Webinars

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Payday Loan Battles: Preparing Before the Fight Even Begins

October 2, 2018 As payday loans evolve, payday and other small-dollar lenders are pushing states to permit even more unaffordable high-cost loans that will plunge families into an even bigger and deeper debt trap. Advocates need to anticipate and [...] 

Ensuring that People Are Not Jailed Due to Poverty: Reforming Policies and Representing Clients in Criminal Justice Debt Ability to Pay Proceedings.

May 22, 2018 The Constitution prohibits jailing defendants for non-payment of debts they cannot afford but too often courts fail to conduct adequate “ability to pay” proceedings and unrepresented individuals are sent to jail simply because they are too [...] 

Affirmative Litigation of Criminal Justice Debt Abuses - Theory and Practice

March 16, 2018 Lawsuits are currently challenging harsh criminal justice debt collection practices, including "debtors prisons" and automatic license suspensions. This webinar discussed litigation strategies and challenges when pursuing affirmative claims against harsh criminal justice debt collection practices, and [...] 

Introduction to Harvard’s Criminal Justice Policy Program’s
50-State Criminal Justice Debt Law Web Tool

March 1, 2018 The National Consumer Law Center and the Criminal Justice Policy Program at Harvard Law Schools free webinar series on criminal justice debt continues this spring. Confronting Criminal Justice Debt focuses on the fines and fees imposed [...]

Helping Communities of Color Access Opportunity: An overview of the Lifeline program and current threats to its scope and purpose

February 7, 2018 Communities of color often face challenges connecting to and maintaining affordable broadband and voice service. The federal Lifeline program has been around since the mid-1980s. While it started as a low-income program to help households afford [...] 

False Certification Discharges for Wilfred Academy Students

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Using Bankruptcy Law to Aid Criminal Justice Debtors

October 17, 2017 For criminal justice debtors, bankruptcy can be a powerful tool. It can eliminate the obligation to repay certain criminal justice debts or provide an orderly mechanism for repaying certain debts that cannot be discharged. Bankruptcy can [...] 

The Advocacy Gap: Meeting the Urgent Need for Counsel to Represent Individuals in Criminal Debt Proceedings

October 10, 2017 Too often, individuals who owe criminal justice debt lack counsel who can help them navigate the system and avoid the severe penalties often imposed for nonpayment-from garnishment to suspension of a drivers license to incarceration. This [...] 

Confronting Criminal Justice Debt: Introduction and Impact on Communities of Color

October 4, 2017 Americas justice system is increasingly financed by the imposition of heavy fines, fees, and costs on individuals accused of crimes and civil infractions. The costs are
disproportionately born by the poor and people of color. This [...]

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