

**Chicago Sun-Times | August 30, 2002**  
**www.chicagosuntimes.com**

### **Legal aid for poor cut**

Illinois' poor will have less access to free lawyers because federal and private money for free law clinics and legal aid has been cut. The three groups that deliver most of the legal aid to the poor in Illinois will lose about \$920,000 in congressional funding annually, said Eric Kleiman, a spokesman for Legal Services Corp., the Washington-based agency that distributes federal money for legal aid. Legal Services allocates money to states based on the number of poor counted in the last census. The 2000 census showed Illinois with about 35,000 fewer people who are eligible for the services because of low income, about \$22,000 a year for a family of four, Kleiman said. The three agencies are the Legal Assistance Foundation of Metropolitan Chicago, Rockford-based Prairie State Legal Services and Alton-based Land of Lincoln Legal Services.