



**台灣公民人權聯盟**  
Taiwan Civil Liberties Union



# **Challenges and Prospects of Legal Aid in Taiwan**

**Attorney Wei-Shyang Chen**



# 1. How to preserve the passion and flexibility of NGOs amidst bureaucratization?

1. Ensure the independence and diversity of the board
2. The competent authority's supervision and audit should focus on tasks and performance rather than the details of execution
3. There is limited mobility in supervisory positions and employees tend to be conservative in mentality
4. Examination of legal aid grant applications has become stricter

## 2. Legal aid case assignment: How to shift from formal fairness to adequate market competition?

1. The entry level for legal aid lawyers is low, and there is no regular review mechanism.
2. The current case handling and assignment system has resulted in a lack of trust between recipients and legal aid lawyers.
3. The assignment system prioritizes formal fairness, resulting in a lack of competition among lawyers.
4. Post-assignment management has become stricter and more cumbersome, yet it fails to manage cases based on different levels of risk and the experiences of lawyers.

### 3. How to address the criminal advocacy within the newly implemented citizen judge system?

1. Difficult to form a strong defense team with the current practices of lawyers
2. Remuneration being too low
3. No training mechanism
4. Difficult to accumulate and pass on experiences under the current case assignment mechanism
5. Possibility of setting up regional criminal defense centers by the Legal Aid Foundation

#### 4. Strengthen the feedback loop to inform the systematic problems and needs for systematic reform through legal aid casework

1. Systematic problems, such as inadequate or inappropriate regulations, can be identified during the legal aid process. Similar cases can be avoided in the future if the problems are resolved through legislation or regulatory amendments.
2. LAF should annually submit law reform proposals concerning the rights of the vulnerable to the Legislative Yuan for further legislative consideration. Such a feedback mechanism should be ensured by laws.

## 5. Insufficient investment in business software, AI technology, and online legal services

1. The current business software is outdated and the UI for lawyers is poorly designed.
2. LAF has accumulated nearly 20 years of experience and data, which should be more effectively utilized.
3. Learn from other countries' successful experience in developing online legal services and AI mediation

**Thank You**

**Taiwan Civil Liberties Union  
(TCLU)**

5F, No. 61, Sec. 4, Xinyi Road, Da-an District,  
Taipei City 106685, Taiwan (R.O.C.)

[Tel] (02) 3707-6723

[Fax] (02) 3707-6721

[Email] [service@tclu.tw](mailto:service@tclu.tw)

[Website] <https://www.tclu.tw>