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**“I’m Not a Lawyer. I’m their Springboard to a New Life”:
Poverty-Aware Legal Practice in the Field of Insolvency**

In 2018, Israel witnessed a significant shift in its insolvency laws, the objectives of insolvency procedures being broadened to encompass debtor rehabilitation alongside debt collection. An initial response to this legal shift was the introduction of training initiatives for lawyers engaged in legal aid for debt-related cases that focused on the poverty-aware paradigm. This article draws from research conducted alongside these training programs.

The article provides practical tools for representing clients who are experiencing poverty and confronting debt, grounded in the framework of the poverty-aware paradigm. Originating from the realm of social work, the paradigm has been tailored to suit the legal landscape of serving impoverished clients, particularly within the domain of debt-related legal representation. Central to both the paradigm and this article is the acknowledgment that the social and systemic context of individuals living in poverty must be integrated into the legal process.

Drawing on qualitative research, including observations and in-depth interviews with legal aid lawyers specializing in debt cases, the article introduces tools and methodologies for poverty-aware legal practice. It delves into practices that align with the paradigm’s principles, categorizing them into two types: those fostering client-lawyer collaboration and those focusing on strategies to bridge the gap between clients’ realities and the legal system. Furthermore, the article also addresses the challenges of these tools and suggests potential avenues for further research in this domain.