

South Carolina Law Review

Volume 67

Issue 2 *WHAT WE KNOW AND NEED TO KNOW
ABOUT THE FUTURE OF LEGAL SERVICES:
WHITE PAPERS FOR THE ABA COMMISSION
ON THE FUTURE OF LEGAL SERVICES*

Article 2

Winter 2016

FOREWARD

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Recommended Citation

Hubbard, William C. and Martinez, Judy Perry (2016) "FOREWARD," *South Carolina Law Review*. Vol. 67 :
Iss. 2 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/sclr/vol67/iss2/2>

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FOREWORD

William C. Hubbard*
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Perhaps more than any other moment in the last two centuries, now is the time when lawyers must lead and shape the future of legal services. Our collective drive to close the justice gap and make meaningful access to justice a reality for all is and will remain our compass. Our course of action is to examine traditional and evolving legal service delivery models, scrutinize what our profession and system of justice have not provided but could provide, and collaboratively design and implement the next realm of legal services.

If we are wise, we will be guided by the core values of our profession as we go about this work. If committed to the greater public good, we not only will look at how legal services are currently provided through a lawyer's lens, but also a consumer's eyes. If open-minded and visionary, we will understand that even if change causes disruption, it is worth the discomfort if it results in a senior citizen being able to stave off eviction, a caring father retaining shared custody of his children, or an asylum seeker's safety finally being realized because America can now be called home.

The American Bar Association Commission on the Future of Legal Services was established in 2014 to drive enhancements and improvements in the delivery of legal services. Its work is not only responsive to the current environment which has ushered in new forms of online and other nontraditional legal service providers, but also is critically and opportunistically determining what more the legal profession can do to serve the poor, near poor, and middle income, as well as clients with resources, both individual and corporate. We must be open to make changes in legal services delivery models that are in the public interest. It is not a challenge to be faced alone for, as with other intractable social problems, it must be tackled with the collaboration of the best and the brightest across sectors and with the benefit, insight, and innovation that only an interdisciplinary approach to problem-solving can deliver.

With that goal in mind, the ABA Commission on the Future of Legal Services presents this compendium of scholarly papers on the future of legal services. With the generosity of the University of South Carolina Law Review and its faculty advisors and members, the papers of leading academicians have been gathered here. Special thanks go to Elizabeth Chambliss, Professor of Law and Director, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough Center on Professionalism; Renee Newman Knake, Professor of Law and Foster Swift Professor of Legal Ethics, Michigan State University College of Law; and Robert L. Nelson, MacCrate Research Chair on the Legal Profession, American Bar Foundation,

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and Professor of Sociology and Law, Northwestern University, for their tremendous academic contribution in support of this issue. We hope that these papers will provide insight to those who see the public interest as their ultimate duty, enabling them to contribute to this critical dialogue of our times.