

Access Through Innovation of Legal Services (ATILS) Task Force May 13, 2019 Meeting Speakers

Alison Paul

Executive Director

Montana Legal Services Association

Alison Paul has served as the Montana Legal Services Association's Executive Director since January of 2011 and is responsible for the overall management and operations of MLSA. Ms. Paul graduated from the University of Kansas School of Law, then spent 7 years in private practice in Chicago. Ms. Paul began her career with MLSA as a staff attorney in 1999, becoming MLSA's Deputy Director in 2003. In 2005, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association awarded MLSA's Executive Director Alison Paul the Innovations in Technology Award, and in 2012, Ms. Paul was one of only six legal aid program directors invited to participate in the first White House Forum on Civil Legal Aid. Ms. Paul currently serves on the Board of Directors of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and the Montana Nonprofit Association. Ms. Paul also serves on the Montana Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission.

The Montana Legal Services Association has been awarded two grants from the Legal Services Corporation to extend the reach of the Montana Court Self Help Program to 11 rural communities. The first project will place technology in remote locations across Montana to connect residents to self-help law centers in more populated sections of the state. The second project will allow the organization to introduce artificial intelligence-powered legal tools through a new online pro bono legal advice platform, AskKarla.org. This will help clients properly frame their legal issues and access relevant resources.

Angie Wagenhals

Director of Pro Bono

Montana Legal Services Association

Angie Wagenhals joined the Montana Legal Services Association in 2011 and serves as the Director of Pro Bono. She received a Bachelor's Degree in English and Women's and Gender Studies from Willamette University. Angie has been instrumental in growing MLSA's pro bono programs to include a statewide limited scope phone advice program, and an online advice platform.