



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 free, high-quality training opportunities for legal aid attorneys in and around Chicago.
 - The Academy will provide coordinated training programs, 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 programs, through which firms, legal consultants, and others in the legal community create and present training programs 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 legal aid attorneys who serve low-income residents of the Chicago area. This support furthers the CBF's overall mission to increase access to justice by supporting dedicated legal aid attorneys in their work high-quality representation to the low-income and vulnerable residents of our community.
- **How Can Law Firms Participate?**
 - ***Coordinated Training Programs:*** Identify training programs 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 topics that may work well for coordinated training include:
 - Skills trainings, including persuasion, writing, negotiation, taking and defending depositions and trial skills
 - Ethics related sessions
 - Basic courses on a variety of topics
 - [Illinois Legal Aid Online](#) created an easy to use registration system. Contact [Angela Inzano](#) (information below) about how to register and post your trainings on [this site](#).
 - 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 Programs:*** Plan and present training programs designed for legal aid attorneys.
 - Law firm attorneys, training administrators, consultants, and human resource experts have valuable expertise to offer our community's legal aid attorneys. Often programs for legal aid attorneys can be adapted from programs that were presented at the firm.
 - 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 presenters to design the program, in whatever form the instructor prefers, from hands-on sessions for small groups to larger presentations.
- **To get involved, or for more information, please contact Angela Inzano**, CBF Director of Advocacy & Engagement at ainzano@chicagobarfoundation.org or 312-554-4952. Additional information about the Academy is available on our website www.chicagobarfoundation.org.