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Return on Investment in Civil Justice Services and Programs – Selected Annotated Bibliography of Existing Research

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Return on Investment in Civil Justice Services and Programs

Selected Annotated Bibliography of
Existing Research

Prepared by Lisa Moore and Megan Phyper

August 2019



Table of Contents

Africa	3
South Africa	3
Asia	4
Phillipines	4
Australia	5
Europe	6
Belgium	6
Croatia	6
England And Wales	6
Macedonia	7
Scotland	8
North America	9
Canada	9
United States	10
South America	26
Ecuador	26

Africa

South Africa

Institutionalising the South African Community-Advice Office Sector: Is it Worth It?

F Ruffin, W Martins, and S Mukorera, *Institutionalising the South African Community-Advice Office Sector: Is it worth it?* (Centre for Community Justice & Development, September 2018), online: Centre for Community Justice & Development <<http://www.ccid.org.za/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Policy-Brief.pdf>>.

This policy brief uses a cost-benefit analysis approach to assess the merits of sustained, government funding for community-advice offices (CAOs) in South Africa. Estimated total costs amounting to R 19.3 million¹ yield total monetary benefits equal to R 115.8 million and a net value of R 96.5 million. The resulting cost-benefit ratio is 6.01.

Community Advice Offices: Making a Case for Public Funding

YD Davids, L Verwey, MD Dipholo, & N Majozi, *Community Advice Offices: Making a Case for Public Funding* (Human Sciences Research Council, 2015), online: Human Sciences Research Council <<http://repository.hsrc.ac.za/handle/20.500.11910/1709>>.

This policy brief discusses data collected through a broad-based, cost-benefit study on community advice offices in South Africa. The objective of this paper is to present a policy-based argument, supported by data, on the benefits of providing core, public funding for CAOs.

Towards a Sustainable and Effective CAO Sector in South Africa: A Cost Benefit and Qualitative Analysis

Towards a Sustainable and Effective CAO Sector in South Africa: A Cost Benefit and Qualitative Analysis (Human Sciences Research Council, 2014), online: NAMATI <<https://namati.org/resources/towards-a-sustainable-and-effective-cao-sector-in-south-africa-a-cost-benefit-and-qualitative-analysis/>>.

This report presents empirical evidence in support of institutionalizing the Community Advice Office sector in South Africa. CAOs advance access to justice by offering free legal services and fostering legal empowerment within poor and rural communities across South Africa. Data for this report was gathered through a desk-based review, quantitative and qualitative fieldwork assessments and a cost-benefit analysis that weighs the merits of core state funding for CAOs. Findings reveal that an annual, core investment of R 200 000 in 236 CAOs would result in a net value of R 44.9 million to R 85.3 million per year.

1 1 ZAR= .007 USD as of May 1st, 2019 from the XE Currency Converter.

Asia

Phillipines

Community-Based Paralegalism in the Philippines: From Social Movements to Democratization

Jennifer Franco, Hector Soliman and Maria Roda Cisnero, *Community-Based Paralegalism in the Philippines: From Social Movements to Democratization* (Justice and Development Working Paper Series: The World Bank, 2014), online: Namati <<https://namati.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Community-Based-Paralegalism-in-the-Philippines.pdf>>.

This report discusses community-based paralegalism in the Philippines with a focus on the ways that community-based paralegals support access to justice. The paper considers factors that have contributed to the rise of community-based paralegalism over more than three decades and the indispensability of paralegals for social justice in the Philippines. This report offers a unique foray into community-based paralegalism in the Philippines, an area for which there is little existing research.

Australia

Economic Cost Benefit Analysis of Community Legal Centers

John Storer, Dr. Judith Stubbs, & Colleen Lux, *Economic Cost Benefit Analysis of Community Legal Centers* (National Association of Community Legal Centres, 2012), online: Community Law Australia <http://www.communitylawaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Cost_Benefit_Analysis_Report.pdf>.

This report evaluates the economic benefits of Community Legal Centres (CLCs) in Australia. A cost-benefit approach was used to gain insight into the economic value produced by CLCs of different sizes, types and locations. The study found that, on average, across all CLCs, every AUD ² invested by the government in CLCs produces AUD \$18 of economic benefits. For the 2009-10 fiscal year, that translates to AUD \$846 million of benefit relative to AUD \$47 million of investment.

Assessing the Social Value of the Employment Law Centre Using Social Return on Investment Methodology

Orban Holdgate et al, *Assessing the Social Value of the Employment Law Centre Using Social Return on Investment Methodology* (Employment Law Centre of WA, 2016), online: Employment Law Centre of WA <<https://elcwa.org.au/assets/ELC-SROI-analysis-final-report.pdf>>.

The Employment Law Centre (ELC) of Western Australia and the University of Western Australia worked together to assess the social value created by free employment law services provided to clients accessing the ELC. Evaluations in this report are based on data from FY 2014-2015. Findings suggest that ELC services benefit clients and result in other positive impacts, including helping clients to secure cost awards, saving clients money on legal fees, preventing negative impacts to health, and securing non-financial benefits for clients. For every AUD \$1 invested in the ELC, there is an estimated social value of AUD \$1.53.

Economic Value of Legal Aid: Analysis in Relation to Commonwealth Funded Matters with a Focus on Family Law

PricewaterhouseCoopers, *Economic Value of Legal Aid: Analysis in Relation to Commonwealth Funded Matters with a Focus on Family Law* (PricewaterhouseCoopers, 2009), online: Legal Aid ACT <http://legalaidact.org.au/sites/default/files/files/publications/economic_value_of_legalaid.pdf>.

This report evaluates the costs and savings to the justice system of providing funding for legal aid services in four scenarios. The assessments are based on funding provided to Legal Aid Queensland by the Australian government for family law services. The report evaluates the cost impacts to the courts of funding at existing funding levels where dispute resolution, duty lawyer services and legal representation are available to eligible legal aid recipients. Other scenarios explore cost implications (1) in the absence of legal representation and dispute resolution services for eligible legal aid recipients, (2) in the absence of dispute resolutions services outside of the courts, and (3) in the absence of legal aid. For every AUD \$1 invested in legal aid, the study found an approximate return between AUD \$1.60 and AUD \$2.25. The report also discusses qualitative benefits of legal aid.

2 1 AUD= 0.70 USD as of May 1st, 2019 from the XE Currency Converter.

Europe

Belgium

Access to Justice and Economic Development: Evidence from an International Panel Dataset

Arnaud Deseaz, Adam Levai, and Michèle Schmiegelow, “Access to Justice and Economic Development: Evidence from an International Panel Dataset” (Belgium: Institut de Recherches Économiques et Sociales de l’Université catholique de Louvain, April 2019) online: UC Louvain <<https://sites.uclouvain.be/econ/DP/IRES/2019009.pdf>>.

This report examines more than 4 decades of data from 83 countries to assess the relationship between access to justice and GDP per capita growth. Judges per capita is used as the main indicator of levels of access to justice in the countries included in the assessment. Overall, the study found that a 1% increase in access to justice (measured by judges per capita) results, on average, in a 0.86 per person increase in the 5-year per capita GDP. For countries in Europe and elsewhere with comparatively higher levels of access to justice, the law of diminishing returns often applies.

Croatia

Impacts of Cuts to Legal Aid- Comparative View and Economic Prospects

Barbara Preložnjak, “Impact of Cuts to Legal Aid- Comparative View and Economic Prospects” (2017) 4:2 InterEULawEast 35, online: hrčak <<https://hrcak.srce.hr/192775>>.

This report presents a comparative analysis of the economic benefits of legal aid in various European countries. The report progresses with a review of budget cuts to legal aid systems in Europe and discusses the impacts on access to justice. It continues with a detailed discussion of the Croatian legal aid system. Research presented supports the case for, and value of investing in legal aid for communities and low-income earners. Further, the report urges an investment in more economic impact research on legal aid systems.

England And Wales

Towards a Business Case for Legal Aid

Towards a Business Case for Legal Aid (Citizens Advice Bureau, 2010), online: Access to Justice Action Group <https://www.accesstojusticeactiongroup.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/07/towards_a_business_case_for_legal_aid.pdf>.

This report assesses the costs and benefits of advice provided by Citizen Advice Bureau (CAB) for debt, benefits, employment, and housing related legal problems. Findings suggest that the CAB saves the community about £1 billion.³ This is the equivalent of a return on investment of £6 for every £1 that is spent. The report further estimates the following:

- For every £1 invested in housing advice, there is £2.34 in savings.
- For every £1 invested in debt advice, there is £2.98 in savings.
- For every £1 invested in benefits advice, there is £8.80 in savings.
- For every £1 invested in employment advice, there is £7.13 in savings.

Outcomes in Advice

NEF & AdviceUK, *Outcomes in Advice* (Advice Services Coventry, 2010), online: Money Advice Trust <http://www.infohub.moneyadvicetrust.org/content_files/files/bold_outcomes_advice_final.pdf>.

This report evaluates the value of Advice Services Coventry (ASC). ASC engages in individual case work, community-based delivery, education, prevention, and policy change. The report applies a social return on investment approach to evaluate the value of services provided by ASC. Several case studies were selected to demonstrate how outcomes are dependent on various factors, such as the complexity of the case. The findings from the first case study demonstrated that for every £1 invested in advice services, there was a £9 return on investment, while the second case study identified a £10 return for every pound invested in advice services.

The Business Case for Social Welfare Advice Services: An Evidence Review- Lay Summary

Professor Graham Cookson & Dr. Freda Mold, *The Business Case for Social Welfare Advice Services: An Evidence Review- Lay Summary* (Legal Action Low Commission Evidence Review, 2014), online: Legal Action Group <<https://www.lag.org.uk/about-us/policy/the-low-commission-200551>>.

This report presents a review of the literature on return on investment for social welfare advice services, including legal aid. Economic impact research is cited from various sources, including studies from the United States, Australia and Canada. The report discusses the economic value of social welfare advice, including debt advice and further notes that more high-quality research is needed on this issue.

Macedonia

Cost Benefit Analysis of Provision of the Three Existing Free Legal Aid and Services in Republic of Macedonia

Jasminka Friscik, *Cost Benefit Analysis of Provision of the Three Existing Free Legal Aid and Services in Republic of Macedonia* (The Foundation Open Society- Macedonia), online: ESE <<https://www.esem.org.mk/en/pdf/Publikacii/2018/Cost%20Benefit%20Analisis.pdf>>.

This report evaluates the costs of different forms of legal aid in Macedonia. Three avenues for legal aid service delivery were considered: free legal aid by organizations under the Law on Free Legal Aid (LFLA), free legal aid provided by non-LFLA organizations, and community-based paralegal services. The average cost per case of LFLA services is 1.785 MKD.⁴ The organizations not authorized under the LFLA demonstrated a slightly higher average cost per client of 2.013 MKD. Paralegal work had the highest cost at 3.064 MKD. The report details a range of non-quantitative benefits produced by legal aid, including access to legal help for vulnerable and low-income people, legal empowerment, government savings on community education costs and employment for legal services providers.

Scotland

Social Return on Investment in Legal Aid

Claire Hammond & Dr. Inga Vermeulen, *Social Return on Investment in Legal Aid* (Law Society of Scotland, 2017), online: Law Society of Scotland <<https://www.lawscot.org.uk/media/359230/social-return-on-investment-in-legal-aid-technical-report.pdf>>.

This report discusses a study that was commissioned by the Law Society of Scotland to assess the social return on investment of legal aid services in three areas: criminal law, housing law, and family law. Beneficial outcomes were considered in terms of the impact on clients and on the justice system more broadly. For clients, benefits included avoidance of eviction, better employment prospects, better health, and better relationships with family and friends. Benefits to the justice system included fewer cases in court, fewer custodial sentences, less demand for mental health services, and reduced financial burden on public services. The study found a positive social return on investment in all three categories. For every £1 spent on legal aid for housing cases, there was a return approximately £11. For every £1 spent on legal aid for family cases or criminal cases, there was a return of approximately £5.

North America

Canada

An Evaluation of the Cost of Family Law Disputes: Measuring the Cost Implication of Various Dispute Resolution Methods

Joanne J. Paetsch, Lorne D. Bertrand, John-Paul E. Boyd, *An Evaluation of the Cost of Family Law Disputes: Measuring the Cost Implication of Various Dispute Resolution Methods* (Toronto: Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, 2017), online: CFCJ < <http://www.cfcj-fcjc.org/sites/default/files/docs/Cost-Implication-of-Family-Law-Disputes.pdf>>.

This 2017 report applies a social return on investment framework to examine the monetary value of the benefits created from four methods used to resolve family law problems. The four methods – collaborative settlement processes, mediation, arbitration and litigation – are examined using common parameters and the findings are presented for the social value created for every dollar spent on resolving high-conflict disputes and low-conflict disputes. The report also includes data on the total dollars input relative to the total amount of the social value created for both low-conflict and high-conflict family law disputes.

Making the Case for the Economic Value of Legal Aid: Supplemental Briefing Note

Sharon Matthews, *Making the Case for the Economic Value of Legal Aid: Supplemental Briefing Note* (Canadian Bar Association: British Columbia Branch, 2012), online: Canadian Bar Association: British Columbia Branch <https://www.cbabc.org/CBAMediaLibrary/cba_bc/pdf/ForThePublic/LegalAid/ReportsResearchPapers/Economic_Value_of_Legal_Aid.pdf>.

This briefing note by the Canadian Bar Association (CBA) British Columbia Branch discusses the economic value of legal aid to the province of British Columbia. In the absence of data necessary to complete an economic impact assessment of legal aid services in British Columbia, this note discusses findings from international research that is applicable to the case for legal aid in British Columbia. The briefing note highlights two key benefits of investing in legal aid in British Columbia: improved access to justice and the increased efficiency of the courts.

Measuring the Economic Impact of Family Legal Aid in British Columbia: Feasibility Review

Yvon Dandurand & Jessica Jahn, *Measuring the Economic Impact of Family Legal Aid in British Columbia: Feasibility Review* (Law Society of British Columbia, 2018), online: ResearchGate <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/329881773_MEASURING_THE_ECONOMIC_IMPACT_OF_FAMILY_LEGAL_AID_IN_BRITISH_COLUMBIA_Feasibility_Review_Prepared_for_the_Law_Society_of_British_Columbia_Measuring_the_Economic_Impact_of_Family_Legal_Aid_in_BC/download>.

This report, prepared for the Law Society of British Columbia discusses the possibility of research into the social and economic impacts of family and child welfare legal aid in British Columbia. The report highlights the lack of available data in the province, and indicates that a comprehensive study would help fill some gaps. This report also includes an overview of studies from other jurisdictions on the impact of civil and family legal aid.

United States

The Anti-Poverty Effects of Civil Legal Aid

Alan W Houseman & Elisa Minoff, *The Anti-Poverty Effects of Civil Legal Aid* (Public Welfare Foundation, 2014), online: LegalAidResearch.org <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/Houseman-Anti-Poverty-Effects-Civil-Legal-Aid.pdf>>.

This report explores the impact of civil legal aid on poverty. The report considers existing research on the delivery of legal services and information in the U.S., data on the costs and benefits of civil legal aid, U.S. based social return on investment studies, and findings from several noteworthy civil legal aid cases. Civil legal matters discussed in this report relate to the following areas: housing, domestic violence, consumer protection, health, child welfare, custody and immigration. This report also includes recommendations for more quantitative and qualitative assessments of the anti-poverty impact of legal services.

Civil Legal Aid in the United States: An Update for 2017

Alan W Houseman, *Civil Legal Aid in the United States: An Update for 2017* (2018), online: Georgetown Law Library <https://repository.library.georgetown.edu/bitstream/handle/10822/761858/Houseman_Civil_Legal_Aid_US_2017.pdf?sequence=5&isAllowed=y>.

This report offers a discussion of civil legal aid in the United States including details on developments occurring between July 2015 and December 2017. In addition to an overview of the current state of civil legal aid and access to justice in the U.S., the report discusses the justice gap and the impact of insufficient funding on the accessibility of legal services.

Economic Benefits of Civil Legal Aid

Laura K Abel, *Economic Benefits of Civil Legal Aid* (National Center for Access to Justice at Cardozo Law School, 2012), online: National Center for Access to Justice at Cardozo Law School <<https://ncforaj.files.wordpress.com/2012/09/final-economic-benefits-of-legal-aid-9-5-2012.pdf>>.

Civil legal aid produces significant benefits for individuals, communities and local and state economies. This fact sheet offers five examples of the ways that civil legal aid saves the public money and prevents circumstances that would be costly to the government. The issues discussed in the fact sheet relate to domestic violence, foster care, evictions, healthcare and federal safety-net programs.

Americans' Experience with Civil Justice Problems and the Role of Civil Legal Assistance

Rebecca L Sandefur, *Americans' Experience with Civil Justice Problems and the Role of Civil Legal Assistance* (2016) [Presentation], online: LegalAidResearch.org <http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/Sandefur_Americans-Experience-with-Civil-Justice-Problems-and-the-Role-of-Civil-Legal-Assistance.pdf>.

While at least half of Americans experience at least one civil justice problem every 12-18 months, many people do not seek legal help to address them. For some, the reason is that they do not view the problem as being legal in nature. This short paper offers a discussion of experiences of civil justice problems in the U.S. as presented by Professor Rebecca Sandefur at the inaugural meeting of the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable in February, 2016.

Supporting Survivors: The Economic Benefits of Providing Civil Legal Assistance to Survivors of Domestic Violence

Jennifer S Rosenberg & Denise A Grab, *Supporting Survivors: The Economic Benefits of Providing Civil Legal Assistance to Survivors of Domestic Violence* (Institute for Policy Integrity, 2015), online: Institute for Policy Integrity <<https://policyintegrity.org/documents/SupportingSurvivors.pdf>>.

This report discusses the benefits of providing civil legal assistance to victims of domestic violence. Direct benefits include less spending on health care costs, increased productivity, and greater earnings and savings to communities resulting from less engagement with the criminal justice system and social service programs. There are also significant non-monetary benefits for victims and families.

Alabama Legal Aid Organizations: Social Return on Investment Summary

John Byrnes, *Alabama Legal Aid Organizations: Social Return on Investment Summary* (Community Services Analysis LLC, 2014), online: Alabama Civil Justice Foundation <http://www.acjf.org/uploadedFiles/SROI_Report_Alabama_Civil_Legal_Aid_2014.pdf>.

This report evaluates the cumulative social return on investment of five legal aid organizations in the state of Alabama. The social return on investment generated from a funding investment in 2014 totaling \$8.7 million was determined to be \$77.1 million. That is the equivalent of a return of \$8.84 for every dollar in funding invested in legal aid services. The assessment contemplates the value of immediate, direct financial benefits derived primarily from monetary judgements that lawyers secure for clients, and long-term financial benefits resulting from savings to governments, courts and communities. The main legal problem types addressed by the legal aid organizations in the study include: housing, family, employment, public benefits and consumer protection issues.

The Potential Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment from the Enhanced Services Provided by the Relationship Between the Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers and Alabama's Legal Aid Organizations

John Byrnes, *The Potential Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment from the Enhanced Services Provided by the Relationship Between the Alabama Network of Family Resource Centers and Alabama's Legal Aid Organizations* (Community Services Analysis LLC, 2015), online: Community Services Analysis LLC <<http://www.csaco.org/files/103503054.pdf>>.

This report contemplates the potential social return on investment and economic impacts of an integrated social services and legal services program operating in a single location to address interconnected issues. Based on anticipated funding requirements and financial savings and returns, the report finds that projected spending of \$4.5 million would result in \$26 million in immediate, direct financial benefits and approximately \$43 million in long-term financial benefits, with a total potential economic impact of \$69 million. For every dollar invested in this partnership, the community would receive an estimated return on investment of \$15.54.

An Analysis of the Economic Impacts and Social Benefits of Assistance Provided by Alaska Legal Services Corporation

The Resource for Great Programs, *An Analysis of the Economic Impacts and Social Benefits of Assistance Provided by Alaska Legal Services Corporation* (Alaska Legal Services Corporation, 2012), online: Alaska Legal Services Corporation <<https://www.alsc-law.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/Economic-Impacts-and-Social-Benefits-of-Legal-Assistance-Provided-by-ALSC.pdf>>.

A 2012 report on the economic and social benefits of the Alaska Legal Services Corporation (ALSC) found that ALSC generates a 5:1 return on investment, meaning that every dollar invested leads to \$5 in economic benefits. ALSC provides assistance to low-income earners in Alaska on a range of matters including: domestic violence, child custody disputes, housing problems, consumer protection, and health care. Based on an assessment of funding and outcomes for a typical calendar year (2011), the study found the total annual economic impact of civil legal aid provided by ALSC to be \$17.8 million compared to \$3.6 million in funding.

State of Arizona Legal Aid Services: Social Return on Investment Analysis

John Byrnes, *State of Arizona Legal Aid Services: Social Return on Investment Analysis* (Community Services Analysis, 2013), online: Arizona Foundation for Legal Services and Education <<https://www.azflse.org/download.cfm?filename=CSACO%20SROI%20Report%20reduced&type=pdf&loc=azflse>>.

This report on the State of Arizona's Legal Aid Services evaluates the economic and social impact of their services for 2011. The analysis for this report considers the number of clients assisted during 2011, the types of legal matters handled and the outcomes of the various cases in order to derive a social return on investment value. Based on assistance provided to low-income earners through Arizona's Legal Aid services during 2011, the net return on combined federal, state, local and community organizations funding valued at \$13.2 million was found to be \$84.3 million. This translates to a financial value of \$6.39 for every dollar spent on Arizona's Legal Aid services.

Southern Arizona Legal Aid Services: Social Return on Investment Analysis

John Byrnes, *Southern Arizona Legal Aid Services: Social Return on Investment Analysis* (Community Services Analysis, 2013), online: LegalAid Research <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/Southern-Arizona-Legal-Aid-Social-Return-on-Investment.pdf>>.

This 2013 report examines the social return on investment on civil justice services provided to low-income individuals by Southern Arizona Legal Aid Services during 2011. The assessment found that for every dollar invested in providing legal help to clients there was a return of \$7.92. Southern Arizona Legal Aid, which runs 7 offices in the state, had funding amounting to \$34.4 million in 2011. The total value of services delivered to clients in 2011 was \$42.3 million.

Justice Measured: An Assessment of the Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid in Arkansas
Paola Cavallari, Matthew D Devlin, & Rebekah A Tucci, *Justice Measured: An Assessment of the Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid in Arkansas* (Arkansas Access to Justice Commission, 2014), online: Arkansas Access to Justice Commission <<https://arkansasjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/AR-Economic-Impact-Study-2014-combined-1.pdf>>.

This report examines the economic impact produced by Arkansas's two Legal Services Corporation-funded organizations in 2013. The Center for Arkansas Legal Services (CALs) and Legal Aid of Arkansas (LAA) help low-income individuals and families address a range of legal issues. With combined funding in 2013 amounting to \$2.4 million, the two legal services organizations served almost 12,000 clients. As a result, \$2.3 million was put into the pockets of clients, clients saved approximately \$3.4 million in costs for non-lawyer legal services, an estimated \$3.9 million in costs for emergency shelters, medical expenses and social services was saved, and \$8.8 million in economic activity was generated. In 2013, the total amount of revenue and savings created by CALs and LAA was \$32.6 million.

An Assessment of the Economic and Societal Impacts of Three Legal Services Programs Funded by the Marin Community Foundation

Ken Smith, Kelly Thayer, & Kathy Garwold, *An Assessment of the Economic and Societal Impacts of Three Legal Services Programs Funded by the Marin Community Foundation* (The Marin Community Foundation, 2013), online: Resource for Great Programs <https://www.greatprograms.org/Economic_impact_assessment/pdfs/G_MCF%20Report%20by%20The%20Resource%202013.pdf>.

This report discusses the impact of civil legal aid provided by three legal services programs in Marin County, California: Legal Aid of Marin (LAM), Family and Children's Law Center (FACLC), and Canal Alliance's Immigration Legal Services (CA-ILS). In assisting low-income families, individuals and immigrants, the report reveals that legal aid saved the county money by preventing or reducing costly evictions, foreclosures, domestic violence related issues, and use of emergency shelters. From 2009 to 2012, \$7.7 million was invested in the three legal service providers, producing \$36.6 million in economic benefits and savings. For every dollar invested, there was a \$4.75 return on investment.

Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco: Social Return on Investment Summary

John Byrnes, *Justice & Diversity Center of the Bar Association of San Francisco Social Return on Investment Summary* (Community Services Analysis LLC, 2013), online: Community Services Analysis LLC <<http://www.csaco.org/files/103641543.pdf>>.

This report evaluates the social return on investment of legal aid services provided by the Justice & Diversity Center of the San Francisco Bar Association for the 2013 calendar year. In 2013 legal aid services helped more than 8,000 clients with a range of problems, including securing government benefits and support payments. Access to legal help through the Justice & Diversity Center of the San Francisco Bar Association resulted in more efficient use of court time which led to savings for the justice system and savings on emergency housing and family assistance. Total funding for the Justice & Diversity Center of the San Francisco Bar Association in 2013 was \$3.7 million and the total value of services to the community was \$18.2 million. For every dollar invested in the Justice & Diversity Legal Services there was a \$4.95 return on investment.

Legal Aid of Sonoma County: Social Return on Investment Analysis

John Byrnes, *Legal Aid of Sonoma County: Social Return on Investment Analysis*, (Community Services Analysis, 2015), online: LegalAidResearch.org <<https://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/SROI-Sonoma-County-1.pdf>>.

In 2013, Legal Aid of Sonoma County's staff, paralegals and volunteer lawyers provided legal help in three main areas: child abuse prevention, domestic violence/elder abuse and housing issues. This report evaluates the social return on investment of services provided to more than 1,500 people by Legal Aid of Sonoma County. For 2013, sources of funding included fundraising events, services contracts, grants, and contributions from foundations, corporations, and individuals. In total, Legal Aid of Sonoma County spent \$544,542 to provide legal services in 2013. The net value of the services provided was \$4.4 million. For every dollar invested in Legal Aid of Sonoma County, there was an \$8.14 return on investment.

Colorado Legal Services: Social Return on Investment Summary

John Byrnes, *Colorado Legal Services: Social Return on Investment Summary* (Community Services Analysis LLC, 2012), online: LegalAid Research <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/Colorado-Legal-Services-Social-Return-on-Investment-Analysis.pdf>>.

This report analyzes the value of services provided by Colorado Legal Services (CLS) in 2012 using a social return on investment approach. Combined local, state, federal and other funding totaling \$10.1 million provided legal help for 17,309 legal matters. The total net value of CLS's activities in 2012 amounted to \$64.5 million. For every dollar invested in CLS, there was a financial benefit of \$6.35.

Social Return on Investment from Legal Aid Services: A Statewide Analysis

James Teufel, Kristofer Gosset, & Robert Hayman, *Social Return on Investment from Legal Aid Services: A Statewide Analysis* (Delaware Combined Campaign for Justice, 2018) online: Delaware Combined Campaign for Justice <<https://delawareccj.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Social-Return-on-Investment-of-Legal-Aid-Services-final-3.7.2018.pdf>>.

This report explores the social return on investment of Delaware's civil legal aid. From 2013 to 2015, Delaware civil legal aid organizations received funding totaling \$18.1 million which supported the successful resolution of 4,258 civil justice cases. The report reveals that based on total funding from 2013-2015, there was a return of \$90.4 million in economic benefits, \$14.1 million in health benefits and \$44.7 million in access to justice benefits for a total value of \$149.2 million. For every dollar invested in Delaware's legal aid, there was a \$7.23 return on investment.

Economic Impacts of Civil Legal Aid Organizations Funded in Part by the Florida Bar Association

The Resource for Great Programs, *Economic Impacts of Civil Legal Aid Organizations Funded in Part by the Florida Bar Association* (The Florida Bar Foundation, 2016), online: The Florida Bar Foundation <<https://fbfcdn-lwncgfygomdk2qxt0e.stackpathdns.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Economic-Impacts-of-Civil-Legal-Aid-Organizations-in-Florida.pdf>>.

A study was conducted in 2016 to evaluate the economic impacts created by civil legal aid in Florida during the previous calendar year. There are thirty-three programs and projects funded by the Florida Bar Foundation that provide services to low-income people in the state. In 2015, \$83 million in legal aid investments resulted in \$60.4 million in cost savings, \$264.3 million in benefits awards to clients and \$274.8 million in economic multiplier effects. The total income and savings from civil legal aid in 2015 is estimated to be \$600 million. For every dollar invested in Florida's civil legal aid, there was a return of \$7.19 in economic impacts.

The Economic Impact of Legal Aid Services in the State of Florida

Florida Tax Watch, *The Economic Impact of Legal Aid Services in the State of Florida* (Florida Tax Watch, 2010), online: Florida Tax Watch <<https://floridataxwatch.org/Research/Full-Library/ArtMID/34407/ArticleID/15766/The-Economic-Impact-of-Legal-Aid-Services-in-the-State-of-Florida>>.

This report by Florida TaxWatch evaluates the economic impact of civil legal aid services on Florida's economy in 2008. The total economic impact of civil legal aid was between \$216 and \$253 million in 2008 and 3,361 jobs were created. For every dollar invested in Florida's legal aid services, the state receives a return of \$4.78 in economic impacts. Florida TaxWatch further found that if the legal aid program was expanded to meet existing demand, the economy would benefit from an additional increase of \$76- \$116 million and the creation of 890-1527 jobs.

Economic Impacts of Civil Legal Aid Organizations in Georgia

Kenneth A Smith, Andrea J Brewer, & Kathy Garwold, *Economic Impacts of Civil Legal Aid Organizations in Georgia* (The Resource for Great Programs, 2013), online: LegalAidResearch.org <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/georgia-economic-impacts-civil-legal-aid-2013.pdf>>.

This fact sheet discusses the economic impacts of Georgia's legal aid services. The findings are based on data from the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Georgia Legal Services Program, and Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation for 2011. Total funding from all sources, including federal grants, state grants, foundations, bar associations and other sources was \$23.3 million. The resulting total economic impact was \$199.7 million in 2011. For every dollar invested in Georgia's legal aid, there is over \$8 in economic benefits.

Legal Aid in Illinois: Selected Social and Economic Benefits

Jonah Kushner, *Legal Aid in Illinois: Selected Social and Economic Benefits* (Social Impact Research Center, 2012), online: Chicago Bar Foundation <<https://chicagobarfoundation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2014/01/legal-aid-illinois-economic-benefits.pdf>>.

This report looks at the economic benefits of legal aid services in Illinois for 2010. It evaluates data from 8,134 cases that were closed across 7 civil legal aid providers that receive funding from the Chicago Bar Foundation and the Lawyers Trust Fund. Total spending on legal aid amounted to \$38 million in 2010 and economic benefits generated from cases closed by legal aid providers resulted in \$70.1 million in economic benefits. For every dollar invested in Illinois legal aid, there was \$1.80 in economic benefits.

Indiana's Civil Legal Aid Providers: Economic Impact and Social Value Return on Investment Analysis

John Byrnes, *Indiana's Civil Legal Aid Providers: Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment Analysis* (Community Services Analysis, 2017), online: State of Indiana <<https://www.in.gov/judiciary/iocs/files/cca-economic-impact-analysis.pdf>>.

This report evaluates the social return on investment of Indiana's Legal Aid services. Economic benefits are assessed in terms of immediate direct financial benefits and long-term financial benefits. The direct financial benefits are based on the monetary value of the services that legal aid provides and the cost awards that lawyers help secure for clients. The long-term benefits are a result of community savings in areas such as emergency housing, family assistance, and law enforcement and cost savings to the government and courts due to more efficient use of services with the help of a legal aid provider. Total funding for Indiana civil legal aid operations in 2017 was \$14.4 million. Immediate net benefits amounted to \$12.9 million and long-term net benefits totaled \$83.6 million. The total net value of the return created by legal aid services was \$96.5 million in 2017. For every dollar invested in Indiana Legal Aid, there was a \$6.70 return on investment.

The Economic Impact of Iowa Legal Aid

Iowa Legal Aid, *The Economic Impact of Iowa Legal Aid* (Iowa Legal Aid, 2013), online: Iowa Legal Aid <<https://www.iowalegalaid.org/files/A3ED30CF-AFFE-7431-9310-0D521E4312AF/attachments/CF9C722F-986A-48F4-A399-D664E1837D79/economic-impact-study-1-22-13.pdf>>.

This report analyzes the economic impact of Iowa Legal Aid's services. In order to evaluate the impact of legal aid services, three types of benefits were considered— direct benefits to Iowa's economy, indirect benefits or avoided costs, and the economic multiplier effect. In 2011, Iowa Legal Aid's funding from all local sources amounted to \$4.3 million. The economic impact and benefits from Iowa Legal Aid for the same period was \$28.7 million. For every dollar invested in legal aid, the state had a return of \$6.71.

The Longer-Term Influence of Civil Legal Services on Battered Women

Carolyn Copps Hartley & Lynette M Renner, *The Longer-Term Influence of Civil Legal Services on Battered Women* (National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice, 2016), online: National Criminal Justice Reference Service <<https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/249879.pdf>>.

This report describes the findings of a two-year study of women who experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) and sought help from Iowa Legal Aid. The report discusses how receiving civil legal aid can impact women's safety, psychological well-being, economic self-sufficiency and women's sense of empowerment. While many researchers focus on the criminal justice system's impact on IPV, civil legal services can be crucial for women experiencing violence. The report ends with a discussion of the policy implications of the research.

Results, Achievements and Impacts: An Overview for the Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors

The Resource for Great Programs, *Results, Achievements and Impacts: An Overview for the Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors* (AppalRed Legal Aid, 2010) [Presentation], online: Resource for Great Programs <https://www.greatprograms.org/Economic_impact_assessment/pdfs/J-2_AppalReD_PresnToLSC_Board_10-15-10.pdf>.

This presentation, prepared by the Resource for Great Programs, provides an overview of AppalRed, the largest legal aid program in Kentucky. AppalRed serves low-income clients in some of the most impoverished counties in the state. Due to limited resources, AppalRed prioritizes certain services. Their first priority is maintaining the economic stability of clients by helping them to secure government benefits and support payments. They also work to ensure the safety, stability and health of Kentucky residents by protecting individuals and families from domestic violence and obtaining healthcare benefits for clients. AppalRed also works to make sure people can stay in their homes and avoid emergency shelters. AppalRed received funding totalling \$4.5 million in 2009 to support its nine offices operating in 37 counties. In 2009, AppalRed's services led to \$4.3 million in federal funds being brought into Kentucky, \$3.0 million in savings in emergency shelter costs, \$1.1 million in savings in domestic abuse costs \$0.4 million in child support payments and \$0.5 million in other direct benefits. In total, legal aid services provided \$9.3 million in economic impacts to Kentucky in 2009.

The Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment of Civil Legal Aid Services in the State of Louisiana for the Year of 2016

John Byrnes, *The Economic Impact and Social Return on Investment of Civil Legal Aid Services in the State of Louisiana* (Community Services Analysis, 2016), online: Louisiana Bar Association <<http://files.lsba.org/documents/ATJ/EIS2017.pdf>>.

This report evaluates the social return on investment on Louisiana's legal aid services. Thirty-nine organizations that provide civil legal aid services in Louisiana participated in the evaluation. Total tax-based funding provided to these organizations in 2016 was \$10.8 million. The long-term benefits are a result of community savings in areas such as emergency housing, family assistance, and law enforcement. Legal assistance also saves the state money due to the increased efficiency with which legal aid clients move through the court system. The total value of legal aid services was almost \$94 million in 2016. For every dollar invested in Louisiana Legal Aid, there was an \$8.73 return on investment.

Legal Services Programs in Louisiana: Their Economic Impact on the State of Louisiana

James A Richardson, *Legal Services Programs in Louisiana: Their Economic Impact on the State of Louisiana* (Louisiana State Bar Association, 2011), online: LegalAidResearch.org <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/Research-Legal-Services-Programs-in-Louisiana-Thier-Economic-Impact-on-the-State-of-Louisiana.pdf>>.

The *Economic Impact on the State of Louisiana* report examines the costs and benefits of legal aid service delivery through four programs in Louisiana during 2009 and 2010. The programs offered legal help to low-income persons in the state for a range of problem types including: family, consumer problems, housing, income maintenance, education, employment, and health issues. The resulting economic impact of the 19,049 cases handled by the four programs during the period of the study was estimated to be between \$70 million to \$107 million. Total funding for the almost 20,000 cases that were handled was approximately \$13 million, resulting in a benefit-cost ratio between 1.55 and 2.40 for every dollar invested in legal aid delivery through the four legal services programs.

Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid Services in Maine

Todd Gabe, *Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid Services in Maine* (Maine's Justice Action Group, 2016), online: Maine Justice Foundation <<http://www.justicemaine.org/wp-content/uploads/Gabe-Report-Submitted-November-14-2016.pdf>>.

This report examines the economic impact of one-to-one legal assistance and systemic advocacy by six civil legal aid service providers in Maine. Both one-to-one assistance and advocacy were found to significantly contribute to economic benefits within the state. The monetary impacts of one-to-one civil legal aid services were estimated to be \$37 million in 2015. This amount consists of money clients received from federal benefits, monetary awards obtained with legal assistance, and higher incomes that workers were able to obtain due to civil legal aid. It also includes the cost savings resulting from lower rates of homelessness, domestic violence, and less spending on asylum seekers in Maine. Systemic advocacy in the courts at the legislative level, and in administrative agencies impacted almost 40,000 people and resulted in monetary benefits amounting to approximately \$68.3 million.

Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid Services in Maryland

Maryland Access to Justice Commission, *Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid Services in Maryland* (Maryland Access to Justice Commission, 2013), online: Maryland Courts <<https://mdcourts.gov/sites/default/files/import/mdatjc/pdfs/economicimpactofcivillegalservicesinmd201301.pdf>>.

This report discusses the economic impacts of Maryland's 35 non-profit, civil legal aid service providers. For the 2011-12 fiscal year, Maryland's civil legal aid services were found to produce economic impacts valued at \$190 million. The \$190 million sum is the result of \$12.6 million in economic stimulus dollars, \$10.7 million in direct financial benefits for residents of Maryland, \$161 million in benefits obtained in cases related to evictions, other housing problems and other legal problems, \$882,096 in tax revenue, \$3.7 million in savings to the state from reduced homelessness and \$1.3 million in savings from health costs and productivity related to reduced domestic violence rates.

Investing in Justice: A Roadmap to Cost-Effective Funding of Civil Legal Aid in Massachusetts

Boston Bar Association Statewide Task Force to Expand Civil Legal Aid in Massachusetts, *Investing in Justice: A Roadmap to Cost-Effective Funding of Civil Legal Aid in Massachusetts* (Boston Bar Association Statewide Task Force to Expand Civil Legal Aid in Massachusetts, 2014), online: Boston Bar Association <<http://www.bostonbar.org/docs/default-document-library/statewide-task-force-to-expand-civil-legal-aid-in-ma---investing-in-justice.pdf>>.

This report explores the impacts of the inability to access civil legal aid services on individuals who are eligible for legal aid and on the court system. The report also looks at the potential of increased funding for civil legal aid to save money and create other benefits for the state of Massachusetts and legal aid clients. Independent research was conducted for this report that resulted in several key findings. For every dollar spent on civil legal aid in eviction and foreclosure cases the state saves \$2.69. For every dollar spent on legal aid to help address problems related to intimate partner violence, at least as much is saved in avoided medical costs to the state of Massachusetts. For every dollar spent on civil legal aid that facilitates clients' access to federal benefits, \$5 is returned to the state. Overall, the 2013 study found that for every dollar invested in civil legal aid in Massachusetts, the return on investment is \$2 to \$5.

Investing in Justice, Strengthening Communities: How Everyone in Missouri Benefits from Funding for Legal Aid

Investing in Justice, Strengthening Communities: How Everyone in Missouri Benefits from Funding for Legal Aid (Missouri Legal Aid Network, 2009), online: LegalAidResearch.org <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/missouri-legal-aid-benefits-2009.pdf>>.

This report discusses the benefits for individuals, families and communities of access to legal help through the Missouri Legal Aid Network's 16 offices. The Missouri Legal Aid Network helps clients with a range of legal problems including problems related to domestic violence, access to health care benefits, housing, and unfair business practices. The report highlights the many economic benefits and other long-term benefits of access to legal aid. In 2008, the total economic impact of legal aid provided by the Missouri Legal Aid Network was \$33.1 million, which means that for every dollar spent on the Missouri legal aid program there was \$1.84 return of measurable economic impact.

The Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid to the State of Montana

The Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid to the State of Montana (Montana Legal Services Association, 2015), online: Montana Judicial Branch <<https://courts.mt.gov/portals/189/supreme/boards/a2j/docs/Economic%20Impact%20Civil%20Legal%20Aid%20Final.pdf>>.

This report examines the economic impact of free civil legal aid provided by Montana Legal Services Association (MLSA). MLSA is a private, non-profit law firm serving low-income Montanans with legal issues related to consumer protection, housing, domestic violence, family law, and public benefits. The report offers an assessment of the economic impact of civil legal aid based on all sources of funding as well as based solely on local funding sources. For 2013 every dollar of in-state funding spent on MLSA's civil legal aid the return was estimated to be \$10.61 for Montana's economy. For every dollar of total funding dollars that was spent by MLSA to provide civil legal aid for low-income Montanans the return for Montana's economy was \$3.15.

The Economic Impact of Legal Aid of Nebraska

Rod Feelhaver & Jerome A Deichert, *The Economic Impact of Legal Aid of Nebraska: 2007* (Center for Public Affairs Research, University of Nebraska at Omaha; Legal Aid of Nebraska, 2008), online: LegalAidResearch.org <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/Research-The-Economic-Impact-of-Legal-Aid-of-Nebraska.pdf>>.

This report evaluates the monetary benefits produced by Legal Aid of Nebraska to the state of Nebraska. The report examines benefits generated from out-of-state funding and federal cost awards, direct benefits, indirect benefits as well as the resulting economic multiplier effect. For 2007, the benefit-cost ratio based on input dollars from all sources was 3.97 to 1, meaning that for every dollar spent \$3.97 was generated. The total revenue for 2007 was \$3.4 million and the total return was determined to be \$13.5 million. This study builds on findings and a methodology used in an earlier economic impacts study in Nebraska.

The Economic Impact of Civil Legal Services in New Hampshire: Achieving Justice and Boosting the Economy

Ken Smith, *The Economic Impact of Civil Legal Services in New Hampshire: Achieving Justice and Boosting the Economy* (New Hampshire Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission, 2013), online: New Hampshire Judicial Branch <https://www.courts.state.nh.us/access/2013_report/Economic_Impact_Report.pdf>.

This report highlights the economic impact of civil legal services in New Hampshire provided by New Hampshire Legal Assistance (NHLA), Legal Advice and Referral Center (LARC) and New Hampshire Pro Bono (NHPB). The total economic impact of services provided in 2011 was \$84.4 million. This assessment includes federal dollars brought into the state, child and spousal support, and cost savings that resulted from preventing cases of homelessness and domestic violence. This compares with total federal funding during the same period of approximately \$1.4 million.

New Mexico Civil Legal Services Programs: Social Return on Investment Summary

John Byrnes, *New Mexico Civil Legal Services Programs: Social Return on Investment Summary* (Community Services Analysis LLC, 2015), online: Community Services Analysis LLC <<http://www.csaco.org/files/103641624.pdf>>.

This report analyzes the value of New Mexico Civil Legal Services using a social return on investment approach. The evaluation was based on civil legal services provided by nine organizations in New Mexico during 2014. The organizations that form part of the social return on investment analysis for this report provide legal assistance in a variety of areas, including housing, family, employment, public benefits and consumer protection. Funding sources in 2014 included the city, state, federal government, foundations, corporations and individuals. The total amount of funding received was \$11.9 million. The net value of the benefits received as a result of access to New Mexico civil legal services was \$42.5 million. This translates to a social return on investment value of \$3.56 for every dollar invested in civil legal service delivery.

Economic Impacts of Legal Aid: Civil Justice for Low-Income People Creates Ripple Effects That Benefit Every Segment of the Communities We Serve

Ken Smith, Barbara Finkelstein & Christopher O'Malley, *Economic Impacts of Legal Aid: Civil Justice for Low-income People Creates Ripple Effects that Benefit Every Segment of the Communities We Serve* (Management Information Exchange Journal, 2011), online: The Resource for Great Programs <http://www.greatprograms.org/mie_article/pdfs/Economic%20Impacts%20of%20Legal%20Aid_MIE%20Journal_Fall%202011.pdf>.

This article discusses three studies from New York City that assess the impacts of cuts to civil legal aid funding on courts, communities and individuals. The three case studies discussed determined that the value of the economic impacts created by funding legal aid exceeded the costs of investments. Further, cutting funding would result in increased costs rather than savings.

The Financial Cost and Benefits of Establishing a Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings Under Intro 214-A

Stout Risius Ross, *The Financial Cost and Benefits of Establishing a Right to Counsel in Eviction Proceedings Under Intro 214-A* (Pro Bono and Legal Services Committee of the New York City Bar Association, 2016), online: New York City Bar Association <https://www2.nycbar.org/pdf/report/uploads/SRR_Report_Financial_Cost_and_Benefits_of_Establishing_a_Right_to_Counsel_in_Eviction_Proceedings.pdf>.

This report by Stout Risius Ross discusses the results of cost-benefit analysis research to determine the impacts of providing counsel to low-income New Yorkers for housing court. Counsel would be provided for eviction, ejection and foreclosure proceedings. While New York City would bear the cost of providing counsel for housing court, the result would be large savings due to reduced homelessness. Less money would need to be spent on shelters for individuals and their families. The city could further save money on law enforcement and health care. Preventing evictions would also result in non-quantifiable benefits, including improved development of children, improved enforcement of rental laws and regulations, and less likelihood of individuals receiving welfare assistance. Providing counsel for housing court would help New York City realize a benefit of approximately \$320 million annually compared with costs of providing counsel valued at approximately \$199 million. The total benefits consider the cost savings from reduced use of homeless shelters, savings from unsheltered homeless persons and annual costs of affordable housing.

A 108% Return on Investment: The Economic Impact to the State of North Carolina of Civil Legal Services in 2012

Mary L Irvine, *A 108% Return on Investment: The Economic Impact to the State of North Carolina of Civil Legal Services in 2012* (UNC Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity; NC Equal Access to Justice Commission, 2014), online: UNC School of Law <<http://www.law.unc.edu/documents/poverty/justice/economicbenefits2012fullreport.pdf>>.

This report evaluates the direct and indirect economic benefits and cost savings generated from civil legal aid services delivered through three providers in North Carolina in 2012. Analysis of data from 2012 found that the total direct economic impact was \$18 million. The overall indirect economic impact during the same period was determined to be \$13.9 million while total cost savings produced through the provision of legal aid in 2012 was \$16.9 million. These returns and savings translate to \$2.08 put into the economy for every dollar spent from all funding sources and \$10 put back into the economy for every dollar of state based funding that is spent on legal aid.

The Economic Impact of Legal Aid in Oklahoma

The Steven C. Agee Economic Research and Policy Institute at the Meinders School of Business, *The Economic Impact of Legal Aid in Oklahoma* (Oklahoma City University, 2011) online: LegalAidResearch.org <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/oklahoma-city-univ-economic-impact-2011.pdf>>.

This report assesses the economic impact of Legal Aid Services of Oklahoma (LASO) on the state of Oklahoma during 2010. In 2010, funding amounting to \$8.7 million supported LASO's 268 full-time and part-time staff and 1,000 volunteer lawyers who collectively worked to close over 15,000 cases. Out-of-state funding totaling \$4.84 million (65% of LASO's funding for 2010) contributed to statewide economic impacts valued at \$7.1 million. Client awards of almost \$650,000 helped to boost the value of in-state economic impacts for 2010 to \$7.75 million. Further, out-of-state funding to LASO supported income earnings cumulatively valued at approximately \$4.1 million, 108 jobs and resulted in \$351,458 in state and local taxes being collected. Based on these returns, the report concluded that for every dollar spent by LASO in-state in 2010 there was \$1.54 in new economic activity created within Oklahoma.

The Economic Impact of Outcomes Obtained for Legal Aid Clients Benefits Everyone in Pennsylvania

The Economic Impact of Outcomes Obtained for Legal Aid Clients Benefits Everyone in Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania Interest on Lawyers Trust Account Board, Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, 2012), online: Supreme Court of Pennsylvania <<https://www.paiolta.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/Economic-Impact-of-Legal-Aid.pdf>>.

This summary report discusses the significant economic impacts generated by Pennsylvania's Civil Legal Services in 2011. Funding totaling \$53.6 million generated income and savings amounting to \$594 million. This translates to a return on investment of approximately \$11 for every dollar spent on legal aid services. Of the total \$594 million return, approximately 92% (\$546 million) is the result of direct benefits within Pennsylvania; \$48 million is the result of cost savings for taxpayers and communities in Pennsylvania.

A Report on Pennsylvania's Access to Justice Act, FY 2004-2011

The Resource for Great Programs, *A Report on Pennsylvania's Access to Justice Act, FY 2004-2011* (Pennsylvania IOLTA board, 2012), online: Resource for Great Programs <https://www.greatprograms.org/Economic_impact_assessment/pdfs/E_PA%20AJA%20Report%202012.pdf>.

This report discusses the economic impacts generated from \$3 of supplemental funding per in-state court filing that supported free civil legal services for low-income individuals in Pennsylvania from fiscal years 2004 to 2011. A \$2 surcharge on in-state court filings was introduced in 2002 as part of Pennsylvania's Access to Justice Act (AJA). In 2009, a subsequent \$1 filing fee was introduced to help provide additional funding that would help offset reduced funding from other sources. From fiscal years 2004-2011, total funding from these AJA sources totaled \$67 million. During the same period, this investment resulted in \$66 million in cost savings to Pennsylvania's taxpayers and local communities and \$464 million in direct economic benefits for communities and residents in Pennsylvania.

Economic Return on Investment of Providing Counsel in Philadelphia Eviction Cases for Low-Income Tenants

Stout Risius Ross, *Economic Return on Investment of Providing Counsel in Philadelphia Eviction Cases for Low-Income Tenants* (Philadelphia Bar Association's Civil Gideon and Access to Justice Task Force, 2018), online: Philadelphia Bar Association <<https://www.philadelphiabar.org/WebObjects/PBA.woa/Contents/WebServerResources/CMSResources/PhiladelphiaEvictionsReport.pdf>>.

This report discusses findings from research on the impacts and costs of evictions on the city of Philadelphia, and the return on investment of providing counsel for eviction cases. The study was carried out on non-public housing cases of eviction from January 2012 to March 2017. The report highlights the ways that evictions increase rates of child abuse, unemployment, the destabilization of communities, inefficiencies within the court system and homelessness. Further, evictions negatively impact the ability to rent housing, the health of children and families, and also negatively affects children's education. The report asserts that annual funding of \$3.5 million to support legal help for low-income persons involved in tenancy cases in Philadelphia would save the city approximately \$45.2 million every year. For every dollar spent on legal representation for low-income clients in tenancy cases Philadelphia would receive a benefit of approximately \$12.74.

Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid Organizations in Tennessee: Civil Justice for Low Income People Produces Ripple Effects That Benefit Every Segment of the Community

Kenneth A Smith & Kelly Thayer, *Economic Impact of Civil Legal Aid Organizations in Tennessee: Civil Justice for Low Income People Produces Ripple Effects That Benefit Every Segment of the Community* (The Tennessee Bar Association's Access to Justice Committee and the Corporate Counsel Pro Bono Initiative, 2015), online: Tennessee Bar Association <https://www.tba.org/sites/default/files/2015-TN-Final+Report+Package_Consolidated+Statewide_3-18-2015.pdf>.

This report evaluates the economic benefits of civil legal aid in Tennessee during 2013. The data analyzed for this report was obtained from nine civil legal aid programs in Tennessee. Based on cost awards and benefits received by clients, cost savings for communities and the economic multiplier effect, the total economic impact of legal aid in Tennessee during the reference period of the research was found to be \$188.6 million. This sum is the equivalent of \$11.21 in economic impact dollars for every dollar invested in legal aid through the nine civil legal aid organizations in 2013.

The Impact of Legal Aid Services on Economic Activity in Texas: An Analysis of Current Efforts and Expansion Potential

The Perryman Group, *The Impact of Legal Aid Services on Economic Activity in Texas: An Analysis of Current Efforts and Expansion Potential* (Perryman Group, 2009), online: LegalAidResearch.org <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/texas-perryman-report-2009.pdf>>.

This report evaluates the impact of civil legal aid in Texas in 2007 and also assesses the potential impacts of increasing legal aid funding, based on two possible funding models. At 2007 funding levels, legal aid services contributed to a \$457.6 million increase in business activity in the state and \$219.7 million in gross product. This is the equivalent of \$7.42 in economic benefits for every dollar spent on civil legal services. A funding increase that would be sufficient to address the civil justice needs of Texas's share of the low-income population of the U.S. would increase economic benefits generated by an estimated \$325.9 million, add \$156.5 million in gross product and create \$96.7 million in personal income dollars. A funding increase that would be sufficient to address the legal needs of Texans relative to the proportion of unmet civil justice needs in the U.S. as a whole would result in an estimated annual increase of up to \$816.6 million in total economic benefits, \$392.1 million in gross product and \$242.2 million in personal income dollars.

Utah Legal Services: Social Return on Investment Summary

John Byrnes, *Utah Legal Services: Social Return on Investment Summary* (Community Services Analysis LLC, 2013), online: LegalAidResearch.org <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/Utah-Legal-Services-Social-Return-on-Investment-Analysis.pdf>>.

This summary report discusses the social return on investment for services provided by Utah Legal Services (ULS) in 2013. The return created is presented based on impacts generated per legal problem category addressed through ULS. Total funding from federal, state, local governments and other sources during the assessment period amounted to \$3.3 million. Cumulatively, economic impacts derived from twelve legal problem categories addressed through ULS in 2012 were \$32.6 million. For every dollar invested in ULS in 2012, there was \$9.23 in long-term economic benefits created.

Economic Impacts of Civil Legal Aid Organizations in Virginia: Civil Justice for Low-Income People Produces Ripple Effects That Benefit Every Segment of the Community

Kenneth A Smith & Andrea J Brewer, *Economic Impacts of Civil Legal Aid Organizations in Virginia: Civil Justice for Low-Income People Produces Ripple Effects That Benefit Every Segment of the Community* (The Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, 2011), online: LegalAidResearch.org <<http://legalaidresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/vlsc-economic-impacts-civil-legal-aid-organizations-virginia-2011.pdf>>.

This report discusses the economic benefits and cost savings created as a result of access to civil legal aid in Virginia during the 2009-10 fiscal year. The report notes that a modest estimation of benefits includes \$72.4 million in benefits and cost savings for low-income clients and families, \$61.3 million in economic impact produced in Virginia's local economy, \$2.8 million in cost savings for taxpayers and \$2.5 million in tax payments generated in-state and locally. The total economic impact created was \$139 million. For every dollar invested in Virginia's legal aid from all funding sources there was a \$5.27 return on investment.

Legal Services Corporation of Virginia: Report to the Commonwealth and the General Assembly FY 2008-2009

The Resource for Great Programs, *Legal Services Corporation of Virginia: Report to the Commonwealth and the General Assembly FY 2008-2009* (Legal Services Corporation of Virginia), online: Resource for Great Programs <https://www.greatprograms.org/Economic_impact_assessment/pdfs/J-5_VirginiaOverviewReportFY2008-09_12-24-09.pdf>.

This report by the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV) discusses civil legal aid in Virginia and the economic and social benefits created by Virginia's legal aid programs during the 2008-09 fiscal year. Total funding for legal aid programs in Virginia for FY 2008-09 was \$25.8 million, of which \$11.6 million was provided by LSCV. This funding was made available to 38 legal aid programs serving all of Virginia. Legal aid programs generated \$67 million in economic benefits during FY 2008-09 as well as a range of non-quantifiable benefits which are discussed in the report. The resulting return on investment on civil legal aid programs in Virginia in FY 2008-09 was \$2.62 for every dollar invested.

South America

Ecuador

Legal Reform, Externalities and Economic Development: Measuring the Impact of Legal Aid on Poor Women in Ecuador

Bruce M Owen & Jorge E Portillo, *Legal Reform, Externalities and Economic Development: Measuring the Impact of Legal Aid on Poor Women in Ecuador* (Stanford Law School, 2003), online: SSRN <https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=406260>.

This 2003 report discusses the economic effects of rule of law, legal reform and access to legal aid for women living in poverty in Ecuador. The focus of the evaluations in this report are on the impacts of child support payments that were awarded to women and domestic violence cases that were handled through legal aid services in Guayaquil, Ecuador. In addition to conducting surveys, researchers held focus groups to gather qualitative data on the experiences of women seeking child support. Participants discussed important, non-financial benefits of legal aid, including improved self-esteem and coping. Findings suggest that child support payments positively impacted the standard of living of some households and clients experienced a reduction in domestic violence.