



**CALIFORNIA  
ELDER JUSTICE  
COALITION**

PROTECT • DEFEND • EMPOWER

# Annual Report 2013

## About the California Elder Justice Coalition (CEJC)

### **Our Mission**

*Promoting policy and practice that improves the lives of vulnerable and abused adults in California.*

### **Our History**

CEJC was created in 2008 by representatives from elder abuse prevention programs that were part of the Archstone Foundation's Elder Abuse and Neglect Initiative. The group recognized that to be effective, abuse prevention services must be supported by comprehensive public policy and leadership at the local, state, and national levels. They founded CEJC (originally called the California Elder Justice Workgroup) to address systemic barriers to elder justice and create a firm foundation for practice and service delivery.

### **Core Values**

- Living free from abuse, neglect, and exploitation is a fundamental right ensured through public policy, access to the legal system, a robust response to abuse, and services that support independence and autonomy.
- Self-determination and autonomy are primary considerations in policy and practice affecting older adults.
- We respect and value diversity and the unique perspectives of the many organizations and disciplines that promote elder justice. Sharing outlooks and resources enriches our field and increases our effectiveness.
- Policy and practice must be based on accurate and non-partisan information to ensure quality and efficiency.
- Broad based participation in policy development by service providers, advocates, educators, students, and researchers is vital to reflect California's rich diversity and strong traditions of innovation and social justice.

## Our Goals

- Provide a voice from the field to guide elder justice policy development.
- Elevate elder justice into the consciousness of policymakers.
- Provide policymakers, advocates, and stakeholders with streamlined, nonpartisan and interdisciplinary information.
- Explore problems and promising solutions.
- Provide opportunities for information sharing and consensus building.

## Selected Accomplishments in 2013

### Public Policy Advocacy

- Co-hosted, with the California Commission on Aging (CCoA), *From Practice to Policy: Elder Justice Policy Summit* for 120 experts, advocates, and policymakers. Delegates met in small groups to explore and recommend policy reform in the following areas:
  - Modernizing Adult Protective Services
  - Improving California's Response to Elder Abuse in Institutional Settings
  - Mobilizing Caregivers to Prevent Abuse
  - Examining the Legal System's Role
  - Elder Justice for All: Access and Parity
  - Safeguarding Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS)



CEJC and CCoA convene 2013 Elder Justice Policy Summit

- Conducted ***Elder Justice in the Age of Managed Care*** webinar to explore the challenges and opportunities that recent and emergent changes to California's safety net pose to elder justice. Participants further assisted in developing an action plan for apprising elder justice advocates of ongoing developments and opportunities for ensuring that the rights of LTSS consumers are protected.
- Distributed over 1000 copies of ***Improving California's Response to Elder Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation: A Blueprint*** to local, state and federal policymakers and advocates. Drawing from CEJC's first policy summit in April 2010, this 100-page document provides background information, best practices, and recommendations in 12 areas of need. PDF copies are available at CEJC's website at [ElderJusticeCal.org](http://ElderJusticeCal.org).



## Partnerships

- California Commission on Aging (CCoA): On-going collaboration in advocacy.
- The County Welfare Directors Association of California, California Association of Area Agencies on Aging, and the California Ombudsman Association: Partners in planning *From Practice to Policy: Elder Justice Policy Summit*.
- California Assembly Committee on Aging and Long Term Care and Assembly Speaker Perez' office: Ongoing collaboration to promote collaboration and exchange between policymakers, elder justice experts, and advocates.
- CEJC is a member of the California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS), a coalition of statewide organizations whose mission is to provide high-quality client-driven long-term services and supports.

## Interdisciplinary Education, Training, and Networking

- Produced bimonthly ***News and Updates***, California's only policy focused newsletter for advocates from diverse disciplines.
- Conducted workshops on elder justice at annual conferences of the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging, California Collaborative for Long Term Services and Supports, and the California Ombudsman Association.
- Launched a committee to explore the interface between the caregiving and elder justice networks and develop strategies for supporting caregivers, identifying at-risk caregivers, and ensuring caregiver accountability.

## Internal Capacity Building

- Secured Community Partners (CP) as a fiscal sponsor, which will enable CEJC to continue to develop its organizational infrastructure and secure ongoing resources. CP works with social entrepreneurs, grantmakers, and civic leaders, as well as over 100 non-profit organizations to achieve its vision of "A vibrant society in which individuals and institutions use knowledge, resources and relationships to build equitable, democratic and thriving communities." CP provides the following:
  - Charitable tax-exempt status
  - Financial and accounting services
  - HR and payroll services
  - Insurance, tax, audit and other services to ensure compliance with local, state, and federal regulations
  - Networking opportunities with grantmakers
  - Strategic consulting, resource generation, and legal counsel
- Developed free-standing CEJC website at [ElderJusticeCal.org](http://ElderJusticeCal.org)



### **Our Plans for 2014**

- Promote the resolution, introduced and adopted at the *From Practice to Policy: Elder Justice Policy Summit*, to establish a Blue Ribbon Panel of experts and policymakers to craft comprehensive elder justice policy.
- Launch an A\*Team of elder justice experts and advocates to explore systemic barriers to elder justice, including gaps in services, policy, and coordination; research promising approaches and solutions developed within and beyond California; and provide technical assistance to the Blue Ribbon Panel, policymakers, and advocacy organizations.
- Actively advocate for
  - Strengthening and modernizing California's Adult Protective Services program by working with state and federal agencies to develop a data collection system, state level coordination and quality assurance, and interdisciplinary training.
  - Improved oversight of California's nursing homes and residential care facilities and tougher enforcement of existing penalties for abuse, neglect, exploitation and the violation of residents' rights.
  - Extending victim compensation to older adults who have experienced financial abuse and exploitation and improve the collection and fair distribution of restitution.
  - Expanded legal, mental health, and advocacy services for victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.
  - The development of additional elder courts, financial abuse specialist teams, forensics centers and multidisciplinary teams.
  - Advocate for universal screening of LTSS consumers that acknowledges the role of family caregivers in sustaining home-based care, assesses caregivers' needs for support, and identifies high risk situations.

### **Our Sincere Thanks to Our Volunteers and Sponsors**

#### **Volunteers**

- Fernando Quinones, who built our beautiful website
- Rashida Basrai, who designed our powerful logo
- WISE & Healthy Aging, which served as our fiscal agent and partner during our formative years
- Monique Parrish, who led us in a strategic planning retreat
- Mary Grant, who edited *News and Updates*

## Sponsors

- The SCAN Foundation, which supported a panel on LTSS at the *From Practice to Policy: Elder Justice Policy Summit*, the webinar “Elder Justice in the Age of Managed Care,” and the development of an action plan to educate EJ advocates about the changes in LTSS and opportunities to participate in shaping the new systems.
- Sponsors for *From Practice to Policy: Elder Justice Policy Summit* include:
  - Archstone Foundation
  - Scan Health Plan
  - California Health & Wellness
  - Southern California Edison
  - California Foundation on Aging
  - Office for Victims of Crime - Training and Technical Assistance Center

## CEJC’s Steering Committee

Lisa Nerenberg (chair)  
Mary Counihan  
Molly Davies  
Lori Delagrammatikas  
Talitha Guinn  
Betty Malks  
Jill Nielsen  
Shawna Reeves  
Terri Restelli-Deits  
Carol Sewell  
Mary Twomey

CEJC Contact Information  
California Elder Justice Coalition  
E-mail: [info@elderjusticecal.org](mailto:info@elderjusticecal.org)  
Website: <http://elderjusticecal.org>

CEJC is a project of Community Partners  
Written communication and donations to CEJC can  
be made to Community Partners at:

1000 N. Alameda Street, Suite 240  
Los Angeles, CA 900012  
Phone: 213.346.3200  
<http://communitypartners.org>