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Unprecedented Resource for Advocates of Civil Right to Counsel Movement
Powerful New Website Captures All Available Data on Civil Right to Counsel

BALTIMORE, MD – September 8, 2014 The National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel, the foremost organization leading the national movement to expand the right to counsel in basic human needs cases, has just launched the most comprehensive online resource ever created in the civil right to counsel effort.

The new website, at www.civilrighttocounsel.org, features an interactive map that tracks the status of the right to counsel in civil cases in every state of the nation, and allows users to filter information by issue, jurisdiction, and activity. “The map shows users where the most recent civil right to counsel activities have occurred across the country, and where the NCCRC has been involved. It’s an invaluable resource for lawyers, advocates, and anyone interested in the right to civil counsel movement,” said John Pollock, who created the site. “It provides not just the status, but the critical source material as well.”

Unlike criminal cases, people facing civil legal problems – loss of housing or medical benefits, women facing life-threatening domestic violence, parents at risk of permanently losing access to their children – often do not have a right to legal counsel. For people of low income, this lack of representation furthers inequality and injustice. With the launch of its powerful new website, NCCRC makes available a massive clearinghouse of valuable data that will quickly become the go-to resource for right to counsel advocates involved in litigation, legislation, and legal and social science. “Nothing of this scale has ever been built,” commented John Nethercut, Executive Director of the Public Justice Center. “It’s the only central repository in the country focused on information about the national civil right to counsel effort. There is no comparable resource.”

The site gathers data from every law review article, study, report, paper, news story, social media piece, and key case brief written about the civil right to counsel in the last five years. The result is a highly searchable bibliographic index that includes thousands of resources. The site also features a large library of audio and video related to right to counsel, such as case oral arguments, speeches, public hearings, debates, panels, and videos.

About the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel

NCCRC is a program directed and funded by the Public Justice Center. Working through a national coalition of 260+ participants in 36 different states, NCCRC supports and coordinates advocacy to expand recognition and implementation of a right to counsel in civil cases.

www.civilrighttocounsel.org

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