



The Starting Place

Washington State Law Library's
quarterly e-newsletter

Serving the legal information needs of the citizens of Washington State

Winter 2014

On the Heels of Gideon: Criminal Justice Act Turns 50

The duty to furnish adequate representation to every defendant who cannot afford it is dictated not by charity and the Constitution alone, but by justice itself. The obligation of the Federal Government to honor that duty is long past due.

—Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, in a letter to President John F. Kennedy proposing legislation to provide for the defense of indigent defendants in federal criminal cases

As the Gideon v. Wainwright celebrations come to a close, we are reminded of another important hallmark in the right to indigent defense. This is the [Criminal Justice Act of 1964](#). The act provided compensation to appointed counsel for indigent defendants in federal criminal cases, and later amendments to the act established the [federal public defender system](#) that we know today.

The road to the enactment of the Criminal Justice Act was a long one. Although the right to counsel was constitutionally guaranteed in the Sixth Amendment, adequate counsel was out of reach for those who couldn't afford it. US Supreme Court rulings reaffirming the right in the 1930's were followed by three decades of failed congressional attempts to implement the right. Finally, in 1961, Attorney General Robert Kennedy appointed a [special committee](#) chaired by Francis A. Allen to study the indigent defense problem. In response, President John Kennedy called for legislation implementing the right in his State of the Union address on January 14, 1963.

While the debate surrounding indigent defense at both the state and federal levels continues, as highlighted by the recent [Wilbur v. Mt. Vernon](#) decision, we stop to celebrate the Criminal Justice Act of 1964.

CJA History

[The Criminal Justice Act at 50: The Past, Present, and Future of the Right to Counsel in Federal Courts](#) (VIDEO) *presented by the Law Library of Congress and the Federal Bar Association*

Defender Resources

[National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers](#)

[National Legal Aid & Defender Association](#)

[The Defender Services Office Training Division](#)

ABA Resources

[Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants](#)

[Ten Principles of a Public Defense Delivery System](#)

[Eight Guidelines of Public Defense Related to Excessive Workloads](#)

[ABA Criminal Justice Standards](#)

[The Making of the ABA Criminal Justice Standards](#)

Washington Resources

[WA Standards for Indigent Defense](#) *available at the WA State Office of Public Defense*

Training Opportunity

Unfamiliar with WestlawNext? Please join us at the WSLI for one of two free introductory training sessions on Wednesday, April 2nd. We are offering sessions running from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 10:30-11:30 a.m. Call us or come in to sign up today!

Database News

HeinOnline

HeinOnline just got better... in more ways than one! Hein has added a Spanish language interface to the database. Just click the "Language" link at the top of any page and choose Spanish from the drop down menu.

With HeinOnline's new "Citations on Page" feature, you can link to web pages and HeinOnline materials directly from the page you are viewing. Linked cross references include law reviews, the Federal Register, the CFR, Statutes at Large and other HeinOnline material. That's not all! HeinOnline has partnered with Fastcase to include hyperlinks to case law as well.

WestlawNext

After you join us for WestlawNext training, stop by the computer center and use your new skills! We have added WestlawNext to our collection of public access databases. Westlaw Classic users need not worry. We will continue to have access to both databases!

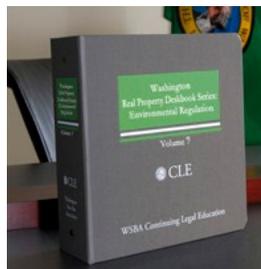
New Chat Hours



Our chat hours have recently changed. Chat reference services are now provided by WSLI reference staff from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Chat is a fast and easy way to ask questions and make simple requests for materials. But it's also a great place to start your research when you need a little extra help! Click [here](#) to get started.

Environmental Law



Continuing its dedication to providing Washington attorneys with expert authority on real property law, the Washington State Bar Association recently expanded its [Real Property Deskbook](#) series to include environmental law.

[Environmental Regulation](#) includes 19 chapters ranging from air quality to endangered species to transportation of hazardous substances. You will find this new volume in our lower level stacks at [KF570.W381 2009 v7](#).

Did You Know?

Washington State Bar CLE publications can be accessed through our LoislawConnect database, available at all WSLI public computers. Topics include business law, family law, estate planning, and litigation. WSBA deskbooks are available as well.

Washington State Law Library

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Visit us at: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/library>

Email us at: library.requests@courts.wa.gov

Chat with us at: <http://www.courts.wa.gov/library/?fa=library.askUs>

Chat hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday - Friday

Hours: 8 am-5 pm, M-F

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Comments Welcome!