

GOING THE DISTANCE
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Incubators and Beyond: Building an Entrepreneurial Access to Justice Program

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Agenda: Different Models for ATJ

- Justice Bridge Legal Center, Boston, MA
- Los Angeles Incubator Consortium, Los Angeles, CA
- Suffolk Law Accelerator to Practice Program, Boston, MA
- DC Affordable Law Firm, Washington, DC
- Themes and Variation/Discussion

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Justice Bridge Legal Center: Nuts and Bolts

A law incubator with **14 attorneys** (7 in Boston office, 7 attorneys in New Bedford)
Staffed with **15 volunteer resident mentors** and one full-time director
Attorneys **incorporate individually** and obtain their own malpractice insurance
Attorneys pay **rent on a graduated scale**, beginning at \$200/month up to \$500/month
Justice Bridge provides mentors, practical skills training, business coaching, tech support, referrals, memberships in bar associations, and networking opportunities
Prospects referred by program are not eligible for free civil services, but cannot afford market rates (250-300% Federal poverty line in Boston; 200-225% Federal poverty line in New Bedford). Fees range from \$50 to \$100 per hour based on household income.
Referrals come from: community partners, legal services offices, State agencies, web site and on-line platforms.

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Justice Bridge’s Goals: Empower Attorneys and
 Serve People Within Their Limited Budgets

- Efficient delivery techniques** (to serve clients):
- *Limited scope representation and one-time consultations
 - *Flat fee, payment plan pricing structures
 - *Early intervention/conflict avoidance programs
 - *Expedited mediations, conciliations
 - *Utilizing virtual platform to streamline intake and delivery process
 - *“Partnering” w/other professionals, holistic approach.
- Continuing legal education** (to serve attorneys):
- *Two-week orientation program/“boot camp”
 - *Training modules, programs and webcasts
 - *Ready access to 45 mentors in total between our two office locations (15 in-residence regularly, 25 who are available on-call)
 - *Administrative portal that collects “best practice” data.



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LAiC Los Angeles Incubator Consortium
PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW • SOUTHWESTERN LAW SCHOOL • UCLA SCHOOL OF LAW

- A collaborative incubator program with: **3 law schools** [Southwestern, UCLA & Pepperdine], 5 legal service organizations [Bet Tzedek, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Legal Aid Society of Orange County, Neighborhood Legal Services & Public Counsel] and the LA Law Library
- **Recent graduates 0-5 years** out of law school
- **1 year** program; Completed Year 1 and Year 2 began 2/1/16
- **One part-time director** along with advisory group
- Attorneys pay **rent for shared office space** at Legal Service Organizations beginning at \$250/mo; Attorneys incorporate individually and malpractice insurance is required

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- **LAiC provides** boot camp up front and ongoing trainings, mentors, case reviews, LRS membership, shares cost for LA Law Library membership, plus networking opportunities
- **Prospective clients** are “modest means” -- not eligible for free civil services, but cannot afford market rates
- **Pro Bono** Requirement of 200 hours with consortium partners
- **Referrals** come from LAiC partners, law schools, library, LRS, director, community
- **Funding:** awarded grant from CA State Bar to help launch the program along with contributions from law schools
- **Website:** <http://www.laincubatorconsortium.com/>

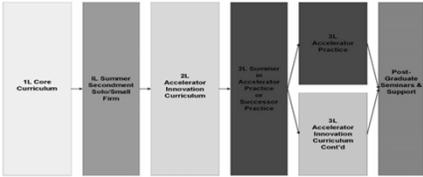
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 **Accelerator to Practice Program**

- **Comprehensive three year course of study** designed to prepare graduates to join or start sustainable law practices serving average income individuals and families.
- Students admitted to the program in the spring of their first year.
- The program combines a **specialized skills curriculum** in technology, practice management and delivery of legal services with **targeted experiential training** in a solo or small firm practice and in a specially created law firm within the Law School.
- **Interdisciplinary team** of law school administrators, faculty, legal technologists, practice experts and local practitioners.

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 **Accelerator to Practice Program**



 2016 Louis M. Brown Award for Legal Access

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 **Accelerator Innovation Curriculum**

- **Technology**
 - Coding the Law: An Introduction to the Technology of Practice
 - Lawyering in the Age of Smart Machines
- **Practice Management**
 - Law, Business & Design: Making Consumer Experiences Simple
 - Business of Practice
 - Process Improvement & Project Management
- **Delivery of Legal Services**
 - Legal Problems of Everyday Life
 - Representing Clients in Fee Shifting Cases
- **Clinical Capstone**
 - Accelerator Practice Seminar

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DC Affordable Law Firm

- **501(c)(3)** non-profit organization founded by Georgetown Law, DLA Piper, and Arent Fox
- **Six fellows** selected for **15 month commitment** from each graduating class
- **\$44,000 annual salary**, funded by Georgetown and grant funding for 3 years
- 3 month full-time training program, **LL.M. in Advocacy** awarded
- Housed at Arent Fox with donated space
- Supervision and mentoring from law firm attorneys
- Managed by **pro bono executive director**, soon to be replaced with a paid one
- Expensive model, what is the **capacity-building** impact?
- **Tracking and research** for efficacy and replicability

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Important Lessons: Theme and Variations

- Community Partners
- Institutional Support
- Fundraising and PR
- Sustainability
- Training and Professional Development
- Efficiency Techniques
- Access to Justice
- Business Partners
- Referral Streams
- Recruitment
- Mentorship
- Financial Considerations

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