

the Legal Reformer

HALT'S MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER • January–March 2008

HALT Launches FredRodell.com

Sixty-nine years ago, a young Yale law professor rocked the legal establishment with a scathing indictment of the American civil justice system entitled *Woe Unto You, Lawyers!*

Almost overnight Fred Rodell became the nation's leading debunker of legal myths, and the target of untold ire from thin-skinned lawyers. And his provocative observations are as accurate today as they were seven decades ago.

"Fred Rodell was a true pioneer of the legal reform movement," stated HALT Executive Director Jim Turner, "one of the first to identify the structural failures of our civil justice system and to stridently challenge the legal establishment. But since his death in 1980, his reform thinking has not received the serious consideration that it



Fred Rodell

deserves, and his key writings have disappeared from print."

Here is just a sampling.

Rodell's 1936 article *Goodbye to Law Reviews* opens by explaining—"There are two things wrong with almost all legal writing. One is its style. The other is its content."

And proceeds to take on the entire profession—"[I]t is pretty hard to find a group less concerned with serving

society and more concerned with serving themselves than the lawyers."

In *Woe*, Rodell's critique is cul-

tural—"In TRIBAL TIMES, there were the medicine-men. In the Middle Ages, there were the priests. Today there are the lawyers."

But the effect of the mystifying process is to exclude ordinary people from the legal process—"[L]aw deals almost exclusively with the ordinary facts and occurrences of everyday business and government and living. But it deals with them in a jargon which completely baffles and befuzzles the ordinary literate man."

Finally, Rodell points out the basic hypocrisy of the law—"The last thing any court will *Continued on page 2*

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HALT Urges Supreme Court of Wisconsin To Expand Legal Access

Wisconsin consumers will soon learn whether their state's highest court plans to expand access to the legal system for all its citizens, or limit it to those who can afford a lawyer. The Supreme Court of Wisconsin is meeting to discuss a new court rule—proposed by the state bar—that prevents anyone but lawyers from providing legal services and creates a new administrative agency to prosecute violators, such as independent paralegals or legal document preparers.

"Four years ago after HALT and other consumer groups objected, the ABA abandoned a similarly overbroad definition of the practice of law," explained HALT Executive Director Jim Turner. "It is surprising and disappoint-

ing to see the Wisconsin Bar attempt to resurrect this anti-consumer approach."

As HALT points out, numerous studies show that lawyers have priced themselves beyond the reach of average Americans. Wisconsin's own Access to Justice Study Committee stresses in *Bridging the Justice Gap: Wisconsin's Unmet Legal Needs* that more than "half a million Wisconsinites—people with families, many of whom have jobs, own homes and pay taxes—must contend with significant legal troubles without any legal help... because they cannot afford the professional legal help they need."

Instead of responding to this crisis, the state bar has asked the Supreme Court of Wis- *Continued on page 2*

Does Your Judge Have a Conflict of Interest, see page 5

the Legal Reformer

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FredRodell.com, Cont. from page 1

ever admit, even when it is being quite practical about what it decides, is that practical considerations have anything to do with the decision.”

As a leader in the legal realist movement, Fred Rodell stuck to his guns for the next four decades (including a stint on HALT’s Advisory Board), arguing that we should simplify, demystify and open up our civil justice system.

That is why we at HALT were so excited to begin working with San Francisco legal reform advocate Alex

Kline and Fred Rodell’s family to revive these visionary legal reform lessons on the Internet.

HALT is launching *www.FredRodell.com* to make *Woe and Good-bye* available to all, along with *TheLawBlog.FredRodell.com*, a forum for renewed critique, debate and thinking. In addition to introducing Rodell to a new generation, we want to provide a meeting place for those who share our ideals and a forum where we can work to implement them in practical ways. ■

Supreme Court of WI, Cont. from page 1

consin to adopt a new draconian rule that makes it all but impossible for consumers to get help when they can’t afford to hire a lawyer. The bar’s sweeping new definition of the practice of law covers every legal service imaginable. “Giving advice or counsel, . . . selection, drafting or completion of legal documents, . . . representation of another entity or person(s) in court, . . . negotiation of legal rights or responsibilities on behalf of another, . . . or any other activity determined to be the practice of law by the Wisconsin Supreme Court” would all become the exclusive domain of licensed Wisconsin attorneys.

Yet, there has been no showing whatsoever that the rule suggested by the bar is either necessary or wise.

A far better approach, we believe, is that commended to the Wisconsin Supreme Court by the US Department of Justice, and found in Rule 49(b)(2) of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, which defines the practice of law as “the provision of professional legal services *where there is a client relationship of trust or reliance.*” The defining characteristic of the practice of law is the establishment of an attorney-client relationship. HALT contends that the definition of the practice of law in Wisconsin should reflect this

core value, and include language similar to that formulated by the District of Columbia Court of Appeals.

The court will review comments in an open administrative conference scheduled for March 14, 2008. You can read HALT’s comments online at www.halt.org.

HAWAII PROPOSES SIMILAR RULES

On January 25, 2008, HALT filed comments with the Hawaii Supreme Court urging it to reject a state bar proposal that seeks to broaden the definition of its practice rule. As in Wisconsin, the Hawaii State Bar has asked the Court to accept its assertion that most legal activities—including giving counsel; selecting, drafting or completing forms; and negotiating on someone’s behalf—should be considered the practice of law and therefore the exclusive domain of licensed Hawaii attorneys. The bar argues that such restrictions are needed to protect the public.

HALT opposes attempts by this and all organized bars to stifle its competition under the guise of consumer protection. We are asking the Hawaii Supreme Court to expand access to its judicial system by encouraging innovations that provide consumers with affordable legal assistance. ■

Visit HALT’s Web site
WWW.HALT.ORG

Legal Reform News

PA SUPREME COURT EXEMPTS LAWYERS FROM FRAUD STATUTE

In December, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruled that the state's Unfair Trade Practices and Consumer Protection Law does not apply to lawyer misconduct (*Beyers v. Richmond*, 2007 Pa. Lexis 2937 (December 28, 2007)). Attorney Donald Richmond admitted to stealing over \$100,000 in funds from settlement proceeds that were meant to compensate his clients for injuries sustained in a car accident. While the state supreme court found the "egregious conduct of [Richmond] to be reprehensible," the court refused to hold that the state's consumer fraud statute applied to an attorney's conduct in collecting and distributing settlement proceeds. The court held that application of the statute "would encroach upon this Court's exclusive power to regulate the practice of law."



WASHINGTON STATE DIVORCE TASK FORCE BEGINS WORK

A new Supreme Court Dissolution Task Force is developing statewide protocols for divorce cases in Washington. The Task Force, established by Senate Bill 5470, went into effect in July 2007 after unanimous approval by the state legislature.

Among other things, the Task Force is charged with developing clear and concise dispute resolution procedures, making recommendations concerning the forms, procedures and fees involved in divorce cases, and studying the creation of a support program with an "initial point of contact person" for divorcing or separating couples.

FREE ONLINE COURT RECORDS

U.S. electronic court records are now available to the public, a first for the Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) program. Previously, the cost was eight cents per search. The free service is available at 16 library systems across the country.

"No-fee access to the PACER system will allow the branch libraries outside of major regional centers to provide federal court records to patrons who would otherwise not be able to access these important documents," Catherine Lemann of the Alaska State Court Law Library said.

WISCONSIN PROVIDES INTERPRETERS

The Wisconsin State Budget ruled in November that courts are now required to provide interpreters for persons with limited English proficiency in both civil and criminal proceedings. The provision previously allowed the state to reimburse counties only for interpreters used in criminal cases. The new provision provides over a million dollars for interpreters statewide. Translator services will be available to Wisconsin's Spanish, Russian, Czech, Slovak and Somali residents.

"The changes will make a big difference for people, especially since the number of *pro se* litigants is increasing astronomically. When one speaks a different language and they're *pro se*, they are in a double bind," stated Mary Bednarik, a Legal Action attorney in Wisconsin.

NEW MEXICO ASKS LITIGANTS ABOUT JUDGES

According to a new survey released by the University of Denver's nonprofit Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System, 21 states

have systems to evaluate local judges. Each jurisdiction has different methods of determining whether a judge is fit to return to his position. Unfortunately, the survey found that most states rely exclusively on lawyers to assess judges. New Mexico is the only state that adequately considers the opinions of litigants.

The New Mexico Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission uses an independent research firm to gauge the suitability of its judges. Judges are evaluated twice a year—midway through their term and before a retention election.

After the surveys are taken, judges are presented with the results and personally interviewed. The Commission then releases a summary of the judges' overall performances and recommends whether or not to retain them. The recommendations are released at least 45 days before each year's general election. Judges must receive 57 percent voter approval to remain on the bench. The final report is distributed through the Commission's Web site.

UTAH STATE COURTS LAUNCH SELF-HELP CENTER

The Utah State Courts have launched a Self-Help Center in the second and eighth judicial districts to help *pro se* individuals better understand court processes. Center staff will provide information about what to do prior to going to court, how to prepare court forms, how to represent oneself in court, and what to do with a court order in areas such as adoption, divorce, custody, domestic violence, landlord-tenant disputes, small claims and guardianship. The Self-Help Center is part of a pilot project the court is conducting through June 2008.

Compiled by Suzanne M. Blonder,
Emily Werth, Rachel Decker

Consumer Federation of America Supports HALT-Proposed Reforms

At HALT's urging, the 2008 Consumer Federation of America annual assembly adopted key resolutions that will provide citizens with greater access to justice through court-sponsored alternative dispute resolution programs, supply self-represented litigants with more resources and guidance from judges and help end the rampant abuse of incompetent adults at the hands of profit-driven professional guardians.

"We're pleased that the nation's most high-profile consumer advocates have decided to help us challenge some of the most critical obstacles facing legal consumers," stated HALT Senior Counsel Suzanne Blonder. "With the Federation's support, we know that we can achieve significant reforms for legal consumers wishing to avoid litigation, *pro se* parties and vulnerable individuals who have sadly suffered at the hands of profit-driven guardians."

As the nation's largest umbrella organization of consumer groups, the Federation advances pro-consumer policy on issues like energy, healthcare and telecommunications. At its annual meeting, member organizations vote on policy resolution proposals. Federation resolutions help set the policy agenda for the courts, Congress, the White House and regulatory agencies.

After rating the District of Columbia's fee dispute and legal malpractice arbitration systems as best in the nation and observing the tremendous success of the DC Superior Court's Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division, HALT persuaded the Federation to urge judiciaries across the country to adopt the District's model.

In addition, HALT convinced the Federation to adopt a resolution supporting workshops that instruct judges on their responsibilities to *pro se* parties. Pointing to a recent rise in self-

represented litigants and the growing need for *pro se* assistance and self-help centers, HALT recommended that the Federation push states to require that judges receive orientation training and continuing judicial education related to the special needs of litigants who choose to represent themselves in court.

Finally, HALT persuaded the Federation to adopt a resolution urging states to strengthen procedural protections and improve oversight of the guardianship system. This year, HALT and the Federation have resolved to urge states to institute mandatory training and licensing of "for-profit" guardians, to review court-mandated reports on the status of wards, to establish compensation guidelines for guardians and to establish independent regulatory bodies with disciplinary authority.

For more information, visit HALT's Web site www.halt.org. ■

Mass. Blue Ribbon Commission Endorses Nonlawyers

By Emily Werth

The Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission recently recommended that the Supreme Judicial Court permit trained nonlawyers to represent low-income parties in certain civil matters. HALT is urging the court to adopt the recommendation.

"Massachusetts recognizes the reality that nonlawyer service providers are part of the solution to the access to justice crisis," stated HALT Executive Director Jim Turner. "We hope that the Court will act promptly to implement this long overdue reform."

The Commission found that far less than half of those who qualify for free legal assistance can obtain it because of inadequate funding, and that people with modest incomes who don't qualify for assistance are not significantly

better off in getting legal help.

To address this problem, the Commission's report recommends that the state's unauthorized practice of law rule be redefined to permit nonlawyer advocates in the courtroom under certain circumstances.

The report leaves open the questions of how the advocates should be trained and certified; in what kinds of proceedings they should be allowed; what ethical rules would apply; whether advocates should be allowed only when the other side is represented by counsel; and

the income level cutoff for accessing such legal services. The report does suggest that any lay-advocacy program extend at least to in-court eviction proceedings and domestic violence hearings.

Almost immediately, bar leaders from across the state voiced concern that training and ethical standards for nonlawyers could be established effectively, while others indicated that lay advocates will be inherently less skilled than lawyers and questioned why low-income litigants should be denied the same quality of representation. ■

"When there are too many policemen, there can be no liberty.
When there are too many soldiers, there can be no peace.
When there are too many lawyers, there can be no justice."

— Lin Yutang (1895-1976), Chinese-American writer, translator and editor

Does Your Judge Have a Conflict of Interest?

If you have to take a case to court, the last thing you want to find out is that the presiding judge has some kind of connection or relationship to the person you are opposing. Most judges will step down from a case if one of the parties involved is a friend or even an acquaintance. But what if the judge's connection is not so obvious? What if your judge has a financial conflict of interest? The best way to determine if your judge has a conflict—whether because of stock options in a business, real estate holdings or off-the-bench activities—is to obtain a copy of his or her financial disclosure information.

FEDERAL JUDGES

Under U.S. law, every federal judge must submit an annual financial disclosure form to the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts, which then makes the information available to the public. To request financial information about a federal judge by mail or fax, you must submit form AO O10A, "Request for Examination of Report Filed by a Judicial Officer or Judicial Employee," which is available online at www.uscourts.gov/forms/uscforms.cfm. Be sure to include the names of all persons and organizations that will be viewing the forms.

To speed up the process, fax the form to (202) 502-1899, or simply mail it to: Office of the Committee on Financial Disclosure, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, Ste. 231, One Columbus Circle, NE, Washington, DC 20544.

Once the office receives your request, it will make copies of the records, notify the judge of your request and invoice you for the printing cost (which is twenty cents per page as of 2008). The court only accepts checks or money orders, and you must include the original request form with your payment if you initially faxed in your request.

If you live in the DC metropolitan area, you can ask to see the forms in person by calling the administrative of-

fice at (202) 502-1850. The office will schedule a date, at least five days from the time you made your call, for you to come in and examine the documents.

STATE JUDGES

No two states have an identical process for making judges' financial information available to the public. To learn how to access the financial records of a state judge, you need to contact your state's Office of Court Administration or your state's Ethics Commission Office. Contact information for these state organizations can be found at www.qjs.org/ethics/eth_advis_comm_links.asp.

There are three ways to obtain financial information about a judge in your state.

Online: Fourteen states—including Pennsylvania, Illinois and Texas—offer some limited information about disclosure requirements through their court Web sites.

By mail: After you determine the proper office that deals with these requests, call and ask for specific mailing instructions. Most states will ask you to send personal information similar to

that required by federal courts, including your name, address, any groups on whose behalf you are requesting the information, and the name of the judge(s). The amount of information states will provide varies and even if a state has disclosure laws, some of the information may not be made available to the public. You will likely be asked to pay for the printing costs before you receive the disclosure statement.

In person: Only Alaska, Nebraska and Maryland allow you to view disclosure records in person. If you live in one of these states, it is usually possible to find this information in the judge's local courthouse. Otherwise, either the Offices of Court Administration or Ethics Offices will have the documents. Be sure to call ahead to ensure the documents are available.

For more information and to learn more about obtaining a judge's financial records, view HALT's new *Everyday Law Series* article "Does Your Judge Have a Conflict of Interest?" online at www.halt.org or write to us for a free copy at HALT, 1612 K St., NW, Ste. 510, Washington, DC 20006. ■

ABA Study Points to Obstacles in Suing a Lawyer

According to a recent 2007 American Bar Association study, the number of legal malpractice cases worth \$2 million or more jumped 60 percent between 1996 and 2006. The number of claims under \$10,000 rose by just six percent in the same period.

"It's not surprising that ordinary malpractice cases aren't being brought as often as multi-million dollar suits given how exorbitantly expensive it is to pursue a claim against an incompetent, negligent or fraudulent attorney," stated HALT Senior Counsel Suzanne M. Blonder. "Even when a consumer manages to find a lawyer willing to

sue another lawyer in the community, a malpractice lawsuit is usually cost-prohibitive."

The expense is high because the odds are overwhelmingly stacked against consumers. To win a malpractice action, a client must prove that she would have prevailed in her original case "but for" the lawyer's misconduct. Courts require clients to present a "case within a case," (that is, gather all the witnesses and evidence from the underlying case and present it to the malpractice jury to determine if the lawyer's error was responsible for the lost case). ■

Need to Resolve a Dispute? Step Through This Door

HALT interviewed Jeannie Adams, Director of the DC Superior Court's Multi-Door Dispute Resolution Division—an alternative dispute resolution center for District of Columbia residents.

By Yakov Bragamik

Can you explain the concept behind the Multi-Door Courthouse?

The concept of a Multi-Door Courthouse was first introduced by Harvard Law Professor Frank Sander, at the Pound Conference in 1976. A Multi-Door Courthouse offers litigants an opportunity to have their cases resolved through one of many alternative dispute resolution “doors” based on the issues in dispute and the needs of the parties involved. Multi-Door offers mediation (a facilitated negotiation conducted by a mediator), arbitration and case evaluation. The primary door that most litigants select is mediation because it offers litigants more control over the outcome than any other ADR process.

The Multi-Door Courthouse began as a pilot project in 1985 and in 1989 became a full operating division of the DC Superior Court.

What types of cases are eligible?

Civil matters including small claims, landlord and tenant, tax and probate cases and all family and domestic relations matters.

Is there a typical case progression for someone entering the Multi-Door system?

There isn't a “typical” progression and that's actually something we pride ourselves on—creating a process that fits the contours of particular court settings and case types, rather than a “one-size-fits-all” approach.

For instance, a small claims case usually comes to mediation on the day the case has its first court appearance and if not settled, typically goes on to trial the same day. In those cases,

Multi-Door has no advance contact with the parties.

Civil cases involving claims of more than \$5,000 are typically provided a case schedule that includes mediation after discovery has been completed and any dispositive motions filed and decided by the judge. Mediation is scheduled at least 60 days in advance and parties or counsel must submit a Confidential Settlement Statement for review by the mediator before the mediation session. If the case is not settled in mediation, it is immediately scheduled for a pretrial conference.

By contrast, a family mediation case can either be referred by the court or by the parties themselves. In either case, the parties must go through an intake interview first, and the case may be excluded if there is an allegation of domestic violence. If accepted, the case is scheduled for mediation and the mediators are assigned in advance. Multiple mediation sessions usually are held and, at the close of mediation, the parties may merge their agreement into a court order or not. If no agreement is reached, their case will be heard by a judge who will decide any unresolved issues.

The Multi-Door also has a program called the Community Information and Referral Program where dispute resolution specialists offer phone concilia-

tion and mediation on matters that have not yet been filed in the court. In this program, citizens of the district can come to court to resolve all types of matters. For instance, they may have a problem with a contractor and would like to try to resolve the matter without going to court. The dispute resolution specialists are available to help by either trying to resolve the dispute between the parties or mak-

ing a direct referral to any number of agencies within the district where the parties can get assistance.

What challenges remain toward making ADR a popular alternative to litigation?

Court ADR programs must be vigilant that we are consistently offering the best possible services to the community. Education and outreach is a key component of any mediation program, along with building and cultivating a highly qualified mediator panel. The field of mediation is evolving and consistently reexamining its practices to find new ways of meeting the conflict management challenges in today's world. Court ADR Programs must also evolve to meet the changing needs of the community it serves.

Yakov Bragamik interned with HALT during the fall of 2007



Jeannie Adams



CHEERS to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for joining the 7th Circuit in posting judicial misconduct orders online at the start of 2008. The orders will be posted at www.ce9.uscourts.gov as they become available. Paper copies of the orders will be kept on file and made available to the public at the James R. Browning U.S. Courthouse in San Francisco.



JEERS to the 9th Circuit for not making these records more easily accessible. The public could have a hard time finding the orders because they are only posted on the 9th Circuit's independent Web site, not the main page used by all the courts (www.uscourts.gov).

Small Claims Legislative Report

There are still many state legislatures in session, and important legislation may have advanced since press time. Visit www.halt.org for the latest updates on these and other bills.

HAWAII

Representative John Mizuno's Senate Bill 2474 aims to increase Hawaii's small claims dollar limit from \$3,500 to \$5,000. Hawaii last increased their dollar limit in 1992. The bill is currently under discussion in the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee.

KENTUCKY

Representative Mike Harmon is sponsoring House Bill 280 to increase Kentucky's dollar limit to \$5,000. Kentucky has not increased its dollar limit since 1990, keeping it at \$1,500 for 18 years.

MARYLAND

Delegate Michael Smigiel has introduced Maryland House Bill 20, which doubles the state's dollar limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The bill was introduced in early January and referred to the Judiciary Committee for further review in the House of Delegates. The Committee is still under discussion.

MASSACHUSETTS

Representative Garrett Bradley's office is currently sponsoring House Bill 1328, which not only increases Massachusetts's dollar limit from \$2,000 to \$5,000, but also implements a much-needed registered mail with receipt requirement for delivering summonses. HALT is working with Representative Bradley's office in support of this bill, and the bill is expected to have an executive session in March.

OKLAHOMA

Senator Patrick Anderson proposed Oklahoma Senate Bill 1620, which increases Oklahoma's small claims dollar limit, oddly enough, to \$9,999.99. Oklahoma last increased its dollar limit two years ago to \$6,000. The Senate Judiciary Committee recently took up a second reading of the bill.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Representative Richard Engels has introduced small claims House Bill 1122, which increases the small claims dollar limit from \$8,000 to \$12,000. The bill, which was introduced on January 14, passed both the House of Representatives and the Senate and has been forwarded to the governor for his approval.

WISCONSIN

Representative Joan Ballweg's new small claims bill, Assembly Bill 579, which aims to double the small claims dollar limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000, was referred to the Assembly Committee on Courts and Corrections for a public hearing on Feb 13. HALT sent out a targeted action alert to its Wisconsin members alerting them of the hearing and encouraging them to write to their representatives in favor of the bill. ■



HALT in the Media

- The *Los Angeles Daily Journal* published HALT's op-ed "Encouraging Transparency" calling on the California Bar's Board of Governors to adopt a malpractice insurance disclosure rule. (November 7, 2007).

- The *American Bar Association Journal* story "Maryland Attorney Discipline Questioned, Decades of Data Disclosed" featured HALT's critique on Maryland's discipline standards for attorneys. (December 19, 2007).

- The *Baltimore Sun* featured comments from Suzanne Blonder about Maryland's attorney discipline system in their "Notable Quotable" section (December 20, 2007).

- A *Capital News Service* story featuring comments from Suzanne Blonder about weak lawyer disci-

pline standards in Maryland ("Maryland Lawyers Rarely Get Into Trouble") ran in the *Southern Maryland Online*, the *Maryland Daily News*, the *Maryland Capital Online*, the *D.C. Examiner* and *Washington D.C. WTOP News* (December 19, 2007).

Our recently released Lawyer-Client Fee Arbitration Report Card also continues to garner press attention:

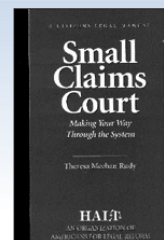
- *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*: "Fee Arbitration Board in Massachusetts receives C-Minus grade" (December 11, 2007).

- *The Birmingham News*: "Group scores state poorly in fee disputes" (November 12, 2007).

- *North Country Gazette*: "Corruption in the Henhouse" (November 10, 2007). ■

If you are headed to small claims court, arm yourself with information that can help you prepare your case and win.

Write for a copy of HALT's *Citizens Legal Manual, Small Claims Court: Making Your Way Through the System* (see Book Sale, page 8).



From the Mailbox



Dear HALT,

Can you tell me what records I need to substantiate my charitable donations in 2007? Also, can you suggest a tax guide?

Perplexed in Peoria

Dear Perplexed,

According to IRS Publication 526—"you cannot deduct a cash contribution, regardless of the amount, unless you keep as a record of the contribution a bank record (such as a cancelled check, a bank copy of a canceled check, or a bank statement containing the name of the charity, the date and the amount) or a written communication from the charity. The written communication must include the name of the charity, date of the contribution and amount of the contribution."

For tax guides, *TurboTax*, *TaxCut* and *TaxAct* are easy-to-use software programs that allow you to complete and submit your taxes online. If you prefer using pen and paper, J.K. Lasser's *Your Income Tax 2008*, provides sample tax forms for 2007 and a website address to download final IRS forms (www.jklasser.com). ■

Book Sale

To purchase any of the titles listed, mail in the **Publication Order Form** along with a check, money order or your credit card information to: HALT, 1612 K Street, NW, Suite 510, Washington, DC 20006. Or, if it's more convenient, call us toll-free at (888) 367-4258 and charge your order. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. DC residents add 6% sales tax.

THE EXECUTOR'S GUIDE

A newly revised edition for HALT members has just been released. It explains what you need to know if you are named executor of a will or trustee in a trust. **\$25.00**

SMALL CLAIMS COURT

If you have a consumer problem that cannot be resolved out of court, take it to the judge. Learn how to sue (or defend yourself) in small claims court with this amazing resource. **\$12.00**

HOW COURTS & JUDGES WORK

HALT's guide explains the organization and hierarchy of our state and federal courts and the relationship between them. **\$12.00**

JK LASSER'S YOUR INCOME TAX 2008

This guide breaks down complex tax laws to help you prepare receipts, calculate depreciation, and take advantage of estate tax-savings plans. **\$17.95**

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