Application to Participate in Public Libraries and Access to Justice Training January 11-12, 2010, Austin, Texas

General Description

With the economic downturn more people are turning to their public libraries to access online resources and as hubs of information.

With funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the National Center for State Courts, the Center-hosted Self-Represented Litigation Network, in cooperation with the Legal Services Corporation, is presenting a two-day conference that addresses how public libraries can improve access to online legal information at libraries. The conference will be a unique opportunity for participants to meet with public librarians and with legal and court experts to discuss strategies for integrating access to legal information into their programs, including how to locate the best content and tools, how to talk about the content with library patrons, how to work with content partners to make sure that needed content is developed, how to share what they have learned statewide, and how to use successful programs to advocate for the importance of public libraries as gateways to government institutions.

The conference organizers will select between 10 and 15 teams of two to three people from across the country to attend the conference.

Those selected will receive travel and hotel costs (subject to a travel cap of \$600 per person, subject to waiver upon prior request). Most meals will be included, but some will be on your own/at your own expense, and no meals during travel will be reimbursed. Teams will be eligible to apply for additional implementation mini-grants after the conference. Such grants, which will range from \$750 to \$1,000, might be used for travel to conferences at which training would be shared, development of marketing materials, and so on.

The application process for participation is described below.

Instructions for Applicant Teams

To participate in this training, each applicant team must complete, and send by electronic mail to <u>richard@zorza.net</u>, the completed pdf form, which appears below. The e-mail must be sent by the close of business on Friday December 11. Received Applications will be acknowledged promptly to the sender's e-mail. We anticipate notifying the submitters of successful applications by Friday December 18, to the first e-mail listed in the Application, and will require confirmation of intent to attend by close of business on Tuesday December 22.

Information about ALL proposed team members must appear on the SAME Application. Note that the first listed proposed participant is to be the key contact, and the e-mail of that person must be monitored closely from the time of the submission of the application, until the conference itself for those accepted or until rejection of the Application for those not accepted.

The submitter of the Application certifies by submitting the Application, to the best of his or her knowledge, to the accuracy of the information about all the proposed participants

Preference will generally be given to teams that include a person who plays a statewide library staff educational or organizational role; a local librarian with a strong interest in expanding the use of public libraries for access to justice; and one of the following: a legal aid staff member; a court online information expert; or a member of a self help center currently not using online tools to provide services. Applicant teams are encouraged to put together a group that will be the most effective in their area of service to spread the word in their states. The decision of the selection group will be final.

As initial applications are received, we think it may be helpful to clarify that the focus of the Training is on Public Libraries. Thus, while law librarians are certainly welcome as part of a team, we should re-emphasize the value of having public librarians as part of the team, both as the statewide person and as the local librarian.

The Application begins on the next page, and requests information about the proposed team members, on page 3, and also more general information about the teams background and approach on page 4. *Both sections must be competed.*

APPLICATION

Proposed Participant One

Conference, including during the First Name: Last Name: Position: Program Name:	
Check One:	Statewide Library Educator Local Public Librarian Law Librarian Legal Aid Staff Court Employee Other If so, who?)
Address: Telephone Number: E-mail Address:	
Proposed Participant Two First Name: Last Name: Position: Program Name:	
Check One:	Statewide Library Educator Local Public Librarian Law Librarian Legal Aid Staff Court Employee Other If so, who?)
Address: Telephone Number: E-mail Address:	
Proposed Participant Three First Name: Last Name: Position:	
Program Name: Check One:	Statewide Library Educator Local Public Librarian Law Librarian Legal Aid Staff Court Employee Other If so, who?)
Address: Telephone Number: E-mail Address:	

Application continues on next page

APPLICATION -- CONTINUED

Please limit your answers to 200 words for each question.

- 1. Why are you interested in this program?
- 2. Describe any past work that any team member has done with public libraries to increase access to justice.
- 3. Describe how you would like your state to take advantage of public libraries in its access to justice efforts.
- 4. Briefly describe any statewide trainings/presentations that any member of the proposed team has conducted on any issue.
- 5. How might your state use a potential \$750 to \$1,000 mini-grant? (You will not be bound to this idea in the actual mini-grant application process.)
- 6. Please provide any additional information that the review committee should know to in order to evaluate your application.

Date: _____ E-mail:

Submitters Name:

Please submit this form by email to Richard Zorza at **richard@zorza.net.** If you have any questions, you may contact him via email or at (202) 549-1128.

Applications must be received by December Friday 11, 2009. Decisions should be made and participants notified by Friday December 18. Participants will need to confirm their participation by Tuesday December 22.