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Subject: Working Towards Justice for All

Meeting the Legal Needs of Low-Income LGBT Seniors

The intersection of poverty and discrimination creates an array of unique legal needs for older LGBT individuals. In June, Justice in Aging, in partnership with Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgender Elders (SAGE), [released a Special Report](#) highlighting the unique legal needs of LGBT older adults. [A video](#) highlighting those needs accompanies the report. **Please share both widely.**

New Bay Area Project—Two New Attorneys!

We are pleased to announce that we are launching a new project focused on improving access to Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) for older adults in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties in the San Francisco Bay Area. This work, which we will coordinate with our work to improve access to programs at the state and national level, is funded by a three-year grant from

the [Thomas J. Long Foundation](#) and will be carried out by two new attorneys in our Oakland, CA office – Claire Ramsey and Trinh Phan. [Read about Trinh and Claire on our staff page](#), and [learn more about the project here](#).

Justice in Aging Attorney Denny Chan Honored for Racial Justice Work

Last month, attorney Denny Chan received an award from the [Lakeshore Ethnic Diversity Alliance](#) (LEDA) for his work as a forceful legal advocate for low-income seniors, especially those from groups that have traditionally lacked access to legal representation. Denny was an active member of LEDA in high school, so it was extra special that LEDA announced, that night, the establishment of the Denny Chan Annual Youth

Leadership Award. Each year, in honor of Denny's legacy of leadership in racial equity, one student will receive a \$500 scholarship to further academic or leadership development. **We are all very proud to work with Denny!**

How to End Homelessness – Ask the Experts

On June 29 Justice in Aging organized a group of advocates on Twitter to propose solutions to homelessness among older adults. The effort was in conjunction with a flood of media coverage that day known as #SFHomelessProject. In addition to proposing solutions, the advocates used the Tweetchat as a forum to counter some of the stereotypes about homeless people that the media and others perpetuate, and also to share their expert perspectives and research on the systemic causes of poverty and homelessness. [Read the compiled Tweets and access the resources shared on our blog](#).

Changes to the Medicaid Managed Care Regulations in Effect

On July 5, the first wave of new Medicaid Managed Care regulation requirements went into effect. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) published the final Medicaid managed care rule this spring, introducing sweeping changes to how the federal government will regulate entities that manage long-term services and supports (LTSS). Justice in Aging discussed some of the most important pieces of the new regulations in a webinar on June 30. [Watch the webinar or download the slides here](#). [Read about the changes on our blog](#).

California Budget Addresses Some Important Challenges for Low-Income Older Californians

The budget package that Governor Brown signed late last month includes a handful of important provisions that will positively impact the lives of low-income older Californians. These include a small

increase in the state's supplemental payment for SSI recipients (SSP), new limits on Medi-Cal estate recovery, and increased funding for affordable housing and legal services. These measures point the way for further advocacy to meet the needs of the growing numbers of older Californians that are being left behind by high housing and health care costs and inadequate income supports. [Read more in our alert.](#)

Amicus Challenges SSA's Attempts to Moot Class Action

Justice in Aging joined with 14 other organizations last month to file an amicus brief in the Fourth Circuit in a proposed class action involving the Social Security Administration's use of the Treasury Offset Program. Under this program, SSA withheld taxpayers' federal tax refunds in order to recoup Social Security benefits that had allegedly been overpaid more than ten years ago. The lawsuit alleges that in 2014 SSA, in its attempts to recover these decades-old funds, systemically violated the due process rights of taxpayers. Class actions against the Social Security Administration can be an important tool for beneficiaries fighting a policy or practice that harms a large number of people, and it's important that we, as legal advocates, fight to preserve this tool. [Read the amicus brief.](#)

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