

Betsy Davis Stone
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Health Law Fellow Board Report

Networking. For the last quarter, I've focused on establishing personal connections with KEJC's existing partners. By attending several events hosted by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, I've had the opportunity to form a closer relationship with one of our largest grantors. At Georgetown University's Center for Children and Families Annual Conference in July, I met several of our national partners in person and connected with the Health Policy Director and Health Policy Fellow at Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families, who helped organize Arkansas' 1115 waiver case. I've met with Kentucky Legal Aid's Advocacy Director to discuss their current strategies and policy concerns in the public benefits arena, and I'm scheduling similar meetings with benefit specialists from the other three legal aid programs. Fostering connections with some of KEJC's oldest partners is leading to new policy goals and ideas just in time for General Assembly strategizing.

Policy Advocacy. Speaking of the General Assembly, planning for the 2020 Session is well underway. In terms of health equity and access, we look forward to championing a pre-filed bill that would end co-pays for Medicaid recipients. We'll also be ready for whatever role a decision in *Moore v. University of Kentucky* (challenging the university's right to use the Department of Revenue to collect unpaid medical bills) might play in the 2020 session, and we plan to closely monitor charity care issues and proposed federal legislation on surprise and balance medical billing and prescription affordability. In furtherance of those policy goals, I registered as a lobbyist, and we've continued commenting on important federal rulemaking, including proposed changes to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and to the civil rights protections in the Affordable Care Act.

Litigation. Allowing our policy work to inform our litigation strategy, we've talked to a variety of potential litigants for challenging UK's debt collection practices, but we're waiting on a decision from the Kentucky Supreme Court in *Moore* which could allay some of our concerns. We're also on the look-out for potential plaintiffs for a surprise and/or balance billing challenge, and I'm getting my feet wet in the Federal Marketplace appeal process working on a case Miranda surfaced through her outreach work. Finally, in consultation with the National Health Law Program (NHeLP) and the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), we've advised the Insure Kentucky coalition on the feasibility of litigation challenging recent changes to the Kentucky Integrated Health Insurance Premium Payment Program (KI-HIPP).

Community Education. We continue to view partnering with legal aid programs as an important piece of our own policy advocacy and litigation strategy. Each month, I send an email to our legal aid listserv with a summary of all the important Kentucky appellate decisions released in the previous month, keeping communications open with legal aid attorneys by

providing what we hope is a helpful resource. Last week, I presented about Issue Spotting strategies at the Statewide Legal Aid Conference, and Ben and I are in the process of organizing an in-depth consumer law training for a small group of legal aid attorneys from each program in October. Because of my op-ed that I published before joining KEJC, I had the opportunity at the Berea City Council's last Workgroup to discuss a proposal to adopt the Uniform Residential Landlord Tenant Act in Berea.

Enrollment. Lastly, I'm still learning about the challenges and opportunities that come with being a Certified Application Assister. In the last quarter, I've assisted at least three different clients with enrollment or recertification questions.