

**COLLEEN M. COTTER**  
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**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**Consultant:** 2003 – present.

Consultant to legal services programs, state justice communities and funders. Issues addressed include: state justice communities; strategic planning; resource development; conference planning; bar, courts and program partnerships; development of new delivery systems; outreach to underserved client populations; evaluation of delivery systems; and post-reconfiguration challenges. Past and current clients and projects include:

- Legal Services Corporation, Office of Program Performance, state justice communities and program project. Assist OPP in its work with its grantees.
- Legal Services Corporation, Outcomes Measurement Project. Research ways to measure the outcome of legal services work, including interviews of over 90 people. Make recommendations to LSC regarding their role in ensuring grantees measure outcomes. Convene 2 “Outcomes Summits”.
- Legal Aid of East Tennessee, Case Management System (CMS) Review. Research the functionality and cost of CMS programs available to legal services, including interviewing users. Drafted, with colleague, nationally published to help programs choose and maximize their use of CMS. See [www.lstech.org](http://www.lstech.org)
- Legal Services Corporation, State Justice Community Evaluation. Participated on team that evaluated the Washington state justice community and tested LSC’s newly developed evaluation protocol.
- Legal Services Corporation, Program Evaluation. Participated on team that evaluated Mid-Penn Legal Services, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, including such issues as pro bono programs, quality of legal work, management and supervision, role of the board of directors, diversity, and fiscal management.

**Indiana Legal Services, Inc.:** Office of Administration. 1995 - 2003.

Director of Programs and Organizational Development. Worked with ILS Board of Directors, including Priorities, Nominations, Compensation and Benefits, and Client Training Committees; wrote grants and supervised grant writing; reported to funders and supervised reporting to funders; developed projects to serve under-represented client communities; ensured compliance with Legal Services Corporation regulations.

Accomplishments:

- Diversified funding base to include numerous federal and local grants;
- Developed systems for reporting and case management in the merged program;
- Organized successful client training programs;
- Developed multi-office and -partner domestic violence project with outside funding.

Director, Indiana Justice Center. Supervised trainings and web site development; oversaw state planning process; worked in partnership with Indiana State Bar Association, Indiana Bar Foundation, Indiana *Pro Bono* Commission and Statewide *Pro Se* Office.

Accomplishments:

- Successfully staffed the reconfiguration of 4 LSC funded programs into 1;
- Led the state planning process to include partnerships with the private bar, judiciary, legal and social service providers, and client and community leaders;
- Oversaw a legal needs study and facilitated meetings around the state to discuss the findings of the study to develop priorities and assist in resource allocation;
- Created and organized three Access to Justice Conferences;
- Created and implemented the Using Technology to Access Justice Project.

Senior Staff Attorney. 1993-1998. Handled a wide variety of cases including family law, education, public benefits, consumer and housing law. Represented clients in administrative hearings, federal and state trial and appellate courts.

**Indiana University School of Law - Bloomington:** Adjunct Professor. Fall 1997.

**Pine Tree Legal Assistance:** Skadden Fellowship recipient. Staff attorney with special emphasis on domestic violence issues. Machias, Maine. 1991 - 1993.

**United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit:** Clerk to Judge Cornelia Kennedy. 1990 - 1991.

**Kirkland & Ellis:** Summer Law Clerk. Chicago, Illinois. 1989.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:

### **National Legal Aid and Defender Association:**

Board Member. Executive Committee Member. 2001 - 2003.

Civil Policy Group Member. Executive Committee Member. Resource Committee Chair.

Loan Repayment Assistance Committee Co-Chair. 1999 - 2003.

Annual Conference Committee Member. 1998 - 2003.

Equal Justice Conference Committee Member. 2000 - 2003.

### **Legal Services Corporation State Justice Community Evaluation Instrument Design Team:**

Member, 2002 - 2003.

**Trainer:** Participated on numerous panels at conferences and continuing legal education events addressing diverse topics including: state planning; legal needs; ethics; leadership development; and case management systems.

**Indiana State Bar Association and Monroe County Bar Association:** Member.

ISBA *Pro Bono* Committee, Member.

**Project for the Future of Equal Justice:** Advisory Committee Member. 1998 - 2000.

**Monroe County Domestic Violence Task Force.** 1993 - 1999.

**WomanKind:** Domestic violence agency Board President. Machias, Maine. 1992 - 1993.

**EDUCATION:**

**Indiana University School of Law, Bloomington**

Juris Doctor, *magna cum laude*. May 1990. *Order of the Coif*

Indiana University School of Law Fellowship

Public Interest Law Foundation: co-founder and co-chair

*Indiana Law Journal*, associate member and editorial staff

Research Assistant to Law School Dean, Bryant Garth

**University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana**

Bachelor of Arts, *cum laude*, History. May 1987

Notre Dame Scholar

Licensed to practice law in Indiana.