

States look to provide lawyers for the poor in civil cases

By DAVE COLLINS
Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — A flood of poor defendants representing themselves — often ineffectively — in dire cases involving eviction, foreclosure, child custody and involuntary commitment has led to a push in legislatures to expand rights to free lawyers in certain civil proceedings.

Everyone has a right to a free lawyer in criminal cases if they can't afford one. But the same right isn't guaranteed in civil cases.

More than two dozen bills being considered in 18 states this year would provide public defenders or private lawyers at state expense for low-income people in certain civil cases, according to the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel, which is run by the Public Justice Center nonprofit group in Baltimore.

"When your basic human needs are at stake, you should have a lawyer to protect those needs," said John Pollock, a lawyer with the Public Justice Center who coordinates the national coalition. "The consequences are too great."

The spike in self-represented defendants stems from the Great Recession, which not only created new waves of foreclosure, eviction, debt collection and bankruptcy cases, but also hindered people's ability to pay for law-

yers, judges and lawyers say. Such cases have overwhelmed and slowed court dockets, judges say.

Couldn't afford a lawyer

Adelaida Torres, of Hartford, couldn't afford a lawyer in 2011 as she tried to regain custody of her two daughters from her now-ex-husband. She lost custody of Gloria and Elizabeth, then ages 8 and 4, while she was in jail for several weeks, unable to afford bail after being arrested for what she called a bogus misdemeanor assault allegation lodged by her ex.

Torres had to represent herself in court trying to win back custody and said she felt overwhelmed. She managed to get supervised visitation with her daughters, but little else after nearly a year of effort.

"I didn't know anything about the court system," she said. "I was crying. I was very lost."

She believes she never would have regained custody if she hadn't learned about Greater Hartford Legal Aid, which provides free legal help to the indigent. It took nearly 1 1/2 years, but legal aid lawyer Linda Allard was able to win back sole custody of the children to Torres in late 2013.

Connecticut lawmakers are considering a bill that would create a task force to look into



Dave Collins/AP Photo

Adelaida Torres, right, poses with her legal aid lawyer, Linda Allard, in Hartford, Conn., in March. Torres believes she never would have won custody of her two daughters in 2013 during a bitter court fight with her now-ex-husband if not for the free legal help from Allard and Greater Hartford Legal Aid. Connecticut lawmakers are considering a bill that would create a task force to look into expanding the right to free lawyers for the poor in civil cases.

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State Senate President Martin Looney, D-New Haven, proposed the bill and cited the case of a Connecticut woman, Adrienne Oyola, who represented herself in court while trying to get a permanent restraining order against the father of her 7-month-old son. A judge denied the order last year, and days later authorities said the father, Tony Moreno, threw the infant off a bridge and then himself jumped off.

The baby died, but Moreno survived and has pleaded not

guilty to murder.

Looney said the judge might have been more inclined to issue the restraining order if Oyola had had an attorney.

The push to increase access to free lawyers has been led by a group of state Supreme Court chief justices and the American Bar Association.

"At the end of the day, we're trying to make sure people are treated fairly and the outcome is just," said Connecticut Chief Justice Chase Rogers.

Turned away

Every year, more than 80

percent of low-income people with civil legal troubles do not obtain the legal representation they need, and legal aid organizations have to turn away nearly a million people a year nationwide because of a lack of resources, according to the Legal Services Corp., a group funded by the federal government that is the largest provider of legal aid funding in the country.

Legal aid lawyers say scores of poor people who couldn't afford lawyers have been evicted, lost child custody or had trouble obtaining restraining orders.

Some proposals passed or being considered in other states:

- Measures in Florida, New Jersey and Pennsylvania to allow free lawyers in cases of involuntary commitment for substance abuse.
- Proposals to require free legal counsel to poor people in certain eviction cases in Massachusetts and to provide the right to a lawyer to the poor facing eviction or foreclosure in New York.

Measures regarding free lawyers for indigent people in parental-rights cases in Kentucky and Mississippi.

Georgia lawmakers this year voted to give mentally ill people the right to a free lawyer if they can't afford one when an order for involuntary inpatient treatment is about to expire and medical experts

request continued involuntary treatment.

• Oregon lawmakers voted to allow free lawyers for eligible juveniles facing the possibility of having to register as sex offenders.

Faced homelessness

Jep Livingston, a 69-year-old Vietnam veteran from Philadelphia, faced homelessness last year as the city moved to sell his longtime home after he defaulted on a plan to repay back property taxes. He defaulted, he said, because someone stole his wallet and drained his bank account, and he missed payments.

He had gone to the city and several organizations for help, but to no avail. His daughter and 5-year-old grandson live with him and faced homelessness, too.

"When I thought about him being homeless at 5 years old, it broke my heart," Livingston said. "I was really close to losing my home. I was desperate."

He, too, learned about the legal aid group SeniorLaw Center, which was able to prevent a tax sale of his home, arrange a new payment plan for his property taxes and knock his future taxes to zero under a city tax abatement program for the elderly.

"It felt to me like I was in the middle of the ocean and they threw me a life raft," Livingston said.

Nigerian dwarf goat gives birth to quintuplets in Oregon

Four kids in just half an hour — then a fifth

By GEORGE PLAVEN
East Oregonian

PENDLETON — After five months of pregnancy, "Magnificent Mary" was so big she could barely walk.

Finally last week, the nanny Nigerian dwarf goat was ready to give birth. She had four kids in just half an hour, which was remarkable enough. But it was the fifth that came an hour later and really took Mary's owners, Richard and Jeannie Prowse, by surprise.



E.J. Harris/East Oregonian

One of five Nigerian dwarf goat kids stands on a box in a stall in a barn at the home of Richard and Jeannie Prowse on Wednesday in Pendleton. The newborn goats were born a week ago.

"I couldn't believe it," Richard Prowse said. "It just

blew my mind when number five popped out."

The Prowses, who live outside of Pendleton, have raised dairy goats for 30 years and they've never seen quintuplets before. Goats usually have between one and three kids per litter, but five are extremely rare; the odds are about one in 10,000, according to one estimate.

As Mary — short for Marigold — got bigger and bigger, Jeannie Prowse said she knew multiple births were coming. Prowse thought triplets or maybe even quadruplets were possible, but she certainly didn't count on delivering quintuplets.

"It was total shock and surprise," Jeannie Prowse said. "It's pretty sensational to have five live babies."

All of the kids survived,

and on Wednesday they were already prancing and jumping lively around the Prowses' red barn in front of their house. There's Minnie and Benson (who was born back-end first, Mariota (named after the former Oregon Ducks quarterback), Polly and fifth and final: Cinco.

In all, Marigold gave birth to three billies and two does, each one inheriting the striking blue eyes of their father, Picasso. The Prowses say they will likely keep both females for their own herd, which is registered with the American Dairy Goat Association. The rest they will sell the others to families looking for a pet or 4-H animal.

Nigerian dwarf goats are smaller and easier to handle,

Jeannie Prowse said, but still deliver a good amount of milk for their size. The Prowses use goat milk to make cheese, yogurt and are venturing into making soap.

It will take two months to wean the quintuplets off their mother. Until then, Jeannie Prowse watches closely over the babies, bottle feeding when they're hungry and setting up a heating lamp in the pen where they huddle up to sleep.

Successful breeding starts with good genetics and ends with good feeding and care, she said.

"We've always worked hard at what we do," Jeannie Prowse said. "And then, when something like this happens, we just feel very blessed."

THE DAILY
ASTORIAN

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings
THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING												MARCH 31	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Grey's A. "When It Hurts So Bad" (N)	Scandal (N)			The Catch "The Real Killer" (N)		KATU News at 11	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	Grey's A. "When It Hurts So Bad" (N)	Scandal (N)			The Catch "The Real Killer" (N)		KOMO 4 News	(3:5) Jimmy Kimmel
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	KING 5 News	Evening	Apocalypse "End of Days" (N)	The Blacklist			Shades of Blue "One Last Lie" (SF) (N)		KING 5 News	(3:5) Tonight Show
6	KOIN	(7) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	Extra	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	Life Pieces (SF) (N)	2 Broke Girls (N)	Rush Hour "Pilot" (P) (N)		KOIN 6 News @ 11	(3:5) S.Colbert
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	The Insider	Ent. Tonight	The Big Bang (N)	Life in Pieces (N)	Life Pieces (SF) (N)	2 Broke Girls (N)	Rush Hour "Pilot" (P) (N)		KIRO News	(3:5) S.Colbert
9	KGW	(3) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.	Seinfeld	Live at Seven	Inside Edition	Apocalypse "End of Days" (N)	The Blacklist			Shades of Blue "One Last Lie" (SF) (N)		KGW News at 11	(3:5) Tonight Show
9	KRCW	(3) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Modern Family	Modern Family	Legends Tomorrow "Left Behind" (N)	The 100 "Stealing Fire" (N)			KGW News at 10	(3:5) Two and Half Men	Two and Half Men	King of the Hill
10	KOPB	(10) Burt Wolf: Travels	Business (N)	PBS NewsHour		Art Beat (N)	Oregon Guide	Midsomer M.	(5:0) Midsomer Murders "Left for Dead" (3:5) Afterlife "Lower Than Bones"			Film School Shorts	
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	American Idol "Top 3 Perform" The final three finalists are chosen. (N)				10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	Loves Ray
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV	FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV			The Mentalist "Carnelian Inc."		The Mentalist "Russet Potatoes"	
13	KCPQ	(13) Name Game	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	American Idol "Top 3 Perform" The final three finalists are chosen. (N)				Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	Modern Family
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld Pt. 1 of 2	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Q13 News at 9		Friends	Friends
22	KZJN	(22) Two and Half Men	Two and Half Men	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends
29	ESPN	(29) NCAA Basketball College Slam Dunk & 3 Point Championship (L)		SportsCenter		SportsCenter				SportsCenter		SportsCenter	
30	ESPN2	(30) (4:00) Tennis Miami Open (L)		Baseball Tonight (L)		NBA Tonight	Jalen & Jacoby (N)			College Gameday Scoreboard (L)		NFL Live	
31	NICK	(31) The Thundermans	The Thundermans	NickyRickyDickyDawn "Go Hollywood"	★ ★ RV (2006, Comedy) Cheryl Hines, Joanna Levesque, Robin Williams.					Full House	Full House	Friends	Friends
32	DISN	(32) Girl Meets World	K.C. Undercover	Friends Whenever	Austin & Ally	Liv and Maddie	Bunk'd	Stuck in Middle	Backstage	Liv and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	Friends Whenever	Bunk'd
34	FAM	(34) The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	The Middle	★ ★ Monster-in-Law (2005, Comedy) Jane Fonda, Michael Vartan, Jennifer Lopez.		(25) FXM Presents	★ ★ Mama (13, Hor) Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Jessica Chastain.		The 700 Club
35	FMC	(35) (5:00) ★ ★ X-Men: First Class (11) James McAvoy.		(40) ★ ★ X-Men: First Class (2011, Action) Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, James McAvoy.				(25) FXM Presents	★ ★ Mama (13, Hor) Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Jessica Chastain.				
36	LIFE	(36) Project Runway "Birthday Suits"	Project Runway	Going for Baroque	PR All Stars Social "Bait and Stitch" (N)	Runway "Once Upon a Runway" (N)				Bad Sister (2015, Thriller) Devon Werkheiser, Alyshia Ochse, Ryan Newman.			
38	ROOT	(38) In Depth	Getting the Call	MLB Baseball Spring Training San Diego Padres vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium -- Peoria, Ariz.						Ultimate Insider	UFC 167 St. Pierre and Hendricks headline this event.		
39	FS1	(39) UFC Flashback	UFC Fighter's Cut	MLB Baseball Spring Training San Diego Padres vs. Seattle Mariners Site: Peoria Stadium -- Peoria, Ariz.						Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports	Fox Sports Live	Fox Sports Live
43	SPIKE	(43) ★ ★ Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (2011, Action) Penelope Cruz, Ian McShane, Johnny Depp.								Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle (N)	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle
44	COM	(44) (5:45) Futurama (5:00) ★ ★ Big Daddy (1999, Comedy) Joey Lauren Adams, Jon Stewart, Adam Sandler.								★ ★ Big Daddy (1999, Comedy) Joey Lauren Adams, Jon Stewart, Adam Sandler.		The Daily Show	The Nightly Show
45	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Vikings "What Might Have Been"		Vikings "The Profit and the Loss" (N)		Join or Die (N)	(3:5) Class (N)
46	A&E	(46) The First 48	The First 48	The First 48	The First 48 "M.I.A."			The First 48 "The Ties That Bind" (N)		60 Days "Friends Without Benefits" (N)		The First 48 "The Rookie/ Cornered"	
47	TLC	(47) Beauty "More Than Skin Deep" (N)	My 600-lb Life (SP) (N)	To Be Announced	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	EM: Weight Loss "Meredith" Meredith hopes to lose weight to gain confidence.		My 600-lb Life		Fast N' Loud "Bad Ass Bronco, Part 1"	
48	DISC	(48) Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Fast N' Loud	Primal Survivor: Ultimate Guide (N)		Life Below Zero "Codes of Survival" (N)		Life Below Zero "Codes of Survival"	
49	NBA	(49) Life Below Zero "Darkness Falls"	Life Below Zero	Life Below Zero "Alone in the Dark"	Life Below Zero "Emergency Cache"					NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Houston Rockets			
50	TNT	(50) (4:00) NBA Basketb. Los Angeles Clippers at Oklahoma City Thunder Site: Chesapeake Energy Arena (L)								Live Free or Die Hard ('07) Bruce Willis.			
51	AMC	(51) (5:00) ★ ★ The Lost World: Jurassic Park ('97) Julianne Moore, Jeff Goldblum.								★ ★ Skyfall (2012, Action) Helen McCrory, Ralph Fiennes, Daniel Craig.			
52	USA	(52) NCIS: Los Angeles "Blaze of Glory"	NCIS: Los Angeles "Rage"	WWE Smackdown! WWE superstars do battle in long-running rivalries.						Beat Bobby Flay (N)	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Cook Your Butt Off!"	Chopped "The Bold And The Beautiful"	Chopped	Chopped	Cooks vs. Cons "Taco Takedown" (N)				House Hunters	House Hunters	Masters of Flip (N)	
54	HGTV	(54) Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Archer (SP) (N)	Baskets			Archer	R.I.P.D. ('13, Act)
56	FX	(56) ★ ★ R.I.P.D. (2013, Action) Jeff Bridges, Mary-Louise Parker, Ryan Reynolds.											
57	CNN	(57) The Eighties "Raised on Television" (P) (N)		Hannity	Hannity	The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly	Hannity						
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File with Megyn Kelly		Hannity	Hannity	American Greed: Scam (N)							
61	CNBC	(61) Shark Tank	American Greed: Scam (N)										
63	BRV	(63) ★ ★ Miss Congeniality ('00, Com) Michael Caine, Benjamin Bratt, Sandra Bullock.											
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) The Moon is Blue	★ ★ Baby Doll (1956, Drama) Carroll Baker, Eli Wallach, Karl Malden.										
65	SYFY	(65) (5:30) The Scorpion King 4: Quest for Power ('15) Ellen Hollman, Victor Webster.											
162	RFD	(162) SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America "Live" "Elanco Beef"	Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Market Journal	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town			Time Life Library

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