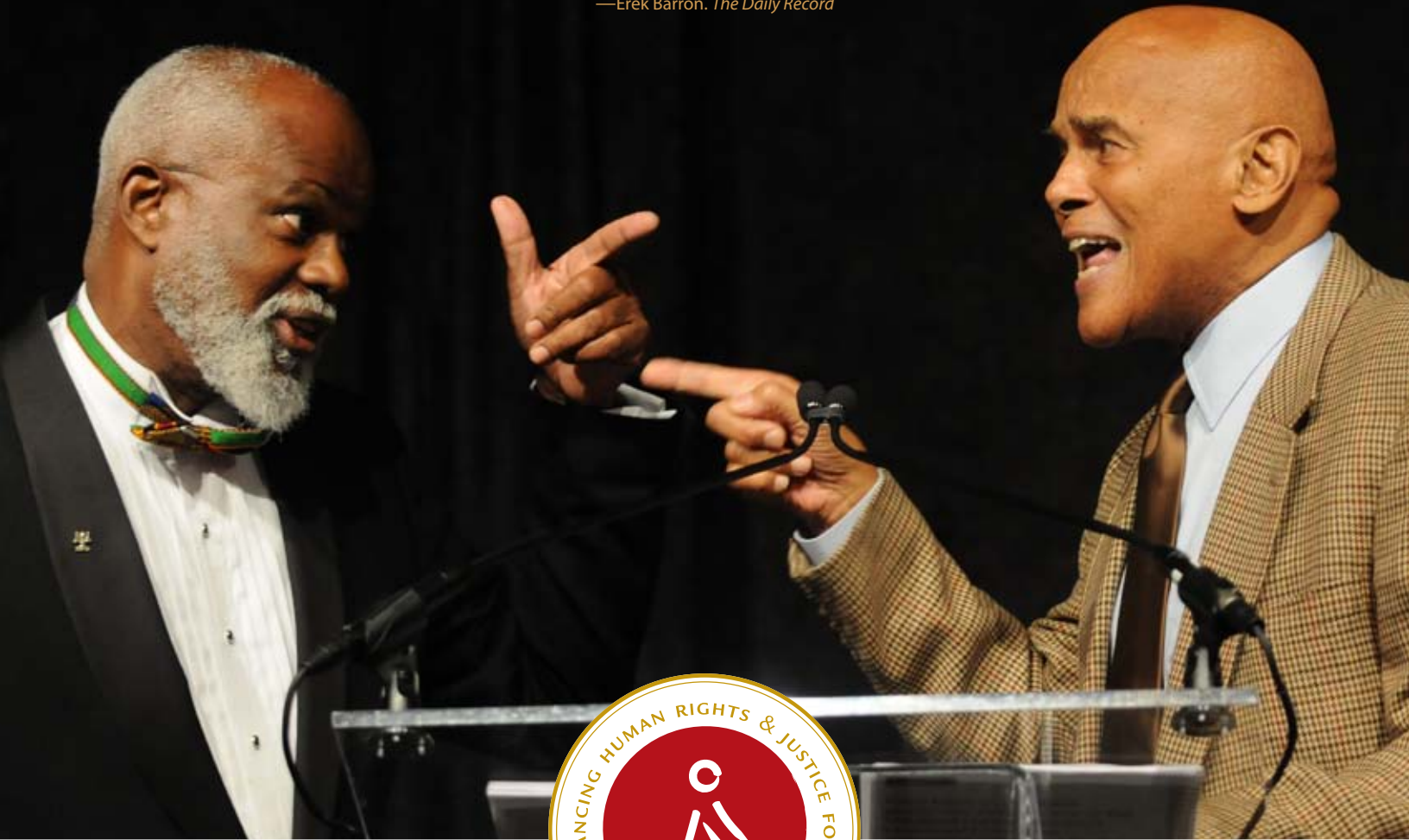


2011 Annual Report

Celebrating 100 YEARS

"The Maryland Legal Aid Bureau celebrated its centennial anniversary...
and keynote speaker Harry Belafonte struck a beautiful chord"

—Erek Barron. *The Daily Record*



Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., Executive Director

Performer and Human Rights Advocate, Harry Belafonte



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

MISSION

To provide high-quality legal services to Maryland's poor through a mix of services and to bring about the changes poor people want in the systems that affect them.

Advancing Human Rights
and Justice for All

Maryland Legal Aid:

Employment

- Obtains illegally denied unemployment benefits
- Gets wages and back pay due
- Overcomes job discrimination
- Resolves on-the-job issues such as safety or grievances

Housing

- Preserves affordable housing
- Stops illegal evictions from public and subsidized housing
- Helps persons with disabilities get and preserve housing
- Advocates for correction of substandard housing
- Prevents homelessness
- Helps tenant organizations advocate for better conditions
- Prevents termination or denial of housing subsidies
- Enforces rights to decent, habitable housing
- Overcomes discrimination in obtaining housing
- Obtains return of security deposits

Income maintenance

- Helps those with disabilities get assistance to avoid institutionalization
- Helps to obtain, preserve, restore or increase public assistance
- Overcomes denial of emergency assistance, food stamps, Social Security, and veteran benefits

Juvenile

- Represents abused and neglected children

Consumer

- Prevents foreclosure
- Helps homeowners bilked by foreclosure rescue scams
- Corrects credit ratings
- Stops or reduces debt-collection activity
- Helps consumers avoid or end garnishment
- Overcomes unfair or illegal sales contracts
- Enforces sales contracts and warranties
- Obtains or preserves credit
- Overcomes fraudulent sales practices
- Avoids or delays utility terminations

Health

- Helps sick children, the disabled and the elderly get medical assistance
- Helps seniors get Medicaid assistance so they can live in their communities
- Assists people in preserving the long-term care placement of their choice
- Stops or obtains redress for harmful medical treatment
- Enforces terms of health or disability insurance

Family

- Assists appropriate custodial parents in maintaining custody
- Assists with getting protection from domestic violence
- Helps abuse survivors obtain custody, divorce and alimony
- Helps parents obtain visitation rights
- Helps parents obtain guardianships or adoptions for dependent children
- Helps stop termination of parental rights
- Helps establish paternity
- Helps custodial parents obtain, preserve or increase child support
- Obtains or preserves terms of foster care placement

Farmworkers

- Educates and represents farmworkers regarding their employment rights, including wage collection, suitable housing and workplace safety
- Educates service providers, government officials and the public about farmworkers' rights and needs, such as language access to social services and job training
- Documents wage non-payment, occupational safety violations and poor migrant camp conditions while advocating for their improvement.

Education

- Helps children get special education services to which they are entitled
- Helps children avoid illegal or unfair school suspensions and expulsions

Vision

To lead in providing high-quality legal services; to build on mutual respect for clients, staff, and others; to advocate for justice; and to add maximum positive value to all who request legal assistance.

Overview

Established in 1911, the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. is a private, non-profit law firm providing free civil legal services to low-income people statewide. Maryland Legal Aid serves Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties from 13 offices. Funding comes from federal, state, and local governments, the United Way, foundations, law firms, and other private contributors.

Maryland Legal Aid's priorities are in family, child advocacy, housing, education, employment, consumer, and public benefits law. Clients are provided necessary legal assistance to gain protection from domestic violence, retain custody of children, fight unlawful evictions, prevent foreclosures on homes, secure educational services, and obtain needed medical and disability benefits, unemployment insurance, and other forms of temporary financial assistance.

Special statewide programs provide representation and assistance for children who are victims of abuse and neglect, the elderly, nursing home and assisted living residents, migrant and seasonal farmworkers, tenants working to preserve affordable housing, and homeowners facing foreclosure due to predatory lending.



Cover: Messrs. Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. and Harry Belafonte sing a Calypso duet at the September 24, 2011 Centennial Celebration.

Opposite: Baltimore City staff attorney Alexandra Monroy helps low-income clients with their housing and consumer law problems.

DIRECTION

“Most recently, Maryland Legal Aid was the first legal services program in the U.S. to adopt a human rights framework as its central operating principle.”



Advancing Human Rights and Justice for All

Welcome

For more than 100 years, Maryland Legal Aid’s attorneys and staff have provided critical, often life-saving legal help to the most vulnerable people in Maryland—young children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and those living in dire economic conditions. Through the zealous advocacy of our attorneys, one case at a time, we labor to obtain fairness in the justice system and uplift the outlook of the disenfranchised.

A legal system that limits access to a lawyer to only those who can afford it is a defective system. While we may believe that we have a fair legal system, the reality is that it requires a lawyer to make it work. Unlike virtually every other developed country, the U.S. does not provide lawyers to low-income people facing life-critical issues, such as an illegal eviction, the loss of medical benefits, or legal problems stemming from abusive relationships.

Most recently, Maryland Legal Aid became the first legal services program in the U.S. to adopt a human rights framework as its core operating principle. Basic human rights are embodied in the seminal documents of our nation. The Declaration of Independence speaks of “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” Those rights are embraced in the Constitution as rights not bestowed by the government, but as natural rights we inherit just by virtue of being human.

The human rights framework embodies President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s “Four Freedoms” 1941 State of the Union address as a guideline. Roosevelt’s speech was given as the nation was still reeling from the Great Depression and about to enter the throes of World War II to fight against an alliance of totalitarian regimes which showed a criminal disregard for human life and basic human rights. Viewed in this context, the speech was especially meaningful. Roosevelt believed in a world founded on the essential freedoms of speech and of worship, and freedom from want and from fear. He declared that “freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere.” Roosevelt’s speech engaged the international community in examining human rights and forced it to focus on the development of standards directing nations to progressively realize and achieve those rights. Closer to home, the U.S. Supreme Court and the Maryland Court of Appeals have accepted a human rights analysis in examining issues such as capital punishment, medical experimentation on children, and the right of transgendered people to be identified to their selected gender.

Maryland Legal Aid has adopted its human rights framework to incorporate FDR’s vision, believing that it attacks the root of client problems, and assists us in broadening our advocacy efforts. Legal Aid is positioned at the forefront of efforts to further the expansion of human rights jurisprudence.

Earlier this year, Maryland Legal Aid was selected by the Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law at American University’s Washington College of Law as a Project Partner for the Local Human Rights Lawyering Project. The Center developed the Local Human Rights Lawyering Project to provide training, coaching, and mentoring for legal aid attorneys to expand the promise of their mission by integrating a human rights framework into their daily work.

Through this Ford Foundation-funded project, Maryland Legal Aid staff will receive training and support on human rights issues from some of the brightest minds in the field, and we are confident and excited that our advocacy will be greatly enhanced because of it. As we move into our second century of service, the project serves as yet another example of Maryland Legal Aid’s commitment and dedication to balancing the scales of justice.

Warren S. Oliveri, Jr., Esq.
President

Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., Esq.
Executive Director

Maryland Legal Aid Executive Director, Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., delivers an address at the April 2011 joint University of Maryland/University of Baltimore law schools human rights symposium celebrating Maryland Legal Aid’s 100th anniversary.

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“The importance of human rights has been underlined over and over again this year. Across the globe, people mobilized to demand justice, dignity, equality, participation—the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration.”

— U.N. Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon

For more details on Maryland Legal Aid’s work, please visit www.mdlab.org.

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CELEBRATION

Recognizing 100 Champions of Human Rights and Justice

“Basic human rights are found in the Declaration of Independence—‘life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness’—as natural rights that the founders of our nation embraced. “They’re also embodied in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights as rights not given by the government, but as rights as human beings.”

—Seri Wilpone, a Maryland Legal Aid chief attorney, who headed a recent strategic planning process that recommended the human rights framework.

Harry Belafonte Struck A Beautiful Chord

More than 700 guests were on hand September 24 for Maryland Legal Aid’s sold-out Centennial Celebration. One hundred Champions of Justice and Human Rights were recognized after rousing speeches by Governor Martin O’Malley and guest of honor Harry Belafonte.

“The Maryland Legal Aid Bureau celebrated its centennial anniversary Saturday night in Baltimore and keynote speaker Harry Belafonte struck a beautiful chord,” wrote board member Erik Barron in *The Daily Record*. “Both Belafonte and Legal Aid Executive Director Wilhelm Joseph actually sang together on stage!”

“Belafonte entertained the crowd but also offered serious sentiments stemming from his experience as an international human rights activist,” Barron continued. “The message was right on time for an organization re-energized around a human rights framework.”

“Belafonte acknowledged that he was ‘preaching to the choir.’ But he quoted Dr. Martin Luther King, saying, ‘it’s important that you preach to the choir because if you don’t, they could stop singing,’” Barron wrote.

“The evening was an opportunity for Legal Aid supporters to get together, reminisce about ‘the old days at Legal Aid,’ and renew their commitment to Legal Aid’s next 100 years,” said Baltimore Child Advocacy Unit chief attorney Joan Little (one of the night’s honorees). “The governor’s and Harry Belafonte’s speeches were excellent—and the house was packed.”

Added Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, the publisher of *The Daily Record*, the event’s media sponsor: “I hope you are incredibly proud of your team for the tremendous event you held . . .,” she wrote in an email to Wilhelm Joseph.

“It was an honor to be on stage to celebrate 100 outstanding leaders and support the great works of Maryland Legal Aid. The entire evening was perfect and a great tribute to legal leaders.”



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CENTENNIAL EVENTS

Advancing Human Rights
and Justice for All



Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Memphis Mayor A C Wharton.

“I’m impressed by Legal Aid’s visionary, out-of-the-box thinking to use a human rights framework. You play an important role in the human rights movement by helping the poor, by preventing illegal evictions and making sure that parents don’t lose custody. I salute Legal Aid’s efforts to build a broader understanding of human rights. Your work is vital.”

— Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, from his keynote speech at Maryland Legal Aid’s human rights symposium in April, 2011.



Maryland Legal Aid’s Human Rights Symposium

Wade Henderson, president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, was the keynote speaker at the April 6, 2011 joint University of Maryland/ University of Baltimore law schools human rights symposium celebrating Maryland Legal Aid’s 100th anniversary.

“I’m impressed by Legal Aid’s visionary, out-of-the-box thinking to use a human rights framework,” said Henderson (left in photo with Executive Director Wilhelm Joseph). “You play an important role in the human rights movement by helping the poor, by preventing illegal evictions, and by making sure that parents don’t lose custody. I salute Legal Aid’s efforts to build a broader understanding of human rights. Your work is vital.”

Other speakers included UM Law Dean Phoebe Haddon, former UB Law Dean Phillip Closius, Howard University law professor Lisa Crooms, University of Indiana law professor Florence Roisman, ACLU-Maryland executive director Susan Goering, University of the District of Columbia law professor Edgar Cahn, and UM law professor Michael Millemann.

Maryland Legal Aid Community Birthday Party

Maryland Legal Aid hosted a community birthday party on Sept. 10, 2011 to celebrate 100 years of providing free civil legal services to low-income individuals, families, and communities in Maryland.

The party offered something for everyone, including live music, children’s activities, craft and food vendors, health testing, and information about community resources.

Clients, former clients, community partners and the general public enjoyed the festivities.



By Richard Smith Photography

“[I am] excited to celebrate Legal Aid’s centenary. I began my career at Legal Aid, where I worked with the city’s most vulnerable citizens.”

—Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake

Equal Justice Council Awards Breakfast

Baltimore Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and Memphis Mayor A C Wharton were the featured guests at the 14th Annual Equal Justice Council Recognition Breakfast at Camden Yards. Rawlings-Blake said she was “excited to celebrate Legal Aid’s centenary. I began my career at Legal Aid, where I worked with the city’s most vulnerable citizens.” Wharton, who has also served at the head of civil and public defender programs in the Memphis area, said “I can’t believe the Maryland private bar’s support for legal services. It’s amazing!”

“I can’t believe the Maryland private bar’s support for legal services. It’s amazing!”

—Memphis Mayor A C Wharton

These are the people and organizations that made our centennial celebration possible.

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Equal Justice Council Co-Chair Benjamin Rosenberg and his wife, Dee, at the Centennial Celebration.

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Dedicated staff members of Maryland Legal Aid strive to provide the highest quality of legal assistance to their clients. Complementing their efforts are many individuals who contribute expert legal support to the organization and direct pro bono representation to our clients. We are deeply appreciative and thank:

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We thank all of our donors for taking steps to invest in equal justice, especially those who have become Partners for Justice by contributing \$1,000 or more. For more information on the Equal Justice Council or to make a contribution, contact Anddi Gilmore, Resource & Communications Manager, at 410-951-7759 or agilmore@mdlal.org or donate online at www.mdlal.org.

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Planned gifts to Maryland Legal Aid are about planning for the future: your future and the future of justice in Maryland. Planned giving requires forethought and can be as simple as making an outright gift of appreciated assets or as intricate as creating a charitable trust in your will. Each gift offers special benefits and each gift creates a long-term financial resource that helps sustain equal justice—from generation to generation.

Gifts of Stocks and Other Securities

The IRS allows for significant tax breaks for gifts of appreciated securities. Stock transfers can be made through Maryland Legal Aid's account at Charles Schwab. Please contact Susan Shubin, Director of Resource Development (410/951-7706 or email sshubin@mdlal.org) for more information.

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Harry Belafonte (center), Maryland Legal Aid board Vice President Gwendolyn Johnson, (right) and friends.

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Up to \$199

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African American Lutheran Association
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Cheryl Barkley-Chiccone
In Memory of Diane Kinslow
Susan Howe Baron
Erek L. Barron

continued >

Maryland Legal Aid staff in action: PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Metropolitan Maryland (Riverdale) staff attorneys Hong Park and Justin Zelikovitz' helped a tenant sued for \$10,000 by his landlord for alleged damage to an apartment. After asking for the landlord's documentation, the invoices "looked a little bit off," Hong said. So Hong called the contractors, who had never seen them. "All forged," Hong reported. After going through hundreds of case files documenting the fraud against other tenants, Justin and Hong tipped off the attorney general's office, which ultimately led to an investigation that resulted in a \$500,000 settlement.

Southern Maryland office (Hughesville) staff attorney Jennifer Smith saved a family from eviction after their landlord defaulted on his mortgage and was going to be foreclosed.

CONTRIBUTION



Centennial Celebration honoree Herbert Garten (front, third from left) and family at the Centennial Celebration.

Advancing Human Rights and Justice for All

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Damian Bozzacco
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In Memory of Diane Kinslow
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Kathryn Marie Kowalczyk
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Karen A. Lash In Honor of the Marriage of Jana Singer & Larry Sidman
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Matthew A. Mace
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Linda A. McCaughey, Jr.
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Every effort was made to ensure accuracy in this listing. If we have inadvertently omitted any donor, please accept our sincere apology.

Maryland Legal Aid in action: HELPING FAMILIES

Northeastern Maryland office staff attorney Desiree Reetz successfully negotiated a settlement that gave a mother sole custody of her son and helped the woman start on a path of healing and counseling to break the cycle of domestic violence and get control of her life.

Lower Eastern Shore office paralegal Gail Morrisette, under the supervision of chief attorney Robert McCaig, successfully represented an eight- year-old child denied SSI benefits despite suffering from Asperger's Syndrome (a developmental disorder that affects a child's ability to socialize and communicate effectively with others), Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and a personality disorder.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



Advancing Human Rights
and Justice for All

Rebecca Abbott
Paul Adams
Carol Ahlum
Adedatun Akinjo
Audra Allen
Kia Alston
Kathy Anderson
Jessica Andreason
Mary Aquino
Angela Astin
Amanda Aubrey
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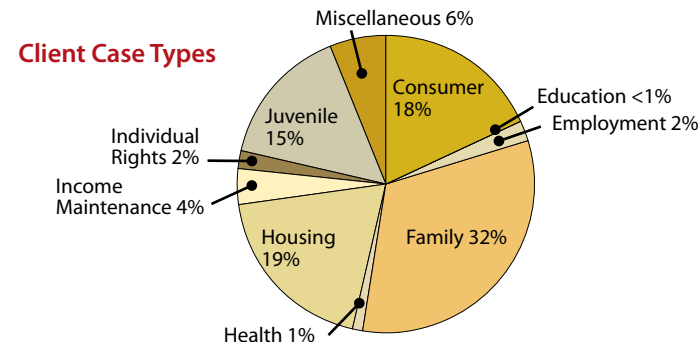
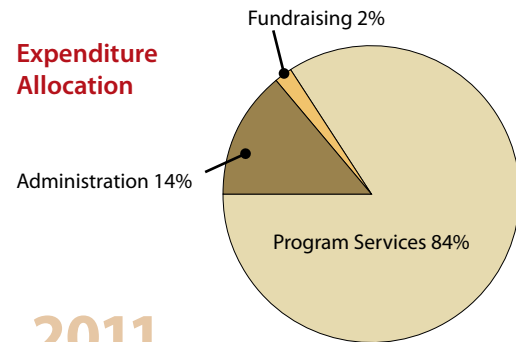
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Maryland Legal Aid in action: ELDER CARE

Long Term Care Assistance Project supervising attorney **Anne Hurley** represented an 83-year-old former professional pianist who is a resident of an assisted living facility in Anne Arundel County. “She had been denied older adult waiver services after having received them for a year,” Anne said. “We assembled a team of doctors and care providers to show that her cognitive abilities were quite limited, and were able to settle with the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene a day before the hearing—with all of her Medicaid benefits being restored. Her son, who is suffering from a terminal liver condition, was incredibly grateful that her benefits were restored. He didn’t know what he was going to do if he had to bring her home.”

FINANCIAL REPORT

PROGRAMS & OFFICES



2011

Operating Income: \$ 27,270,832
 Operating Expenses: \$ 24,646,978

Selected Sources of Funds

Source	Amount
Federal Funding:	
Legal Services Corporation Grant Revenue	\$ 4,537,261
Baltimore City/Stimulus Funding (Homeless Prevention)	176,531
Baltimore City Health Department/Ryan White (HIV/AIDS Legal Assistance)	177,863
HOPE Program (Housing Counseling)	182,500
Maryland Legal Services Corporation Grant Revenue	10,799,588
Title III-B Local Elderly Funding	313,843
Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Lower Shore, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, St. Mary's, and Upper Shore	
State Funding:	
Contract services regarding children, District Court self-help, and domestic violence	8,958,799
Local Government Grants-In-Aid:	
Anne Arundel	22,000
Baltimore City	62,500
Baltimore	70,000
Harford	30,186
Howard	101,890
Prince George's	25,000
Circuit Court Pro Se Grants	
Anne Arundel	155,603
Cecil	28,750
Somerset	5,400
Private Donations:	
Contributions	527,187
Foundations	239,075

Net Assets, End of Year: \$ 13,451,657

The components of Net Assets at 12/31/2011 were: unrestricted \$7,394,305; temporarily restricted \$6,050,352; and permanently restricted \$7,000.

This report contains a summary of 2011 financial information. Complete audited financial statements are available from Maryland Legal Aid upon request.

Persons Served by County

Total: 71,176

Allegany: 1,358
Anne Arundel: 20,973*
Baltimore City: 20,601
Baltimore: 4,549
Calvert: 765
Caroline: 304
Carroll: 393
Cecil: 1,322*
Charles: 1,324
Dorchester: 198
Frederick: 1,871
Garrett: 417
Harford: 2,278
Howard: 698
Kent: 144
Montgomery: 3,355
Prince George's: 5,856
Queen Anne's: 212
Somerset: 288*
St. Mary's: 1,374
Talbot: 326
Washington: 370
Wicomico: 1,137
Worcester: 224
Out-of-State: 837

* includes pro se litigants assisted through Legal Aid's courthouse pro se projects and the District Court Self-Help Center in Anne Arundel County.

In addition, it is estimated that in 2011 Maryland Legal Aid handled thousands of additional non-recorded calls which were referred to appropriate agencies, e.g., the Department of Social Services, the Office of the Public Defender, and lawyer referral services.

Statewide Programs & Resources

Affordable Housing Preservation Project
 (410) 951-7777

Farmworker Program
 (800) 444-4099
 Nathaniel Norton, Supervising Attorney

Foreclosure Prevention Assistance Project
 (888) 213-3320
 Victoria King Taitano, Project Director

Maryland Senior Legal Helpline
 (410) 951-7750 or (800) 896-4213
 William G. Stokes, Chief Attorney

Long Term Care Assistance Project
 (800) 367-7563
 Anne Hurley, Project Director

Statewide Support
 Cheryl Hystad, Director of Advocacy
 J. Peter Sabonis, Assistant Director of Advocacy for Income Security
 Gregory L. Countess, Assistant Director of Advocacy for Housing and Community Economic Development

Jennifer Goldberg, Assistant Director of Advocacy for Elder Law and Health Care

Janet Hartge, Assistant Director of Advocacy for Children's Rights

Yoanna X. Moisides
 Assistant Director of Advocacy for Training and Pro Bono

The Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. is a 501 (c)(3) organization that provides free civil legal services to low-income people in every Maryland community. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by calling our office: (410) 951-7719. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, for the cost of copying and mailing.

All funds received by the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. are spent in accordance with the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, as amended 1977, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2996 et. seq., its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R. § 1600 et. seq., and other applicable law.

Local Offices

Anne Arundel County

229 Hanover Street
 Annapolis, MD 21401
 (410) 263-8330 / (800) 666-8330

Anita Bailey, Chief Attorney
 Sarah Coffey Frush, Supervising Attorney
 Lisa Marie Sarro, Supervising Attorney

Baltimore City

500 East Lexington Street
 Baltimore, MD 21202
 (410) 951-7777

Helpline (410) 951-7750

Cornelia Bright Gordon, Chief Attorney

Joseph V. Rohr, Chief Attorney

Avery T. Clark, Supervising Attorney

Ramesh Kasarabada, Supervising Attorney

Joan Little, Chief Attorney, Child Advocacy

Jennifer Cooke Rosen, Supervising Attorney

Janine Scott, Supervising Attorney

Rhonda Henderson Serrano,
 Supervising Attorney

Bobbi Steyer, Supervising Attorney

Jocelyn Williams, Supervising Attorney

Cherry Hill

606 Cherry Hill Road, Second Floor
 Baltimore, MD 21225
 (410) 355-4223

Baltimore County

29 W. Susquehanna Ave., Suite 305
 Towson, MD 21204
 (410) 296-427-1800

Ann Lembo, Chief Attorney

Josaphine Yuzuik, Supervising Attorney

Metropolitan Maryland

Howard, Montgomery and

Prince George's counties

Blake Fetrow, Chief Attorney

Arlene Callender, Supervising Attorney

Teresa Cooke, Supervising Attorney

Aquanetta Momyer, Supervising Attorney

Patricia Waldman, Supervising Attorney

Beth Wanger, Supervising Attorney

Sabrina Wear, Supervising Attorney

Howard County

3451 Court House Drive, 2nd Floor
 Ellicott City, MD 21043
 (410) 480-1057

Montgomery County

51 Monroe Street, Suite 1200
 Rockville, MD 20850
 (240) 314-0373

Prince George's County

6811 Kenilworth Avenue,
 Calvert Bldg., Suite 500
 Riverdale, MD 20737
 (301) 560-2100 / (888) 215-5316

Lower Eastern Shore

Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico and
 Worcester counties

111 High St., Salisbury, MD 21801

(410) 546-5511

(301) 694-7414 / (800) 444-4099

Robert McCaig, Chief Attorney

Midwestern Maryland

Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties

22 South Market Street,
 Suite 11

Frederick, MD 21701

(301) 694-7414 / (800) 679-8813

Nina Shore, Chief Attorney

Northeastern Maryland

Cecil and Harford counties

103 S. Hickory Avenue

Bel Air, MD 21014

(410) 836-8202 / (800) 444-9529

Jeanette Cole, Chief Attorney

Southern Maryland

Calvert, Charles and St. Mary's counties

Route 231,
 15364 Prince Frederick Road

P.O. Box 249

Hughesville, MD 20637

(301) 932-6661

Seri Wilpone, Chief Attorney

Upper Eastern Shore

Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's
 and Talbot counties

Tred Avon Square, Suite 3

210 Marlboro Road

Easton, MD 21601

(410) 763-9676 / (800) 477-2543

William Leahy, Chief Attorney

Western Maryland

Allegany and Garrett counties

110 Greene Street

Cumberland, MD 21502

(301) 777-7474

Cynthia Fenimore, Chief Attorney

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**MARYLAND
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Baltimore, Maryland 21202

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Human rights belong to every one of us without exception.

But unless we know them, unless we demand
they be respected, and unless we defend our right—
and the right of others—to exercise them,
they will be just words in a decades-old document.

— U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon