

Reflections on “Voices of Legal Aid”



Voices of Legal Aid documents the values and motivations of attorneys working in civil justice and poverty law. In the video several legal aid lawyers describe why they chose this career, what makes their work so meaningful, what they find particularly challenging, and what sustains them.

Instructions: Review questions outlined below. Drawing on points raised by attorneys in the “Voices of Legal Aid” video as well as your own experiences, discuss the following in your small group:

- 1) Several attorneys in the video talked about a personal mission that was not just about lawyering or legal services. Do you feel you have a personal mission? How would you describe it?
- 2) Jackie Bowman spoke of how her legal services office in Tennessee changed the culture of how law was practiced there. In what ways do you see that happening where you practice? How do you think legal services lawyers affect the practice of law in their communities?
- 3) Sergio Caraval spoke of a client that he learned from and admired. What are some things you have learned so far from clients you’ve admired? Who were these clients and what about them did you admire?
- 4) Monica Halas, describing some of her fears as a new lawyer, said she hoped to “be hit by a truck” on her way to her first trial. Have you had similar fears? About what?
- 5) Young Soo Jo said that being a lawyer is like being a translator for his immigrant parents. How is lawyering like translating?
- 6) Guen Gifford, Jay Rose and others talked about the importance of allowing their clients to make the important decisions. This is not an easy thing to do. What have you learned about how to advise clients and make recommendations without deciding things for them?
- 7) Which of the advocacy roles presented by the speakers do you feel most aligned with or aspire to most strongly? Which do you feel less comfortable with? Are there any you disagree with?