

MASSACHUSETTS LAW REFORM INSTITUTE

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) provides statewide advocacy and leadership in advancing laws, policies and practices that secure economic, racial, and social justice for low-income people and communities.

ADVOCACY FRAMES:

ADDRESS & COMBAT POVERTY:

Identify systems and conditions that lead to and perpetuate poverty and devise cross-substantive, multi-generational strategies and innovative approaches that remove barriers to opportunity; create economic stability and mobility; promote health, safety and well-being; and lead to thriving families and communities throughout the Commonwealth.

PROMOTE ACCESS TO JUSTICE:

Devise strategies to address systemic barriers that impede vulnerable populations (low income; limited English proficient; limited education; seniors; individuals with physical, mental health or cognitive disabilities) and provide litigants from accessing the courts or administrative agencies, from accessing basic benefits and services, from knowing and exercising their legal rights and privileges, and from participating in fair & efficient judicial and administrative processes.

ADVANCE RACIAL EQUITY:

Identify issues and conditions impacting the state's communities of color and immigrant communities and devise effective strategies that diminish systemic barriers, racial disparities and implicit bias, and that promote equal rights and equal opportunities for all individuals, families and communities in Massachusetts.

PRACTICE GROUPS:

Economic Justice

Ensuring Availability and Adequacy of Public Benefits

Removing Barriers to:

- Income Supports
- Nutrition Supports
- Work Supports

Workers Right, Fair Wages. Removing Barriers to Employment (CORI, credit)

Asset Building

Public Benefit Recipients' Due Process Rights

Immigrant Access to Benefits

Systems Integration (MassHealth/SNAP)

Housing Justice

Public, Subsidized, and Affordable Housing:

- Fair and Equal Access
- Protecting & Expanding Housing Stock

Family Homelessness

Equitable Community Development

Foreclosure Protections

Public Housing Tenant Apprenticeship Programs

Tenant Protections & Empowerment

Housing Court Access

Affordable Utilities

Health Care Justice

Maintaining and Increasing Health Care Access & Affordability

Removing Barriers to Subsidized Health Care

Immigrant Health Care Access

Child Health Insurance

Addressing Health Disparities

Streamlining Procedures & Eligibility Rules

Systems Integration (MassHealth/SNAP)

Family & Child Justice

Family Law

Domestic Violence

Probate & Family Court Reform

Child Welfare

- DCF Reform
- DCF Fair Hearings
- Kinship Care
- Foster Care & Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

Community Justice

Race Equity Project

Immigrant Rights / Immigrant Protection Project

Criminal Justice Reform & Addressing Collateral Consequences of Incarceration

Access to Employment, Transportation, and Educational Opportunities

School to Prison Pipeline

Technology & Justice

MA Legal Aid Websites Project:

- MassLegalHelp
- MassLegalServices
- Legal Resource Finder
- Mass Legal Answers Online
- Online Legal Forms

Due Process & Technology

Using Tech Innovations to Increase Access to Justice

Issues that cut across all MLRI Practice Groups =

Race Equity

Language Access

Technology

Community Lawyering: Supporting and Empowering Low Income Communities