



**MARYLAND**  
**LEGAL AID**

*Advancing*  
**Human Rights and**  
**Justice for All**

500 East Lexington Street | Baltimore, Maryland 21202 | Phone: 410-951-7777 | Website: [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org)

## About Maryland Legal Aid

Established in 1911, Maryland Legal Aid (Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.) operates 12 full-service offices, serving communities in all 23 Maryland counties and Baltimore City. With a staff of 250 people, including 150 attorneys, Maryland Legal Aid provides civil legal services to the most vulnerable communities in the state, with special targeted programs for child victims of abuse and neglect, the elderly, nursing home and assisted-living residents, seasonal farmworkers and veterans.

The only statewide, direct provider of civil legal services to low income-eligible residents, Maryland Legal Aid offers a wide range of services ranging from information and referrals and brief legal advice to extended legal representation, litigation, community education, *pro se* assistance, *pro bono* coordination and referrals, policy advocacy, and broad-based impact work. Areas of priority include family/domestic, housing, economic stabilization (public benefits and employment), elder, education, health, and consumer law. Last year, Maryland Legal Aid served over 99,000 people.

Through a contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts, Maryland Legal Aid also operates four Self-Help Resource Centers—three walk-in facilities in the District Courts of Glen Burnie, Salisbury, and Upper Marlboro, and a call-in center in Annapolis. Since the opening of the first center in 2009, the Self-Help Resource Centers have served over 100,000 people through in-person consultations as well as call-in, email, and live chat. The Self-Help Resource Centers deal with a wide range of civil legal matters, including landlord-tenant, consumer and debt collection, family law issues, and criminal record expungements.

Maryland Legal Aid receives funding from a variety of sources, including the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, the federal Legal Services Corporation, United Way, law firms, corporations, foundations, and individuals. In addition, Maryland Legal Aid welcomes volunteers—attorneys and non-attorneys—to assist in the delivery of legal services. Those interested in volunteering can sign up to receive volunteer alerts for available opportunities (<http://www.mdlab.org/donate-or-volunteer/volunteer>). Financial contributions can be made by mailing a check, payable to Maryland Legal Aid, to Maryland Legal Aid, 500 E. Lexington Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, or online at [www.donate.mdlab.org](http://www.donate.mdlab.org).



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## Special Projects and Initiatives

### ***Lawyer in the Library***

*Lawyer in the Library* is a community lawyering initiative, the goal of which is to bring free, civil legal services directly to underserved communities. Offered in cooperation with the Enoch Pratt Free Library, the Baltimore County Public Library, and Montgomery Public Libraries, this program brings Maryland Legal Aid and volunteer attorneys, paralegals, and law students to the community library on a weekly basis to provide brief, free, one-on-one advice to attendees for a wide range of civil legal issues and help with criminal record expungements.



### **Expungement Clinics**

Maryland Legal Aid hosts a number of Expungement Clinics throughout Maryland to help residents clear their criminal records and turn their lives around. Criminal Record Expungements can often be performed at the Expungement Clinics and at *Lawyer in the Library* in a matter of minutes.

### **Pro Bono Days**

Twice a year, Maryland Legal Aid, in partnership with the Bar Association of Baltimore City and other legal services organizations, hosts Pro Bono Day in our Baltimore City office. At this legal clinic event, Maryland Legal Aid and volunteer attorneys provide free, brief, one-on-one advice to attendees on a wide range of civil legal issues, including employment, wage claims, bankruptcy, foreclosures, government benefits, family law, landlord-tenant, and criminal record expungements. Maryland Legal Aid also hosts Pro Bono Days in Baltimore, Frederick, and Washington counties.



### ***Joining Forces Project***

Maryland Legal Aid's *Joining Forces Project* is a free, statewide telephone hotline specifically for low-income veterans who have served in any branch of the military, regardless of discharge status. Volunteer attorneys provide, by phone, free legal advice to eligible veterans for a variety of civil legal issues and criminal record expungements.



For more information about Maryland Legal Aid initiatives and how to volunteer, visit [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org).