

IN JUST TIMES

a publication of the

NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY



Changing Laws, Changing Lives

March 2017

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Dear Friends—

As I write, we are gravely concerned about proposed deep cuts to federal funding for housing, health care, and education that will severely affect people who are already homeless, and threaten many more with homelessness.

United action to oppose these cuts is critically important. Last week, the Law Center along with 15 other national organizations wrote to President Trump expressing our concern and asking him to convene a White House summit to address the crisis of homelessness. The letter lays out actions we would like the President to take and to ask Congress to support to address it. Read the letter [here](#).



Maria Foscarinis
Executive Director

Please take a stand in your community and with your Congressional representatives! We must not only oppose cuts, but also fight proactively for the policies and funds we know we need to end and prevent homelessness.

The Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign includes [policy proposals](#) at the federal, state and local levels to do just that. If you haven't already, please [endorse the campaign](#), and get the word out to your networks to endorse it too.

Our advocacy is now more important than ever—and the support of our allies, friends, and concerned people across the country is essential to carrying it out. Please get involved and join us by [supporting our work](#) in whatever way you can!

Thank you so much for your commitment.

USICH Issues Guidance On Legal Assistance In Ending Homelessness



United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Photo Courtesy: [USICH](#)

Following consultation with the Law Center and other groups, the US Interagency Council on Homelessness issued [guidance](#) in February on engaging legal services as part of community efforts to end homelessness.

The guidance takes a broad approach to the way legal services can help end homelessness, looking not only at how lawyers can help individuals, but also how they can address systemic barriers, and how service providers can integrate legal services to provide comprehensive care for the people they serve.

The guidance also notes there are many ways lawyers can help, from assisting with protective orders for domestic violence victims to helping homeless students stay in school, getting identification documents to stopping the criminalization of homelessness (citing the Law Center's 2014 [No Safe Place report](#) as a resource).

The Law Center welcomes this guidance and encourages service providers to review it to see how lawyers may be able to assist them in ways they may not have considered before. Please contact us to see if we can work with our national network of pro bono and legal services attorneys to ensure you are doing all you can to end homelessness in your community.

Please Endorse Our Campaign

HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

In order to end the crisis of homelessness, the criminalization of homelessness must end immediately. All persons experiencing homelessness should instead have access to affordable housing, education, health care, employment, income, and other opportunities and services that allow all to live with dignity. These are the only solutions to the crisis of homelessness from a moral, legal, fiscal, and policy perspective. The Law Center and over 100 of our partners have launched the [Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign](#) to call for the end to the criminalization of homelessness and a major national shift toward effective housing policies. Please [join or endorse](#) our campaign now!



Free Housing Not Handcuffs Webinar

NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

Thursday, March 28
2pm ET / 1pm CT / 12pm MT / 11am PT

Webinar

Using Litigation to Challenge the Criminalization of Homelessness

releasing a new
Criminalization Legal Advocacy Manual



Learn about the latest trends and strategies for challenging the criminalization of homelessness through litigation, and find out how to get involved in litigation and other actions through the Housing Not Handcuffs campaign.

Register at goo.gl/O2nCNb

Join Our Team Today!



We're Hiring A
Development Director
JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY

CLICK HERE FOR MORE
INFORMATION

The Law Center is seeking a smart, energetic, and committed director to assume the leadership of its development activities! The Director of Development will join the management team of this innovative organization and work with a dedicated and inspiring team of professionals. To learn more, please [click here](#).

Welcome Our New Hunger Fellow Michelle Loo!



"As a daughter of a low-income, immigrant family, coming into this work has been powerful and visionary. The Law Center is an exciting place to be - we can envision the end of homelessness in America and all of the work we do is towards this goal and beyond. Everyone deserves the right to housing and all that follows, such as stability and the opportunity to grow."

Michelle is a Emerson National Hunger Fellow for the Law Center, developing case studies for the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign. Prior to her placement at the Law Center, she worked for 9to5 Colorado building an eviction defense toolkit and collecting narratives of low-wage working women. She comes to this work with a passion for building the capacity of low-income, communities of color, and other vulnerable populations to fight for social justice.

In addition to economic justice, Michelle is interested in the ways that social inequities manifest through health disparities. She has interned at the Charles B. Wang Community Health Center in New York City's Chinatown to create and facilitate nutrition workshops for the low-income Chinese immigrant population. She has also interned for the New York City Department of Health, researching the incidence of traumatic brain injury across age and race. Her work is always informed by the intersectional experiences of those most impacted by classism, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, etc.

Michelle graduated from Barnard College with a B.A. in Urban Studies and Public Health History. She acted as the Chair of the Committee on Inclusion and Equity for the Student Government Association from 2014-2015.

Changing Laws. Changing Lives.

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (the Law Center) is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to end and prevent homelessness. With the support of a large network of pro bono lawyers, we address

the immediate and long-term needs of people who are homeless or at risk through outreach and training, advocacy, impact litigation, and public education.
www.nlchp.org