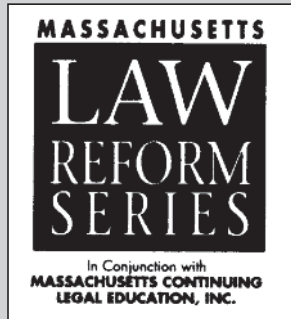


MLRI Basic Public Benefits Advocacy Trainings

A series of nine trainings for legal, social and health services, and community advocates who assist low- and moderate-income individuals and families



MCLE and the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) are collaborating to make annual basic public benefits advocacy training more accessible to the many public and private sector individuals and lawyers who assist Massachusetts residents in qualifying for and receiving public benefits.

1 SSI and SSDI Basics

Wednesday, November 5, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
5.5 Credits
Program No. 2090210P01

Social Security disability programs continue to be a major source of cash and health benefits for individuals with disabilities. However, dealing with a large federal agency can be daunting and overwhelming for an unrepresented claimant. This program begins with an overview of the two disability programs administered by the Social Security Administration (SSA) with emphasis on eligibility requirements and procedures, including basic disability eligibility standards and non-disability issues such as income, resources, and noncitizen criteria. A brief overview of the new appeals process for disability application starts the afternoon session. Concluding the program is a brief review of post-entitlement issues, with special emphasis on overpayments.

Faculty: Linda L. Landry, Esq. and Svetlana Uimenkova, Esq., Disability Law Center, Boston

2 Assisting Families Experiencing Homelessness: Emergency Assistance Shelter and Benefits

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
3 Credits
Program No. 2090211P01

This program focuses on strategies to assist families experiencing homelessness in accessing and retaining shelter from the Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA). Trainers provide an overview of the Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter system, as well as advocacy tips regarding the range of issues facing families seeking to access EA shelter and housing resources, including denials, terminations, shelter placements, and program requirements.

Faculty: Steven J. Valero, Esq., Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston; Kelly B. Turley, Senior Policy Advocate, Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless, Lynn

3 Representing Unemployed Workers at Unemployment Insurance Hearings: Seminar and Mock Hearing

Tuesday, November 18, 2008
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
3 Credits
Program No. 2090214P01

Representing an unemployed worker in an unemployment insurance (UI) hearing is a high-stakes endeavor for your client and his or her family. UI is a critical safety net during periods of joblessness. This program provides you with the expertise you need in order to help your clients get the UI benefits to which they are legally entitled. As unemployed workers often cannot afford to retain the services of the private bar, you will provide an invaluable service to your

clients as pro bono or legal services representative. Our expert panel guides you through the intricacies of the entire UI system from eligibility criteria through the appeals process, and you have the opportunity to observe a mock UI hearing.

Faculty: Monica Halas, Esq., Cochair, Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston; Margaret E. Monsell, Esq., Cochair, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston; Elba Aviles, Lead Paralegal, Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston; Peter Benjamin, Esq., Western Massachusetts Legal Services, Springfield; Sherley E. Cruz, Esq., Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston; Brian J. Flynn, Esq., Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston; Ingrid I. Nava, Esq., Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston; Ellen N. Wallace, Esq., Greater Boston Legal Services, Boston

Training materials include the MLRI Unemployment Advocacy Guide.

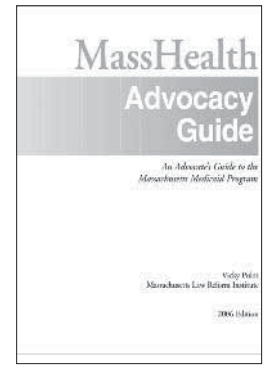
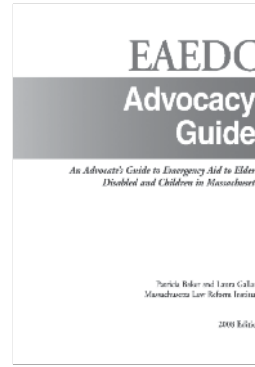
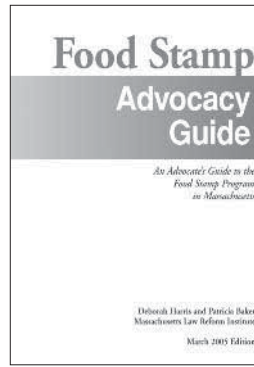
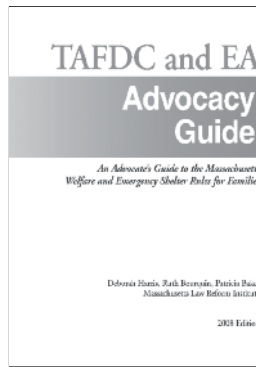
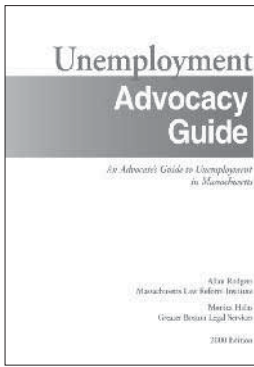
4 Cash Assistance for Massachusetts Families and Individuals: TAFDC and EAEDC Basics

Tuesday, December 9, 2008
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
5.5 Credits
Program No. 2090213P01

Learn about or get an update on the basics of the two main cash assistance programs in Massachusetts: TAFDC (Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children)—the main cash assistance program for families, and EAEDC (Emergency Aid to Elders, Disabled and Children)—the cash assistance program for elders and disabled and a few children.

Faculty: Experienced Legal Services Attorneys and Paralegals

Training materials include the MLRI TAFDC & EA Advocacy Guide and MLRI EAEDC Advocacy Guide.



5 Food Stamps

Thursday, January 8, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
3 Credits

Program No. 2090212P01

This program provides an introduction to the Food Stamp program. You learn the application process, financial eligibility, work requirements, basic legal rights and recent changes in federal and state laws affecting food stamps, including the 2008 Federal Farm Bill changes affecting working households.

Bring a calculator if you have one.

Faculty: Patricia J. Baker, Senior Policy Analyst, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston; Laura R. Gallant, Esq., Neighborhood Legal Services, Lynn.

Training materials include the MLRI Food Stamp Advocacy Guide.

6 Supports for Working Poor Families: How to Maximize Income and Reduce Expenses

Thursday, January 8, 2009
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.
3 Credits

Program No. 2090215P01

This program focuses on various supplemental benefits and assistance programs which help working families to maximize their income and reduce their expenses. The first part of the program is presented in a lecture format and the second part utilizes small break-out groups and case hypotheticals.

Faculty: Ellen J. Shachter, Esq., Cambridge and Somerville Legal Services; Laura R. Gallant, Esq., Neighborhood Legal Services, Lynn

7 Health Care Access Programs

Wednesday, February 4, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
5.5 Credits

Program No. 2090263P01

The morning session covers the basic eligibility requirements for Commonwealth Care and all types of MassHealth for low-income individuals under age sixty-five.

Choose one of the two afternoon workshop sessions:

Workshop One: Other Health Programs and Avoiding Individual Mandate Penalties
Basic eligibility and services for other health programs, including the Health Safety Net (Free Care), the Medical Security Plan, the Children's Medical Security Plan, and Healthy Start. This workshop also describes how to avoid tax penalties for those who have been unable to afford insurance.

Workshop Two: Troubleshooting MassHealth and Commonwealth Care Problems
This workshop focuses on how to solve problems that arise after eligibility and enrollment into subsidized health coverage, including managed care assignment, premium nonpayment, prior authorization denials, and the appeals process.

Faculty: Victoria Pulos, Esq., and Neil F. Cronin, Health Policy Analyst, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston

Training materials include the MLRI MassHealth Advocacy Guide.

8 The Changing Face of Senior Health

Thursday, February 26, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
5.5 Credits

Program No. 2090261P01

The past year has seen major changes in the state and federal health care systems, and many of these changes affect seniors. The bewildering complexity of these programs can result in significant physical and financial problems for seniors. It is important for elder law practitioners to have a sound knowledge of the basics of programs such as Medicare and MassHealth to guide elderly clients through the maze of health care coverage and obtain the best possible health outcomes, financial protections, and quality of life for them as they progress through the system. This program provides a working knowledge of the resources available to elders with an array of health care needs.

Faculty: Deborah H. Thomson, Esq., Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston; Additional experienced advocates to be announced.

9 Immigrants and Public Benefits

Thursday, April 2, 2009
9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.
3.5 Credits

Program No. 2090262P01

This training offers the nuts-and-bolts on immigration status and benefits for non-citizens. You will learn the federal and state health, food, and cash benefits that are available to Massachusetts immigrants and refugees; how to identify immigration status for public benefits purposes; the "public charge" impact of receipt of benefits on immigration status; changes during 2008 and 2009 in Department of Transitional Assistance (DTA) policy on immigrant eligibility; discussion of the sponsor deeming rules and options.

Faculty: Patricia J. Baker, Senior Policy Analyst, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, Boston; Eva A. Millona, Director of Policy and Advocacy, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Boston

LOCATION

MCLE Conference Center
10 Winter Place, via Winter Street
Boston

TUITION all programs

Legal Services Attorneys and
Non Lawyer Advocates \$25
All Others \$95

CAN'T ATTEND?

See page 80 of this catalog for a complete list of Basic Public Benefits Advocacy print resources.

Registration and Order Form

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2008

REFERENCE # 09-039

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