

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



MARYLAND LEGAL AID PROVIDES LEGAL ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

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.

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.

HOUSING

- Preserves affordable housing
- Stops illegal evictions from public and subsidized housing and termination or denial of housing subsidies
- Prevents foreclosures or mitigates their effects
- Helps persons with disabilities obtain and preserve housing and avoid institutionalization
- Advocates on behalf of tenant organizations, individuals, and families for improvement of substandard housing
- Prevents homelessness
- Remedies discrimination in obtaining and preserving housing
- Obtains return of security deposits and damages for illegal landlord practices

FAMILY AND CHILDREN

- Assists custodial parents in maintaining custody and in obtaining, preserving, or increasing child support
- Obtains orders of protection from domestic violence and secures orders for custody, divorce and support for abuse survivors
- Helps parents obtain visitation rights, guardianships, or adoptions for dependent children

- Helps stop unwarranted termination of parental rights
- Obtains or preserves terms of foster care placement
- Represents abused and neglected children in the foster care system

EMPLOYMENT

- Recovers wages and back pay rightfully due
- Remedies employment discrimination
- Ensures that workers have a safe workplace and can express grievances about workplace conditions
- Assists with criminal record expungements to remove barriers to housing and employment
- Obtains illegally denied unemployment benefits

CONSUMER

- Helps homeowners bilked by foreclosure rescue scams
- Assists with correcting erroneous credit reports
- Combats overly aggressive or illegal debt-collection activity
- Opposes bank account and wage garnishments of income and assets needed to meet basic subsistence needs

- Enforces sales contracts and warranties
- Remedies fraudulent sales practices and predatory contracts
- Avoids or delays utility terminations

HEALTH

- Helps sick children, the disabled and seniors 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 contracts

INCOME MAINTENANCE

- Represents persons with disabilities to avoid institutionalization
- Helps to obtain, preserve, restore or increase subsistence income to meet basic human needs
- Challenges denials of emergency assistance, food stamps, Social Security and veterans benefits

MIGRANT FARMWORKERS

- Educates migrant farmworkers regarding their employment rights, including wage collection, suitable housing, and workplace safety, and represents them in cases in those areas
- Educates service providers, government officials, and the public about migrant farmworkers' rights and needs, such as language translation, access to social services, and job training
- Provides assistance to address wage non-payment, occupational safety violations, and substandard migrant camp conditions

EDUCATION

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

“ALONE WE CAN DO SO LITTLE; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH.”

–Helen Keller

Establishing strong partnerships has been fundamental to the overall success of Maryland Legal Aid and the strengthening of our mission to ensure equal access to justice for all. In 2016, Maryland Legal Aid successfully executed new initiatives, expanded existing programs, and focused on establishing partnerships with community organizations and other entities whose missions aligned with ours, all while continuing to provide high-quality civil legal advocacy to clients statewide.

While Maryland Legal Aid provides a broad spectrum of high-quality services, these partnerships enable us to offer more in-depth and targeted assistance to address many inter-related issues that our clients face. The **power of partnerships** is an integral part of our daily work and long-term mission, and throughout this 2016 Annual Report, you will find examples of how strategic collaborations with a wide range of community partners have significantly improved outcomes for individuals and communities.

For example, Maryland Legal Aid’s *Community Lawyering Initiative* is a cutting edge project that places highly-skilled attorneys directly in underserved neighborhoods to provide free, immediate, and life-changing legal assistance. Since the inception of the *Initiative*, Maryland Legal Aid has partnered with 50 community organizations and institutions to host and coordinate statewide legal clinics and events; these partners include bar associations, private law firms and in-house counsel, law enforcement, elected officials, and other local charities. The *Initiative* has enabled Maryland Legal Aid staff, pro bono attorneys, and law students to dramatically expand Maryland Legal Aid’s reach beyond its 12 full-service offices to additional neighborhoods and locations. Maryland Legal Aid was also fortunate to bolster its partnership with Venable LLP through Venable’s Loaned Associate Program. Through this program, Venable attorneys are embedded in the Housing and Consumer Unit of Maryland Legal Aid’s Baltimore City office and work with staff and clients on a number of civil legal issues including bankruptcy, foreclosure and landlord-tenant issues.

Many of the other successful partnerships established and continued in 2016 are funded by foundation and government grants. *Project Household* was funded by a grant from the Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation and enables Maryland Legal Aid and other legal services providers to work together to help seniors in Baltimore City preserve homeownership through direct legal representation and education. Through a three-year grant from the United States Department of Justice’s Office on Violence Against Women (Legal Assistance for Victims Grant Program), Maryland Legal Aid continues to collaborate with TurnAround, Inc. to provide holistic civil legal representation for victims of sexual assault and domestic violence in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Thanks to a generous grant from the Governor’s Office of Crime Control and Prevention through the Victims of Crime Act, Maryland Legal Aid is able to expand services available to victims of sexual assault and domestic violence through TurnAround, Inc. and a new partner, CHANA. These are just a few of the new and ongoing partnerships that create second chances, viable options, and meaningful change for Maryland individuals and families, many of whom have been marginalized.

For the past 106 years, Maryland Legal Aid has provided critical legal services and assistance to Maryland’s most vulnerable individuals and communities. We are extremely grateful for the stalwart and steady support and contributions of staff, Board, Equal Justice Council members, pro bono attorneys, volunteers, donors, foundations, governmental funders, most notably the Maryland Legal Services Corporation and the federal Legal Services Corporation, and all of our community partners, who make it possible for us to fulfill our mission and pursue our vision for a fairer and more just society for all.

Warren S. Oliveri, Jr., Esq.
President



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



MARYLAND LEGAL AID'S

Community Lawyering Initiative

In 2016, Maryland Legal Aid established the *Community Lawyering Initiative*, which brings free and critical legal resources directly to people in their communities. Maryland Legal Aid designated internal resources and staff to manage the *Initiative*—which includes hosting legal clinics around the state to assist clients with their criminal record expungements and civil legal issues. Since the start of the *Initiative*, Maryland Legal Aid has developed a number of integral relationships with community partners that have enabled the *Initiative* to grow and flourish as a successful model for serving clients.

The *Community Lawyering Initiative* evolved from Maryland Legal Aid's successful Lawyer in the Library program, which was introduced in 2015 in response to the civil unrest that followed the death of Freddie Gray. The aftermath of the unrest left many Baltimore City residents looking for answers and opportunities to make a difference. Lawyer in the Library was developed to address those concerns. Through the program, Maryland Legal Aid attorneys, paralegals, volunteer attorneys and law students meet with individuals in library branches throughout the state, multiple times per month, to help attendees with their civil legal issues. The *Community Lawyering Initiative* expands on Maryland Legal Aid's original vision for the Lawyer in the Library program and offers a fresh approach for lawyers to reach and help underserved clients, as well as a unique way for pro bono attorneys to contribute their time and efforts.

PRELIMINARY IMPACT OF THE COMMUNITY LAWYERING INITIATIVE: BY THE NUMBERS...

Out of the 21 clients who provided responses, 86% were able to expunge their entire criminal record.

86 **48**%

Nearly half **gained employment or were promoted** as a result of their criminal record being expunged.

Maryland Legal Aid's Community Lawyering Initiative in 2016

6,103 criminal records expunged
50 community partnerships developed
101 expungement clinics held

One major component of the *Community Lawyering Initiative* is providing criminal record expungements for clients in order to remove barriers to obtaining basic human needs such as safe and affordable housing, employment, and subsistence income. As Maryland Legal Aid has seen in the last year alone, the need for criminal record expungements throughout Maryland is great, and the demand for expungement assistance continues to increase as expungement laws change and people take legal steps to turn their lives around.

As the *Community Lawyering Initiative* develops further, Lawyer in the Library will continue to play a critical role. Maryland Legal Aid anticipates placing attorneys in other library branches throughout Baltimore City and other parts of the state.

Hear from clients about how having their criminal records expunged through Maryland Legal Aid's *Community Lawyering Initiative* has impacted their lives:



Ms. B., 2016

"I didn't want anything to stop me from succeeding in the goals I had set for myself. I just want to make a difference and leave a legacy for my daughter."

—Ms. B.

"...I received from your office a cover letter with an order for expungement of my criminal record. I just wanted to call and say thank you, thank you, thank you. When I received this, I was totally blown away. I wanted to call you personally and thank you for the work that you do. It is very much appreciated and this will help me immensely in finding employment."

—Mr. E.

"I thank you and everyone that worked on my expungement and put in the work and effort to clear [my record] up for me. I'm grateful and appreciative that you've done this for me. Thank you for the good work you've done and God bless you."

—Mr. B.



Left: Staff involved in Maryland Legal Aid's Community Lawyering Initiative; Right: Branch Manager Melanie Townsend-Diggs (third from right) welcomed Maryland Legal Aid staff and representatives from the Department of Justice to the Enoch Pratt Free Library Pennsylvania Avenue Branch during National Reentry Week (April 24-30, 2016).



Community Lawyering Partners

Maryland Legal Aid thanks the organizations that partnered to help make the *Community Lawyering Initiative* successful during its first year. Some of these organizations include: Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore County Library, No Boundaries Coalition, Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake, Inc., Morgan State University, Baltimore 1000, Greater Baltimore Urban League, New Psalmist Baptist Church, Morningstar Baptist Church, Men and Families Center, Washington County Department of Social Services, Frederick County Community College, Children in Need of Hagerstown, St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Baltimore City Police Department Re-Entry Division, United Way, Project Homeless Connect, Center for Urban Families, Zion Baptist Church of Christ, One Stop Job Center, PayPal, Safe Streets, Silver Spring Civic Center Job Fair, and the University of Maryland School of Law's Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.

Expungement Clinics in St. Mary's County

Since hosting its first expungement clinic at St. Mary's County Department of Social Services (DSS) in February 2016, Maryland Legal Aid continues to see an increase in the number of people making their way to its Southern Maryland office in Hughesville for criminal record expungements. Maryland Legal Aid assisted more than 50 people with expungement petitions in 2016 from St. Mary's County alone.

St. Mary's DSS refers clients who need criminal record expungements to Maryland Legal Aid. Those who qualify for Maryland Legal Aid services can have their expungement filing fees waived. As a result, St. Mary's DSS is now able to designate funds, which would have ordinarily gone towards filing expungement petitions, towards other programs that benefit residents in St. Mary's County.

"Because Maryland Legal Aid was able to get filing fees for expungements waived, DSS did not have to use its limited funds to pay filing fees and instead could use money to fund other employment needs, such as work clothes. We are very happy that our partnership with Maryland Legal Aid has helped so many families achieve their goals."

—Kerry Miccioto, Team Leader,
St. Mary's County Department of Social Services

United States Department of Justice's "National Reentry Week"

Maryland Legal Aid participated in the United States Department of Justice's (DOJ) "National Reentry Week" (April 24-30, 2016), which focused on achievements of those returning to their communities after incarceration and the

challenges they face in adjusting to life outside of prison. Maryland Legal Aid participated by welcoming representatives from the DOJ and the White House Legal Aid Interagency Roundtable to the Lawyer in the Library clinic at the Enoch Pratt Free Library Pennsylvania Avenue branch to highlight how civil legal services enhance reentry services. The guests had an opportunity to observe how the project helps to remove barriers for people to obtain employment, housing, and child custody by resolving their civil legal issues and by expunging criminal records.



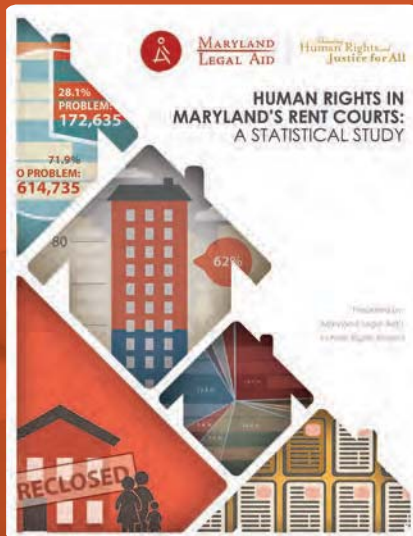
ExpungeltMD.org

Maryland Legal Aid's extensive work in helping clients expunge their criminal records and hosting clinics with community partners led to the development of ExpungeltMD.org—a free, user-friendly app that enables legal professionals to easily search Maryland criminal records and generate documents to file expungement petitions with the Maryland Courts on behalf of low-income citizens.

Although Maryland Legal Aid leveraged internal resources and talents to design, develop, and test the app, feedback from legal services partners was an important part of the final development phase. Before the official launch of the app, Maryland Legal Aid hosted an open house in September 2016 where legal services partners were invited to test the app and ask questions about its functionality. Since September, more than 120 users (from Maryland Legal Aid and from outside organizations) have signed up to use ExpungeltMD.org.

The database has processed more than 7,000 expungeable cases, which accounts for over \$200,000 in waived fees for eligible clients. ExpungeltMD.org also includes a dashboard tool to easily view anonymous case data and demographics; a calendar of events that displays upcoming legal clinics; and a client receipt page that summarizes a list of cases for which expungement petitions have been filed. Clients have expressed that having the receipt page is very beneficial, since many are able to show it to prospective employers as confirmation that they are in the process of having their record cleared.

Housing Successes Built on Partnerships



Human Rights in Maryland's Rent Courts

In September 2016, Maryland Legal Aid released *Human Rights in Maryland's Rent Courts: A Statistical Study*, a review of Rent Court practices statewide. The Study was spearheaded by Maryland Legal Aid's Human Rights Project and examines a sample of rent court cases covering every jurisdiction in Maryland. The Study sheds light on issues in Rent Courts such as insufficient/incomplete record-keeping or lack of advance notice of legal claims for tenants to defend their cases. The Study was supported by a grant from The Fund for Change and was conducted with the cooperation and with assistance from the Maryland Judiciary. Expert analysis was provided by the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences. The Report is available online at mclab.org/annual-special-reports.

Partnering for Fair Housing in Baltimore County

On March 7, 2016, Baltimore County signed an agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to begin unraveling years of housing discrimination against African-Americans and families and individuals with disabilities. As part of the agreement, Baltimore County will take the necessary steps to develop 1,000 affordable housing units that are accessible for individuals with disabilities. Baltimore County also agreed to provide \$30 million in local funds over the next 10 years to help finance the new affordable housing and an additional \$3 million to fund disability upgrades to existing housing units. The HUD agreement was five years in the making and was made possible through the cooperative efforts of Maryland Legal Aid, the Public Justice Center, Disability Rights Maryland, Homeless Persons Representation Project, the NAACP of Baltimore County, and the Maryland chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Each organization filed an administrative complaint on behalf of their respective clients.

Advocacy for Tenants' Rights

A Circuit Court decision in the *Wesley Hosford V. Chateau Foghorn LP* case was reversed on September 1, 2016 by the Court of Special Appeals. The decision in this case is important

for tenant advocates in breach of lease cases because it grants trial judges the discretion to decide whether a breach of lease, even a substantial breach, warrants eviction. Maryland Legal Aid represented Mr. Hosford.

Guidance for Housing Associations

When Sagamore Development announced its plan to redevelop the Port Covington area, many surrounding Baltimore City residents and neighborhoods wanted to ensure that the plan included reinvesting in the community to create new employment opportunities, new schools, and affordable housing. With guidance from Maryland Legal Aid's Director of Advocacy for Housing and Community Development, the Brooklyn, Cherry Hill, Curtis Bay, Lakeland, Mt. Winans, and Westport neighborhood associations joined together to form the South Baltimore Six (SB6) Coalition. Maryland Legal Aid assisted the Coalition with strategies to develop a *Community Benefits Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding* between the Coalition and Sagamore Development. This agreement, which became effective on July 14, 2016, provides a detailed plan to ensure that the surrounding communities will share in the economic, educational, cultural, environmental, and social benefits associated with the revitalized Port Covington area.



Source: Balophoto.org, Hank Mitchell



FOUNDATION FOCUS:



A generous, three-year grant from The Leonard & Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation has helped to create a unique collaborative effort that helps older adults stay in their homes and age in their communities.

Project Household is a partnership between Maryland Legal Aid, Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service, Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, Inc., and Senior Legal Services of the Bar Association of Baltimore City. This project helps coordinate, improve, and expand the delivery of free legal services to low-income Baltimore City homeowners, age 60 and older, in order to help them maintain homeownership and live independently in their communities. To achieve this, Maryland Legal Aid and other *Project Household* partners employ a holistic approach which focuses on preserving homeownership through four primary areas: avoiding foreclosure or tax sale; promoting the financial stability necessary for homeownership; preventing and addressing financial exploitation; and creating advance planning documents to ensure homes are not lost due to a lack of clear title.

The Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation grant supports a senior legal helpline, full legal representation in clients' cases, and community outreach and clinics facilitated by attorneys. One of the unique components of *Project Household* is the collaboration with social workers from the Housing Upgrades to Benefit Seniors program (HUBS), who assist *Project Household* clients with identifying home improvements, rehab, and weatherization services for their homes.



Cathy Brill, Executive Director of The Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation, shared,

“This project is a perfect match for the mission and priorities of the Stulman Foundation, which supports initiatives that enable seniors to remain in their own communities and stay active in community life as they age.”

Since 2004, Maryland Legal Aid has received grants from The Leonard and Helen R. Stulman Charitable Foundation totaling \$900,000.

More than 3,400 seniors are expected to be helped through *Project Household*, which directly strengthens the stability of communities in Baltimore City. Front row, left to right: Susan Francis (Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service), Natalie Grossman (Senior Legal Services), Margaret Henn, KiAndre Rist, and Sydney Dunning (Pro Bono Resource Center); Back row left to right: Aaron DeGraffenreidt (Maryland Legal Aid), David W. Schult (Senior Legal Services) and Scott Black (Maryland Legal Aid)



Victim-Centered Legal Services



Left to right: Gail Reid, Director of Victim Advocacy at TurnAround, Inc.; Ashley Penater, Staff Attorney at Maryland Legal Aid; and Josey Elliott, Legal Advocate at TurnAround, Inc.

In October 2014, Maryland Legal Aid formed a partnership with TurnAround, Inc., a non-profit that provides counseling and support services to victims of sexual assault, sex trafficking, and domestic violence in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Victims are often burdened with multi-faceted legal issues associated with sexual assault and domestic violence. Gail Reid, TurnAround's Director of Victim Advocacy, stated, "Maryland Legal Aid is the missing piece in making the justice system more readily available to our clients."

The partnership between Maryland Legal Aid and TurnAround is funded by a three-year Legal Assistance for Victims grant from the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women. Legal Advocate Josey Elliott from TurnAround provides the initial crisis response and safety assessment to each client seeking legal assistance, while Maryland Legal Aid Staff Attorney Ashley Penater works in TurnAround's office three days a week and provides comprehensive legal services and representation for clients. Through this collaboration, 268 clients (50 more clients than originally projected) have received efficient, streamlined, and victim-centered legal advocacy and support. As a result, victims have voiced feeling less intimidated by the legal process and more

empowered to access services. Director Reid stated,

"The way that we work with people is not only to give them the help they need, but also to empower them. When they leave, they know that they had the strength to do it."

There are a number of comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault service providers in Maryland that offer assistance to survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence through counseling, shelter and other essential supportive services. However, assistance to address the more long-term, complex legal needs of clients, such as divorce, custody, housing, employment, and consumer issues is often lacking or limited because of stretched resources. High-quality, effective legal assistance provided by Maryland Legal Aid offers survivors sustainable outcomes that enable them to live safe and independent lives.



"I finally stood up... it's much better than being in a relationship of fear."

—Ms. W.

Ms. W.'s Story

Ms. W. came to TurnAround for help in 2015, after enduring a physically and emotionally abusive marriage with her husband of 13 years. "It was scary at first, not knowing if he would pop up somewhere," Ms. W. recounted. With Attorney Penater's help, Ms. W. divorced her husband in August 2016 and was granted primary physical and sole legal custody of their son, as well as use and possession of their family home. Despite the abusive situation, Ms. W. remained hopeful that her ex-husband could maintain a relationship with their son as her ex-husband was granted supervised visitation.

Soon after the Judge's decision, Ms. W.'s ex-husband showed up at her home to look for an item and became enraged when he could not find it. He took his aggression out on Ms. W., but she had the courage to call the police and report the assault. Because of the Legal Assistance for Victims grant, Attorney Penater was able to represent Ms. W. as her victim's rights attorney and guide her through the criminal justice process, explaining each step along the way and helping her prepare her victim impact statement for the court. For the first time, Ms. W. faced her husband in court and held him accountable for his abuse. "It was a very powerful moment," said Attorney Penater. "Ms. W. was able to tap into the raw emotion of everything he had put her through over those 13 long years."

In November 2016, Ms. W. was granted a final protective order against her ex-husband, who is currently incarcerated for charges related to the domestic violence that Ms. W. recounted during her testimony. She shared, "I'm glad I did it. I finally stood up...it's much better than being in a relationship of fear." Ms. W. and her son have since relocated to a new home and are enjoying their new life in peace.

One Baltimore For Jobs



Front row left to right: Staff Attorney Ashley Phillips (Maryland Legal Aid) with Civic Works members Wellington Ashe (Associate Director of Training), Kaitlin Atkinson (Case Manager); Back row left to right: Christopher Dews (Training Coordinator), Tia Harris (Administrative Specialist), Eli Allen (Program Director), Elizabeth Harlow (Placement Specialist), and Sarah Kennedy (Case Manager)

Through funding made possible by the United States Department of Labor, the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment Development and Maryland's Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation partnered to create the *One Baltimore For Jobs* (1B4J) program. Community organizations selected to be a part of the 1B4J network explore innovative strategies for re-engaging youth and young adults through job training, education, support services, and career building.

The Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC), Maryland Legal Aid's largest funder, created a special grant to support this project and selected Maryland Legal Aid as one of the organizations to provide legal services to 1B4J program participants. Since May 2016, Maryland Legal Aid has facilitated *Know Your Rights* presentations for participants at

BUILD, The Ingoma Foundation, City Life Community Builders, Civic Works, Maryland New Directions, and Bon Secours Community Works—six of the supported training sites in the 1B4J program. *Know Your Rights* presentations are incorporated into the 3-4 month job training programs at each site and educate participants about civil legal aid and barriers to employment for Baltimore City residents, such as having a criminal record and unpaid child support. In addition to the presentations, Maryland Legal Aid provides on-site, one-on-one legal advice and criminal record expungements, and if appropriate, legal representation for financially eligible participants.

Mr. Harris' Story

Mr. Harris was in a mentoring program for ex-offenders when he first heard about the services at Civic Works. He enrolled as a trainee in the Baltimore Center for Green Careers program at Civic Works where trainees are required to have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation so that they can be equipped for job placements in the weatherization field. However, at that time, Mr. Harris had neither a driver's license nor reliable transportation.

When Mr. Harris met with Maryland Legal Aid Staff Attorney Ashley Phillips at Civic Works in May 2016, he had already been with the work training program for a few weeks and was interested in resolving a few legal issues that had created roadblocks to better job opportunities. Attorney Phillips provided Mr. Harris with brief legal advice that enabled him to resolve his legal issues with the Motor Vehicle Administration on his own, which further permitted him to restore his driver's license and buy a car.

Two weeks before successfully completing the Civic Works program, Mr. Harris secured an interview with a potential employer. That same day, in June 2016, he was offered a job where he could apply the skills he learned from the program. "I'm now helping build my community back up," he stated. Attorney Phillips also filed several expungement petitions on Mr. Harris' behalf, all of which were accepted. Now with a clean slate and a job that he truly enjoys, Mr. Harris dedicates his spare time to paying it forward through mentoring, investing in people in his community, and promoting the life-changing services he received through the 1B4J program.



Mr. Harris, 2016

Mr. Harris added,
"Now I'm proud to be an outstanding citizen in my community."



BON SECOURS



MARYLAND NEW DIRECTIONS



CITY LIFE COMMUNITY BUILDERS



Maryland Legal Aid's Social Work Unit:

Critical support for clients and attorneys



Left to right: Social Work Supervisor Liz Pickus and University of Maryland School of Social Work Interns Bria Goodwin, Gisela Brown, and Sara Rudolph

After realizing that mental illness was often a barrier to achieving successful outcomes for many clients, Maryland Legal Aid reached out to the University of Maryland School of Social Work for help. In 2009, the University agreed to support the salary of a social work supervisor for one year at Maryland Legal Aid's Baltimore City office. Years later, Maryland Legal Aid now has a Social Work Unit, supervised by a social worker, who was previously an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland before joining Maryland Legal Aid in 2009. She, along with University of Maryland Social Work student interns, work collaboratively with Maryland Legal Aid attorneys to assess client needs and connect them with resources that help alleviate clients' difficult circumstances.

A few examples of how Maryland Legal Aid's Social Work Unit assists clients:

- Helps clients to understand and complete applications for social services;
- Researches various housing, government benefits, or transportation options for clients;
- Links clients to appropriate mental health services and other medical treatment; and
- Works with clients through involuntary discharge from nursing home facilities and/or guardianship.



New Partnership in Southern Maryland

As part of the community education provision of the Title III-B contract with Charles County, Maryland Legal Aid's Southern Maryland office formed a partnership with the Charles County Department of Community Services, Aging and Disability Resource Center. This partnership has enabled Maryland Legal Aid to educate homebound Marylanders about their legal rights by including helpful information in their *Meals on Wheels* delivery. In September 2016, *Meals on Wheels* subscribers received their first communication from Maryland Legal Aid—a letter providing an introduction to legal services and a preview of what they could expect to see in future months. Legal topics will focus on the needs of seniors and the issues that they may encounter, such as long-term care, advance directives, consumer scams, and government benefits.



Venable Associate
Megan Davis

Building Partners through Venable's Loaned Associate Program

In September, Maryland Legal Aid welcomed Venable Associate Megan Davis to its Baltimore City Housing and Consumer Unit. Megan is one of three attorneys who will work with Maryland Legal Aid and its clients through Venable's Loaned Associate Program. Over 18 months, each for a six-month period, Venable associates gain additional experience in the courtroom, managing their own cases and interacting with clients. While working at Maryland Legal Aid, Megan was also able to assist clients at community legal clinics, like Lawyer in the Library at the Enoch Pratt Free Library Pennsylvania Avenue Branch, and participate in training opportunities offered to Maryland Legal Aid's staff. Megan shared, "Over my six months at Maryland Legal Aid, I grew both personally and professionally thanks to everyone who readily shared their knowledge, skills, and experiences. Working there further highlighted for me the need for free civil legal services in the community, and I look forward to employing the skills I gained to serve the Maryland community as I continue my legal career."



Left: Maryland Legal Aid welcomed Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh (center) to the Coats and Clinics event on December 21st at the Waverly Branch of Enoch Pratt Free Library; Top right: Enoch Pratt Free Library Waverly Branch Manager Ann Marie Harvey and Amy Petkovsek, Maryland Legal Aid's Director of Advocacy for Training and Pro Bono; Bottom right: Siblings sport their new coats at the Coats and Clinics event in Hagerstown on December 19th.

Coats and Clinics: Free Coats and Legal Advice

Through its annual "Buy 1 & We'll Give 1" campaign, in 2016, Macy's donated 50,000 coats to an international charitable organization, Clothes4Souls, which distributed the coats across the country. Clothes4Souls reached out to Maryland Legal Aid to coordinate the distribution of 2,000 of these coats. This was the second year that Clothes4Souls has worked with Maryland Legal Aid and other community partners in Maryland to help those in need.

EVENT DETAILS:

December 13, 2016

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Baltimore, MD

Event and Distribution Partners:

St. Peter Claver Catholic Church,
No Boundaries Coalition,
Baltimore Police Department—Western District

December 19, 2016

Children In Need, Inc., Hagerstown, MD

Event and Distribution Partners:

Children In Need, Inc.

December 21, 2016

Enoch Pratt Free Library—Waverly Branch,
Baltimore, MD

Event and Distribution Partners:

Enoch Pratt Free Library, Health Leads

Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers Expand to the Eastern Shore

In September 2016, Maryland Legal Aid and the Maryland Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) celebrated the opening of the newest District Court Self-Help Resource Center location in Salisbury. Maryland Legal Aid staff officially began serving clients at the Salisbury location in July 2016.

Through a contracted partnership with the AOC, Maryland Legal Aid now operates four District Court Self-Help Resource Centers—including walk-in facilities in Glen Burnie, Salisbury and Upper Marlboro—and a call-in center in Annapolis. Self-represented litigants can receive in-person consultations as well as advice via telephone, email, and live chat for a wide range of civil legal matters, including landlord-tenant, consumer matters, debt collection, credit card cases, and criminal record expungements.

Maryland Legal Aid's steady partnership with the AOC continues to empower Marylanders who seek civil legal information and advice for their specific situations in order to confidently represent themselves in court. In 2016, Maryland Legal Aid staff assisted more than 55,000 self-represented litigants through the Self-Help Resource Centers.



Left to right: District Administrative Judge Gerald V. Purnell; Pam Ortiz from the Administrative Office of the Courts; District Court Chief Judge John Morrissey; Delegate Adelaide C. Eckardt; Maryland Legal Aid's Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr.; and Delegate Christopher T. Adams at the Salisbury District Court Self-Help Resource Center ribbon cutting ceremony.



Left to right: Han-Wei "Steven" Chou, Maryland Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, and Maryland Legal Aid's Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr.

Visiting Fellow Program

Maryland Legal Aid partnered with the Legal Aid Foundation (LAF) of Taiwan to host a visiting fellow this past summer. Han-Wei "Steven" Chou is a civil and criminal attorney for the Foundation and spent four weeks last summer observing and learning at Maryland Legal Aid's Baltimore City office and at other legal institutions in Baltimore and throughout the state. The relationship between Maryland Legal Aid and LAF was solidified in 2005 when Maryland Legal Aid's Executive Director, Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., participated in an International Forum on Legal Aid in Taiwan and delivered a presentation on the history of Maryland Legal Aid and how the legal aid system functions in the U.S. Since then, LAF representatives have visited other legal aid offices and related entities in the U.S. with the hopes of reforming Taiwan's legal aid system to increase services for low-income people. Steven was the first visiting fellow for the program.

Maryland Legal Aid's Pro Bono Honor Roll

Much of Maryland Legal Aid's success depends on support from attorneys who provide pro bono representation, legal support, and educational/training services to Maryland Legal Aid and its clients. We are sincerely grateful for their efforts in helping Maryland Legal Aid advance its mission. Attorneys included on the Pro Bono Honor Roll are those who have provided 50 or more hours of direct legal representation to Maryland Legal Aid and/or its clients, or who have supported the organization through a wide range of professional services including expert legal counsel, accounting, and procurement.

| | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Philip M. Andrews | Scott A. Livingston |
| Michael Bakhama | Robert A. Manekin |
| Scott Black | Albert J. Matricciani, Jr. |
| Christina Bostick | Sayra Wells Meyerhoff |
| Douglas Bregman | Mitchell Y. Mirviss |
| Susan Cassidy | Daniel Moylan |
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Read just a few of the reasons why attorneys choose to support Maryland Legal Aid.

"I wish people were aware of the skill and energy Maryland Legal Aid lawyers bring to representing people who cannot pay for legal services. These lawyers make a very real and frequently long-term financial sacrifice to bring quality legal services to the poor. They deserve our support."

– Lee Ogburn

"The commitment and talent of the attorneys and staff at Maryland Legal Aid is inspiring and humbling to me. I am genuinely uplifted by being a part of it. The extent of services provided is far greater than I realized before volunteering here."

– Marilyn Ogburn

"I'm passionate about a lot of things. One in particular, and the reason that I volunteer with Maryland Legal Aid, is so that I can help others who just haven't had the kind of breaks in life that I have."

– Mary Cox

"Everyone should have a safe home and fair opportunities for education and work. I want to help people make the most of their chances. I know that people can change. I have seen this. Maryland law recognizes this too, and gives people the right to have some criminal records expunged. This helps them move forward with their lives."

– Katherine Cook

The Equal Justice Council

The Equal Justice Council (EJC) is composed of managing attorneys from Maryland's top law firms and other prominent members of the Maryland Bar and corporate community. Established in 1997, the founding members of the EJC recognized that traditional funding sources could not come close to meeting the need and the demand for Maryland Legal Aid's services. In order to address this shortfall, the primary goal of the EJC was to improve access to justice for low-income Marylanders by increasing and diversifying Maryland Legal Aid's resources, financial and otherwise, and serving as ambassadors on behalf of Maryland Legal Aid.

While the EJC remains loyal to its initial goal, over the years, its members have expanded the scope of their involvement with Maryland Legal Aid. Members work to increase pro bono involvement among the private bar, participate in training of Maryland Legal Aid staff, and cultivate relationships with foundations and corporations on Maryland Legal Aid's behalf.

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Vice-President of
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recipient of the
2016 Executive
Director's Award



Left to right: Hon. Harry Storm, Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera, and Martin Himeles, Jr. at the 2016 Equal Justice Awards Breakfast

EJC Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast

Approximately 160 people attended the EJC's 19th Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast on June 10, 2016 at Camden Yards Banquet Room. The featured speaker was James J. Sandman, President of the Legal Services Corporation. Mr. Sandman spoke about the critical role civil legal aid plays in a society based on the rule of law and access to justice. He also explained how communities are strengthened through the significant return on investment that funding for legal services provides.

The event honored the following award winners:

Champion of Justice Award:

Mitchell Y. Mirviss, Esq.

Pacesetter Awards:

Iliff, Meredith, Wildberger & Brennan, P.C.
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Trailblazer Awards:

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THANK YOU!

The EJC sincerely appreciates all who support Maryland Legal Aid, and wishes to particularly thank those Partners for Justice who contribute \$1,000 or more toward ensuring equal access to justice for all. (See page 14 for listings.)

We also thank our outstanding Law Firms of Distinction for contributing at least \$300 per attorney:

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We greatly appreciate the assistance of Brown Goldstein & Levy, LLP; Gordon, Wolf & Carney, CHTD; and Tydings & Rosenberg LLP in the awarding of cy pres settlements to Maryland Legal Aid.

For more information regarding the Equal Justice Council or to make a contribution, contact Graham Cowger, Director of Development, at 410-951-7706 or gcowger@mdlaborg. To donate online, please visit www.mdlaborg.

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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 apologies.

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.

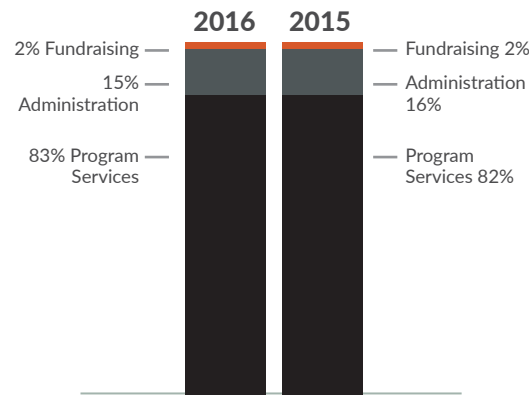
All funds received by the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. are spent in accordance with the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, as amended 1977, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2996 et. seq., its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R. § 1600 et. seq., and other applicable law.

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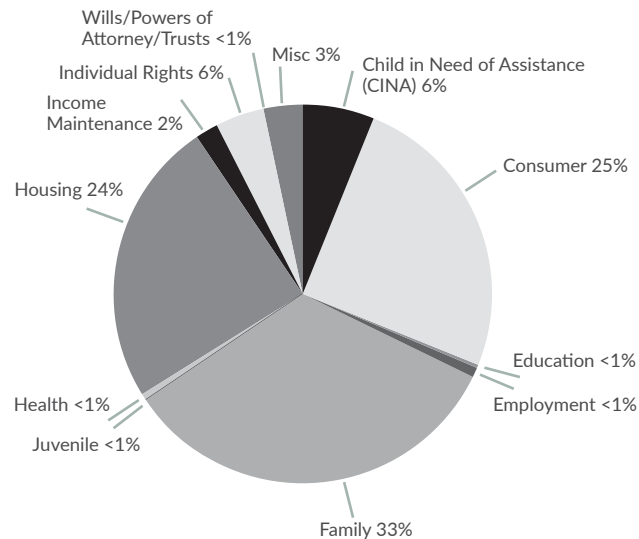
2016 Financial Report

| | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| INCOME | \$ 26,319,451 | \$26,096,558 |
| EXPENSES | \$ 26,156,259 | \$26,370,988 |
| NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR | \$ 18,438,263 | \$18,275,071 |
| <small>The components of Net Assets at 12/31/2016 were: unrestricted \$12,440,627; temporarily restricted \$5,990,636; and permanently restricted \$7,000.</small> | | |
| SELECTED FUNDING RECEIVED | | |
| Federal: Federal/State/Local Partnerships | | |
| Legal Services Corporation | \$ 4,127,171 | \$ 3,965,194 |
| Ryan White/HIV/AIDS Legal Assistance/Baltimore City | \$ 142,611 | \$104,173 |
| Legal Assistance to Victims Grant | \$ 145,127 | \$94,424 |
| Legal Services for Crime Victims | \$ 4,867 | - |
| State | | |
| Maryland Legal Services Corporation | \$ 10,707,049 | \$ 10,707,049 |
| Maryland Legal Services Corporation (One Baltimore for Jobs) | \$ 145,665 | - |
| Foreclosure Prevention | | |
| Maryland Legal Services Corporation | \$ 450,000 | - |
| Maryland Housing Counseling Fund | \$ 501,000 | - |
| Attorney General Foreclosure Settlement | \$ 334,743 | \$ 851,729 |
| Contract services regarding self-represented litigants and representation of abused and neglected children, victims of domestic violence, developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons confined to mental health institutions through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and parents in child custody matters. | \$ 8,082,621 | \$ 6,801,051 |
| Local | \$ 313,489 | \$ 330,351 |
| <small>Title III-B/Elderly Assistance: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's counties; Lower and Upper Eastern Shore</small> | | |
| County Grants: | | |
| Prince George's – Community Partnership | \$ 34,200 | \$ 30,000 |
| Frederick – Community Partnership | \$ 17,777 | - |
| Montgomery – County Council | \$ 7,500 | - |
| County Grants-In-Aid: | | |
| Anne Arundel | \$ 18,000 | \$ 20,000 |
| Baltimore City | \$ 130,562 | \$ 128,001 |
| Baltimore | \$ 81,667 | \$ 58,333 |
| Harford | \$ 29,412 | \$ 29,412 |
| Howard | \$ 100,890 | \$ 99,390 |
| Circuit Court Pro Se Grants: | | |
| Anne Arundel | \$ 173,000 | \$ 166,202 |
| Cecil | \$ 30,000 | \$ 25,000 |
| Private Donations: | | |
| Contributions | \$ 562,529 | \$ 748,049 |
| Foundations | \$ 643,648 | \$ 723,854 |

Expenditure Allocation



Client Case Types



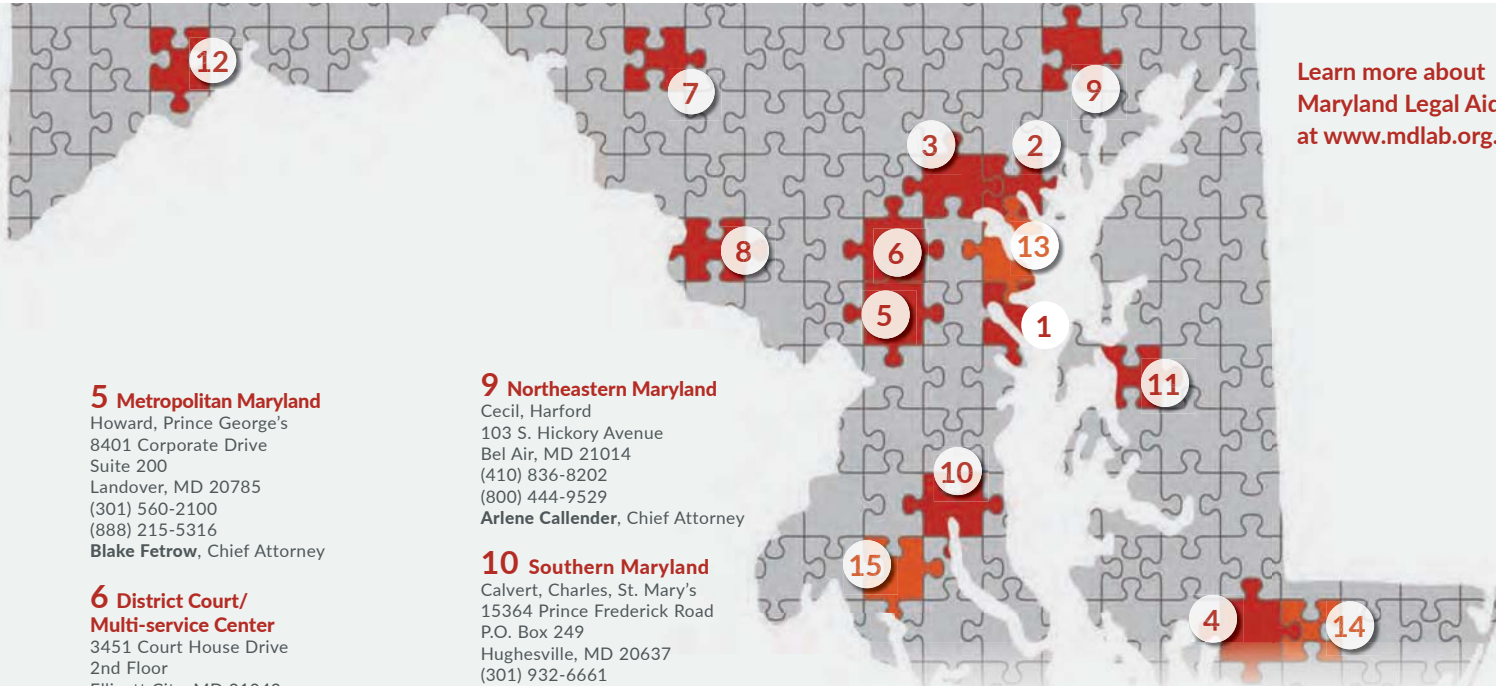
This report contains a summary of 2016 financial information and selected funding sources. Complete audited financial statements are available from Maryland Legal Aid upon request.

Served by County 2016

| | MATTERS HANDLED | PERSONS |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Allegany | 1,020 | 1,632 |
| Anne Arundel* | 23,247 | 24,157 |
| Baltimore City | 18,302 | 26,095 |
| Baltimore | 9,788 | 11,594 |
| Calvert | 1,089 | 1,132 |
| Caroline | 618 | 837 |
| Carroll | 1,291 | 1,431 |
| Cecil* | 1,608 | 2,227 |
| Charles | 2,013 | 2,303 |
| Dorchester | 215 | 394 |
| Frederick | 2,438 | 3,200 |
| Garrett | 266 | 435 |
| Harford | 2,265 | 3,751 |
| Howard | 2,317 | 2,940 |
| Kent | 143 | 217 |
| Montgomery | 5,847 | 7,000 |
| Prince George's | 19,205 | 21,603 |
| Queen Anne's | 425 | 564 |
| Somerset | 1,152 | 1,412 |
| St. Mary's | 317 | 543 |
| Talbot | 347 | 539 |
| Washington | 1,296 | 1,619 |
| Wicomico | 2,301 | 4,052 |
| Worcester | 521 | 805 |
| Out-of-state | 1,251 | 1,421 |
| Total† | 99,282 | 121,903 |

*Includes pro se litigants assisted through Maryland Legal Aid's Circuit Court family pro se projects.

†Includes pro se litigants assisted through the District Court Self-Help Resource Centers in Anne Arundel, Prince George's and Wicomico counties and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Center.



Learn more about
Maryland Legal Aid
at www.mdlab.org.

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7500 Gov. Ritchie Highway
Room 206

Glen Burnie, MD 21061

14 Salisbury

201 Baptist Street
Salisbury, MD 21801

15 Upper Marlboro

14735 Main Street
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

Statewide Programs & Resources

Farmworker Program

(800) 444-4099

Foreclosure

Legal Assistance Project

(888) 213-3320

Long-Term Care

Assistance Project

(866) 635-2948

Maryland Senior Legal Helpline

(866) 635-2948

Veterans' Hotline

(443) 863-4040

TTY Users: Call Maryland

Relay, Dial 7-1-1