



## CBF LEGAL AID ACADEMY INFORMATION FOR LAW FIRMS

- **What is the Academy?**
  - Through the pro bono efforts of Chicago's legal community and other partners, the Academy provides needed training opportunities for legal aid attorneys in and around Chicago.
  - The Academy will provide **coordinated training**, through which legal aid attorneys join already existing training programs at law firms and other organizations, where the subject matter is appropriate and space is available; and **customized training**, through which firms, legal consultants, and others in the legal community create and present trainings customized for the legal aid community.
- **Why was the Academy Created?**
  - In the 2006 study *Investing in Justice: A Framework for Effective Recruitment and Retention of Illinois Legal Aid Attorneys* legal aid attorneys and management expressed a need for additional training and professional development opportunities.
  - The Academy brings together our legal community to support the approximately 300 legal aid attorneys who serve the more than 1 million low-income residents of the Chicago area. This support furthers the CBF's overall mission to increase access to justice by enabling dedicated legal aid attorneys to provide high-quality representation to the low-income and vulnerable residents of our community.
- **How Can Law Firms Participate?**
  - **Coordinated Training:** Identify trainings in your in-house program that may be relevant to legal aid attorneys and where you can make a limited number of spaces available.
    - Some examples of trainings that may work well for coordinated training:
      - Skills trainings, including persuasion, writing, negotiation and trial skills
      - Ethics related sessions
      - Basic courses on a variety of topics
    - Illinois Legal Aid Online has created a fantastic, easy to use registration system on [www.illinoislegaladvocate.org](http://www.illinoislegaladvocate.org). Contact Angela Inzano (information below) about how to register to post your trainings on this website.
    - Including even 1-2 attorneys in your program offers a valuable opportunity for legal aid attorneys to gain training and professional development, strengthening our legal aid system and supporting our community's legal aid attorneys.
  - **Customized Training:** Plan and present training designed especially for legal aid attorneys.
    - Law firm attorneys, consultants or human resource experts have valuable expertise to offer our community's legal aid attorneys.
    - In most cases, instructors will receive CLE credit, and participation qualifies as pro bono contribution under the Illinois Supreme Court Reporting Rule and other reporting rules.
    - A liaison from the legal aid community will work with firm attorneys and consultants to design the program, either as a consultant or as a co-presenter, depending on what works best for the particular format.
    - Instructors have flexibility to design a program format that works well for the topic and the instructor—from hands-on sessions for small groups to larger more traditional sessions.
- **To get involved, or for more information, please contact Angela Inzano, CBF Program Manager, [ainzano@chicagobar.org](mailto:ainzano@chicagobar.org), 312-554-4952. Additional information about the Academy is available on our website at [chicagobarfoundation.org/legal-aid-academy](http://chicagobarfoundation.org/legal-aid-academy).**