

SNCC Western Regional Conference...November 14 and 15...Workshop Report
Workshop on Legal Aid for the Southern Movement (Sunday morning)

Recommended: Article in Yale Law Journal, vol. 53, Judicial Delay in the Fifth Circuit
Article by Lorent Frantz, State Action Under the Fourteenth Amendment and Private Acts, in most recent Yale Law Journal

How are Northern law students and attorneys channeled to the South?
What are attorneys working on?

PROBLEMS:

- Lack of lawyers in the South working or willing to take civil rights cases
- in most southern states, Negro students are not allowed to take pre-law course
- civil rights lawyers lose clients and are persecuted by local police
example: two Negro attorneys held in contempt in Florida for refusing to answer questions about clients' addresses, and held in summary contempt for asking for change of venue. (See Civil Liberties Docket)
- Those civil rights lawyers presently in the South are tremendously overloaded with work.

Organizations sending legal help:

Lawyer's Guild
Law Students Civil Rights Research Council
LCDC
ACLU

Southern Program: Concentration on pleadings and research briefs. Negro attorneys not allowed to use law libraries, so law students helping with research. Certain degree of brutality must be tolerated without calling lawyers because of great increase in brutality in Southern jails, and lack of lawyers.

problems:

- how to mobilize larger number of lawyers, secretaries, etc. to go South and do research in the North. (Law Students Research Council in Berkeley is helping with arrests of minors at Mel's Drive-In and the Sheraton-Palace. Minors generally are asked to leave picket lines and not get arrested, because of the great problems when minors are arrested--juvenile court judges have large discretion.)
- question on value for law students of working in field first with SNCC: a student who did it last year feels that field work was unrelated to his work as a law clerk.

Before doing legal work in the South:

- read the Civil Rights Act, 1964
- read volume 18, U.S. Code 241-242-243; 594
- read material at Meeklejohn Civil Liberties Library, 1713 Francisco Street, Berkeley, on removal problems.

The Lawyers' Guild is working on enforcing the 14th Amendment provision for reducing representation of disenfranchised areas. This will be brought up in the next session of Congress.

A member of the audience, a lawyer, says there should be more coordination between organizations to work through law schools (not the Bar Association) to recruit lawyers and students to go South.

People without specific legal skills, but with related skills can help Southern attorneys in the routine day-to-day work. Such persons should first, however, learn the tools of legal research.

Workshop on Legal Aid.... continued--

Affirmative Action:

Omnibus desegregation suits by NAACP

Attempts to make the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party spokesman for disenfranchised Negroes, and set up an alternative state government. Mississippi State Codes available at law school libraries. Lawyers and students planning to go South should read Code first, particularly the sections on trespass. Those interested in legal work in the South should stimulate discussion among local attorneys, law students, etc. about:

-----how to get legal aid people to the South.

-----what kinds of action can be taken.

-----stimulate discussions on creative means of challenging and changing the Southern system.

SNCC should have a legal coordinator to get legal aid, law librarians, secretarial help, etc. from Northern lawyers. (This may be tax deductible.)
