Once a decision is made to refer a client's case to a volunteer lawyers project, a database of volunteer lawyers is searched to attempt to match the client with an attorney. In making determinations about which lawyers to contact, the various staff making contacts with attorneys participating in volunteer lawyers projects take into consideration geographic location, substantive area of the law and when the attorney last took a volunteer lawyers project case. Attempts to place cases are made by telephone, fax and e-mail contact.

Following referral of a case, the volunteer lawyers projects regularly follow up on the case to determine the status of representation. This follow-up is done until the volunteer lawyers project is notified that the case is concluded. Assistance is also provided through consultation on issues the volunteer attorney wishes to discuss with Iowa Legal Aid staff. Probono.net/Iowa is also a resource providing increasing amounts of support to volunteer attorneys. The Iowa Legal Aid VLP *Practice Manual* can now be accessed through probono.net/Iowa.

Components of the Project:

1. **Direct Services to Clients** -- The chart below sets forth the number of cases closed, the number of hours contributed and a dollar amount at varying valuations for the Iowa Legal

¹ All cases Iowa Legal Aid refers through the Iowa Legal Aid VLP are referred on a strictly pro bono basis. Iowa Legal Aid regional offices have a system in place for referring, through normal mechanisms (not through the VLP or for a pro bono referral), those cases that involve Supplemental Security Income, Social Security Disability insurance benefits or concurrent Social Security Disability and SSI claims, where the amount of disability insurance benefits is sufficient to allow for the award of an attorney's fee out of those back benefits. Attorneys included on that referral list are VLP attorneys who are active participants in the VLP Projects and who have indicated an interest in handling these types of cases.

Aid VLP Scott/Clinton Pro Bono².

Iowa Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers Project and Scott/Clinton Pro Bono			
Year	Cases Closed	# of Hours Donated	\$Value of Services Provided
2011	1,180	10,998.19	\$1,539,746.60
2010	1,367	11,035.94	\$1,545,031.60
2009	1,392	11,925.35	\$1,669,549.00
2008	1,257	10,229.83	\$1,432,176.20
2007	1,113	10,926.58	\$1,529,721.20
2006	1,281	11,175.98	\$1,396,997.50
2005	1,444	11,135.10	\$1,391,887.50
2004	1,507	11,491.30	\$1,436,412.50
2003	1,553	11,869.83	\$1,483,728.75

With the merger, Iowa Legal Aid is now reporting donated hours for the entire state. The following table adds the Polk County Bar Association VLP for 2003 through 2010 to the data in the above table.

Iowa Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers Project, Scott/Clinton Pro Bono And PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project			
Year	Cases Closed	# of Hours Donated	\$ Value of Services Provided
2011	1,560	15,333.00	\$2,146,620.00
2010	1,737	14,035.94	\$1,965,031.60
2009	1,810	17,132.95	\$2,398,613.00
2008	1,840	15,124.18	\$2,117,385.20
2007	1,779	13,609.83	\$1,905,376.20
2006	2,143	14,986.52	\$1,873,315.00
2005	2,266	14,532.66	\$1,816,568.75
2004	2,093	15,553.80	\$1,944,225.00

² Iowa Legal Aid's Board of Directors approved valuing attorney time at \$125 per hour effective January 1, 2003. Effective January 1, 2007, the value was increased to \$140 per hour. Given the recent ISBA Economic Survey, it is likely that the rate will be increased for 2012.

Iowa Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers Project, Scott/Clinton Pro Bono And PCBA Volunteer Lawyers Project			
Year	Cases Closed	# of Hours Donated	\$ Value of Services Provided
2003	2,472	15,355.43	\$1,919,428.75

Over the past two years Iowa Legal Aid has expanded its use of email as a means to more efficiently distribute information about cases needing the assistance of a volunteer attorney. This is a process that is still being modified and efforts are being undertaken to make the process more frequently used by attorneys around the state.

2. **Intake Projects** - Iowa Legal Aid offices continue to work to involve more attorneys in the process of intake with new prospective clients. In these intake projects, attorneys from the local community come to the Iowa Legal Aid regional office or some other prearranged location to assist with intake and provide advice and brief service on a wide variety of legal matters. Most offices of Iowa Legal Aid involve some use of volunteers in the intake process.
3. **Assist Through Limited Scope Representation** - The Iowa Supreme Court has approved "unbundled" or limited scope representation rules in Iowa. In addition, the Court has approved forms for *pro se* litigants in certain family law cases. These new rules provide possibilities for volunteer attorneys to assist more individuals through providing advice and brief service in certain aspects of a client's case without taking on full representation. Volunteer lawyers projects in Iowa have undertaken clinics to provide services in the area of dissolution of marriage and child support, utilizing approved *pro se* forms. The projects continue to explore other ways in which clinics can be utilized to provide services or in other ways involve private, government and corporate lawyers in provision of services utilizing these new Iowa Supreme Court approved mechanisms.

As a part of Iowa Legal Aid's commitment to review and enhance PAI activities, the program is working to utilize these new Iowa Supreme Court rules to involve more attorneys to serve more clients.

4. **Volunteer Lawyers Project Practice Resources** – A collection of information in the major areas of poverty law is available on probono.net/Iowa. A link to the website is at the top of Iowa Legal Aid's website for the general public at iowalegalaid.org and provides content either accessible to the public or "behind" a password. The Iowa Legal Aid Volunteer Lawyers Project places content, including details on upcoming continuing legal education opportunities, "in front" of a password so it is accessible to attorneys via a link from promotional emails whether or not the recipient is a member of the Civil Law Practice Area, and includes a new online registration process. Attorneys who take part in Iowa pro bono projects need to join the probono.net/iowa Civil Law Practice Area to access password-protected content, which includes an extensive library of practice resources on poverty law issues prepared by Iowa Legal Aid staff attorneys, material prepared by non-staff attorneys in Iowa for presentation at VLP continuing legal education seminars and resources shared among state VLP projects by the nationwide

ProBono.Net. Membership is available free of charge. The process of making attorneys members of the website is based on requests to join. Promotion of the website and solicitation of memberships is included in communications Iowa Legal Aid sends to VLP attorneys as well as members of the public, private and corporate bar.

5. **Volunteer Lawyers Project Seminars** – In 2011, six continuing legal education (CLE) seminars were held across Iowa over the Iowa Communications Network and over the Web, drawing 436 attorneys from across the state. One seminar has been held to date in 2012, with more in the planning process for later this year. CLE topics held to date and scheduled for 2012 include:

- Legal Issues Affecting Older Iowans
- Refersher by the River (sponsored by the Dubuque County Bar Association)
- Johnson County Bar Association Seminar and Volunteer Lawyer Recognition
- A Little Bit of This and That: A Look at Some Things You Should Know When Practicing Civil Law (sponsored by the Woodbury County Bar Association)
- Veterans CLE

All 2012 seminars are planned to be conducted in partnership with a local bar association at one local location, and broadcast over the Internet using Global Meet. This format allows attorneys to participate in seminars in their own offices and provides the opportunity to record and upload content from seminars for reference by attorneys who could not attend. Iowa Legal Aid has found the Global Meet delivery method to be a more cost-effective method of CLE delivery. The ICN has been used for all seminars since 1996, and the webinar method was introduced in 2011. Reduced registration fees for the seminars are extended to volunteer lawyers. Because of increasing costs related to processing CLE registrations, the rate for half-day seminars was increased to \$100, with a \$25 discount for Volunteer Lawyers Project participants.

Year	# of CLE Presentations	# of Participants
2011	6	436
2010	5	295
2009	9	540
2008	5	317
2007	6	507
2006	4	344
2005	2	159
2004	4	387
2003	6	439

Information regarding the seminars sponsored by the Iowa Legal Aid VLP has been provided to several county bar associations and organizations around the state including the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and distributed at monthly luncheons and by e-mail. In 2013, staff will evaluate the plan for county bar association volunteer lawyers

project continuing legal education seminars and determine what changes, if any, need to be made.

6. **Special Project Activities** - Some offices of Iowa Legal Aid will be involved in special project activities. These activities will include work to involve attorneys who are knowledgeable in tax law in assistance to low-income Iowans who have controversies with the IRS or for whom English is a second language. Assistance with completing pro se family law forms is being sponsored by several offices and will be expanded in 2012. Other special projects will be scheduled throughout the year based on volunteer interest and client need

7. **Website** – Iowa Legal Aid launched its website (ILAW) at www.iowalegalaid.org in March of 2003. In 2005, Iowa Legal Aid expanded the website to include www.iowalegalaid.org which includes a collection of password-protected resources in the Civil Law Practice Area Library. Probono.net/iowa is also used to announce upcoming continuing legal education opportunities and provide online access to materials for Volunteer Lawyers Project seminars. Both websites support the pro bono services provided by attorneys taking part in volunteer lawyers projects. General information at [iowalegalaid.org](http://www.iowalegalaid.org) can explain an issue so clients better understand their legal problem. Probono.net/iowa provides practice resources for attorneys to use when representing a client on a poverty issue. To join [probono.net/Iowa](http://www.probono.net/Iowa), an individual must complete an online membership application form, provide his or her email address and provide information in the form which is marked by a red asterisk. Go directly to the application form, by clicking on the following link: <http://www.probono.net/Iowa/civillaw/jointhisarea.cfm> Membership is available free of charge. The process of making attorneys members of the website is based on requests to join. Promotion of the website and solicitation of memberships is included in communications Iowa Legal Aid sends to VLP attorneys as well as members of the public, private and corporate bar. Attorneys who join the site who are not active in the Volunteer Lawyers Project will be contacted to seek their involvement.

Iowa Legal Aid Legal Hotline for Older Iowans

Although not directly a project of the Iowa Legal Aid VLP, the Legal Hotline for Older Iowans was established in 1998 to provide advice, brief service and referral to Iowans sixty and over. The Legal Hotline for Older Iowans involves private attorneys in assisting with intake and referral of older Iowans who need the assistance of a lawyer.

As a part of the Hotline service, a referral panel has been established. Cases of individuals who cannot be served by Iowa's legal services programs are referred to participants in Iowa's volunteer lawyers projects who have indicated a desire to be on this panel. These referrals are not pro bono and are not tracked through the Iowa Legal Aid VLP or any other volunteer lawyers project in Iowa. Questions regarding the Legal Hotline for Older Iowans should be addressed to Scott Hartsook, Managing Attorney. Scott Hartsook can be reached at the address listed on the letterhead.

Other Project Activities:

Iowa Legal Aid annually recognizes private attorneys who have devoted extraordinary efforts to the legal needs of low-income Iowans. The Iowa Supreme Court is involved in

recognition events in each judicial district. Attorneys recognized are those who, in the prior calendar year, closed cases that totaled 50 hours or more of donated time. This process of recognition and expression of appreciation to private attorneys will continue in 2012. At the time clients' cases are closed, information is requested from the clients regarding their evaluation of the services provided. When appropriate, these questionnaires, where often the clients express a great deal of appreciation for the service provided to them as well as the relationship which was established with the private attorney who provided representation, are shared with the volunteer attorney.

Iowa Legal Aid will continue to communicate the appreciation of clients and Iowa Legal Aid staff to the private attorneys for their invaluable contributions in securing access to justice for low-income Iowans.

Conclusion:

The plan set forth above describes the manner in which Iowa Legal Aid anticipates involving Iowa attorneys who are not Iowa Legal Aid staff attorneys in the provision of legal services to low-income Iowans. This plan is contingent on federal funding available to support these activities and a structure which will enable Iowa Legal Aid to continue delivering the services provided in the past in terms of the types of cases Iowa Legal Aid staff can handle.

If there are comments on the Private Attorney Involvement Plan for Iowa Legal Aid for the year 2012, they should be provided to Dennis Groenenboom, Executive Director, by December 20, 2012.

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