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Advancing Human Rights & Justice For All: Maryland Legal Aid Offices



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PAID

2013 ANNUAL REPORT

My job is to protect my children. I didn't have a voice and nobody would listen to me. Legal Aid gave me a voice.

– Ms. E. Maryland Legal Aid clie<mark>n</mark>t

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Statewide Programs & Resources

Farmworker Program (800) 444-4099

Legal Assistance Project (888) 213-3320

Long-Term Care Assistance Project (866) 635-2948

Maryland Senior Legal Helpline (866) 635-2948 TTY Users: Call Maryland

Relay, Dial 7-1-1

For more details on the work of Maryland Legal Aid, please visit www.mdlab.org.

MARYLAND LEGAL AID

Visit Maryland Legal Aid www.mdlab.org





Vision

To lead in providing highquality 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.

For more details on the work of Maryland Legal Aid, please visit www.mdlab.org.

Credits: Writing & Project Management: Faye Gibbs Design: Bill Geenen Printing: Pavsner Press, Inc.

Maryland Legal Aid:

Employment

unemployment benefits Recovers wages and back pay due

Obtains illegally denied

Remedies employment discrimination

Ensures that workers have a safe workplace and can express grievances about workplace conditions

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

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

Income Maintenance

Represents persons with disabilities to avoid institutionalization

Helps to obtain. preserve, restore or increase subsistence income to meet basic human needs

Challenges denial of emergency assistance, food stamps, Social Security and veterans 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 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 contracts

Family and Children

Assists custodial parents in maintaining custody and in obtaining, preserving or increasing child support

Obtains 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

Farmworkers

Educates farmworkers regarding their employment rights, including wage collection, suitable housing and workplace safety, and represents them in legal cases in those areas

Educates service providers, government officials and the public about farmworkers' rights and needs, such as language translation, access to social services, and job training

Provides assistance to address wage nonpayment, 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

Does Voice Matter?

Maryland Legal Aid helps give voice to tens of thousands of economically disadvantaged and vulnerable Marylanders every year.

However, poverty can silence even the most confident, energetic For most of us, when we hear the word "voice," we think of the great vocalists or bands of our time...or we remember when and ambitious among us. When faced with long-term or even stage-fright impeded our ability to speak as mightily as planned. sudden and unexpected poverty, people – including many of the And for many, the word "voice" brings an immediate smile to our more than 99,500 persons served by Maryland Legal Aid during faces when we think of the sound of a loved one's voice or the 2013 – can lose their way, and lose faith in their once powerful first murmurings of a beloved child. and resilient voices. Throughout these pages, you will read about several of our clients whose personal circumstances did In almost all human endeavors, having the ability to speak, just that. These strong and determined individuals and heads of whether verbally, through sign language or another medium households often felt hopeless and desperate, trying to navigate and be heard - reinforces our sense of connection with others a legal system that was unresponsive to their pleas for fairness.

and creates a positive sense of self. But for individuals and families of low-income, having a voice that is fully heard and Fortunately, Maryland Legal Aid has more than a century of experience helping clients find and build renewed confidence in respected is never taken for granted.

While the most obvious index of poverty includes the absence many clients tell us, "Legal Aid was my voice!" of the means to acquire the basic necessities of daily living, including food, shelter, education, clothing, health care and The pages that follow also share snapshots of the wide range safety, there is another critically important index to consider - one of work undertaken by Maryland Legal Aid's staff, board, Equal that creates an ongoing, yet barely perceptible hum just under Justice Council (EJC) members, funders, partners, volunteers, and the radar of daily life. This less obvious, yet often more damaging additional supporters and friends. Their work ensures that clients index of poverty is the absence of voice - in the social, political, have access to the basic human rights of a fair legal environment, economic and cultural space. one that allows their voices to be heard. The protection of these rights can propel and encourage clients to take crucial steps on

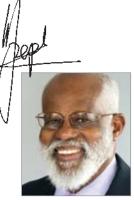
While our society is grounded in the rule of law, it is often their paths to self-sufficiency and lives of greater dignity. complex, confusing and intimidating to the "average" person. Benefitting from the fair application of the law is too often out As we reflect on this work, we especially acknowledge and of reach for poor people. Older citizens, disabled individuals, commend recently retired Chief Judge Robert M. Bell for his very low-income families and young people striving to realize full unwavering commitment and determination to ensure that all employment status often find themselves in dire circumstances, Marylanders who sought justice were heard. without civil legal representation to provide them with a strong Maryland Legal Aid helps give voice to tens of thousands of and effective voice that, at the very least, ensures that they economically disadvantaged and vulnerable Marylanders every can access the system of justice when necessary and receive year. Please consider adding your voice to and supporting our fair outcomes. efforts. And read on...

Conversely, many more fortunate citizens take voice for granted. Sincerely, If they are dissatisfied in the marketplace or work place, the political or social arena or elsewhere, they complain with confidence and expect to see positive and prompt responses. They are comfortable withholding their spending power, changing their political leaders, moving to more desirable surroundings and accessing better health care and educational opportunities for themselves and their children.

their right to have a voice regarding issues of import to them. As



Warren S. Oliveri, Jr., Esg. President



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

OVERVIEW

Established in 1911, Maryland Legal Aid is a private, nonprofit 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.

Weaving a human rights framework into all of our work, 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.

MS. R. **FASTERN SHORE**

When Ashley was nine months old, her mother, Ms. R., realized that something was wrong. Very wrong. Ashley didn't respond to sounds, cuddling or playful activities the way most babies did. In fact, she barely reacted at all...to anything. A thorough evaluation from a Baltimore City children's hospital revealed that Ashley had a severe case of cerebral palsy, coupled with equally challenging and far-reaching developmental disabilities. The hospital's case worker informed Ms. R. that even with therapeutic intervention Ashley's prognosis for living a full and independent life was somewhat bleak. The case worker helped Ms. R. file paperwork so that Ashley would receive disability income and other public assistance to cover her medical care. At that point, Ms. R. made the difficult decision to leave her job and stay at home full-time to take care of Ashley.

Now 24 years old, Ashley is totally dependent on the attentive care of her mom. Unable to walk, bathe or feed herself without assistance, Ashley is able to communicate her needs to her mother, even though she has a vocabulary of fewer than five words and a psychological report indicating that her intellectual functioning is equivalent to a two-to-three-year old.

Because Ms. R. provides around-theclock care for her daughter, she cannot work outside the home. Her sole household income is based on Ashley's Social Security disability benefit of less than \$700 per month. Ms. R. recalls that about five years ago, the amount of her daughter's disability checks reduced significantly, to a little less than \$420 a month, for reasons she didn't understand.

Ms. R. was confused about the sudden reduction in benefits, and she repeatedly contacted Social Security, trying to get information. "I called and called the Social Security office," Ms. R. told us. "I wasn't getting any response and just thought, 'Somebody please help me! Please, will someone just listen - and tell me what is going on here?"

It wasn't long before Ms. R. couldn't keep up with the rent on her home of 13 years. She and her daughter found themselves homeless, until making arrangements to temporarily move in with Ashley's father and split his monthly rent payment.

After struggling to independently "make things right" and secure the full benefits to which her daughter was legally entitled, Ms. R. contacted Maryland Legal Aid's Lower Eastern Shore office for assistance and information. "I called up there," (i.e., Maryland Legal Aid's Lower Eastern Shore office) "and told the woman who answered the phone, 'Ma'am, I am in a hell of a way here. Nobody will listen to me and nobody at Social Security will return my phone calls."

Maryland Legal Aid helped her file for reconsideration, and advised her that Social Security had a rule requiring a 1/3 reduction in benefits when a beneficiary lives in a household where housing and food is provided for free.

Over the next two years, Social Security offered various reasons for its decision. Among other things, it claimed that despite her inability to speak, effectively communicate or care for herself, Ashley should have signed a lease with the owner of the house she The future which we hold in trust for our own children – Marian Wright Edelman



and her mother rented prior to becoming (temporarily) homeless.

Maryland Legal Aid represented Ms. R. and Ashley at a reconsideration hearing, which resulted in Social Security waiving the overpayment and repaying the \$60 monthly deductions it had made. It insisted, however, on continuing the 1/3 reduction to prospective payments. In addition, Ms. R. was told that she needed to find a job outside the home. She was also told that if she appealed further, the matter would be referred for criminal prosecution on the grounds that she was committing fraud by paying household expenses with proceeds from her daughter's check.

With Maryland Legal Aid's representation, Ms. R. appealed this decision. The local Social Security office referred the matter to the Office of the Inspector General which concluded there was no basis for prosecution. Almost two years later, the appeal was heard. Chief Attorney Bob McCaig represented Ms. R. and her daughter Ashley, working collaboratively with Victoria Robinson, Senior Staff Attorney in Maryland Legal Aid's

will be shaped by our fairness to other people's children.

Administrative Law Unit in Baltimore. The judge found that the 1/3 reduction rule should not apply. Ashley's full benefit was restored, and she also received four years of improperly deducted benefits. Ms. R. can once again devote herself to the care and safety of her daughter.



2013 IN BRIEF Maryland Legal Aid Opens Full Service Office In Montgomery County

For more than a century Maryland Legal Aid has adapted to the evolving needs of the low-income individuals and families it serves while maintaining a steadfast commitment to its mission and vision (see inside front cover). When the need for an increased level of service for Montgomery County residents became apparent, Maryland Legal Aid heeded the call.

On July 11, 2013 Maryland Legal Aid hosted an Open House event for its new, full-service office, which opened in Rockville, Maryland in late April. At the event, Congressman Christopher Van Hollen presented Maryland Legal Aid's Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. with a Citation for the office and commended the staff for its past work in Montgomery County and its continued commitment to county residents.

Headed by Chief Attorney Gina Polley, the office has a staff of 16 professionals, including attorneys, paralegals and support staff. The Montgomery County office served close to 1,700 people from its April 2013 opening through the end of the year, a testament to Maryland Legal Aid's commitment to increasing access to fairness and justice.

Maryland Legal Aid Montgomery County

600 Jefferson Plaza, Suite 430 Rockville, MD 20852 (240) 314-0373

Residents of Montgomery County can receive free legal services for most civil matters based on income eligibility guidelines.

Intake hours:

Monday – Thursday, 9:30 a.m.– 3:30 p.m.

MR. C. BALTIMORE COUNTY

Mr. C. loves to bake. And entertain. And take care of people. For much of his life, this 56 year-old gentleman worked in the health care industry as a Geriatric Nursing Assistant in long-term care facilities, and then as a Certified Nursing Assistant at the University of Maryland Medical Center's Shock Trauma Unit.

One evening, while crossing the street in Baltimore County, Mr. C. was hit by an SUV. After a brief stay in a local hospital, he was transferred to a nursing home for a short-term stint of rehabilitative care. He contracted pneumonia while at the nursing home and suffered a series of minor heart attacks soon after. Still, he remained upbeat and looked forward to returning home and heading back to work within six months.

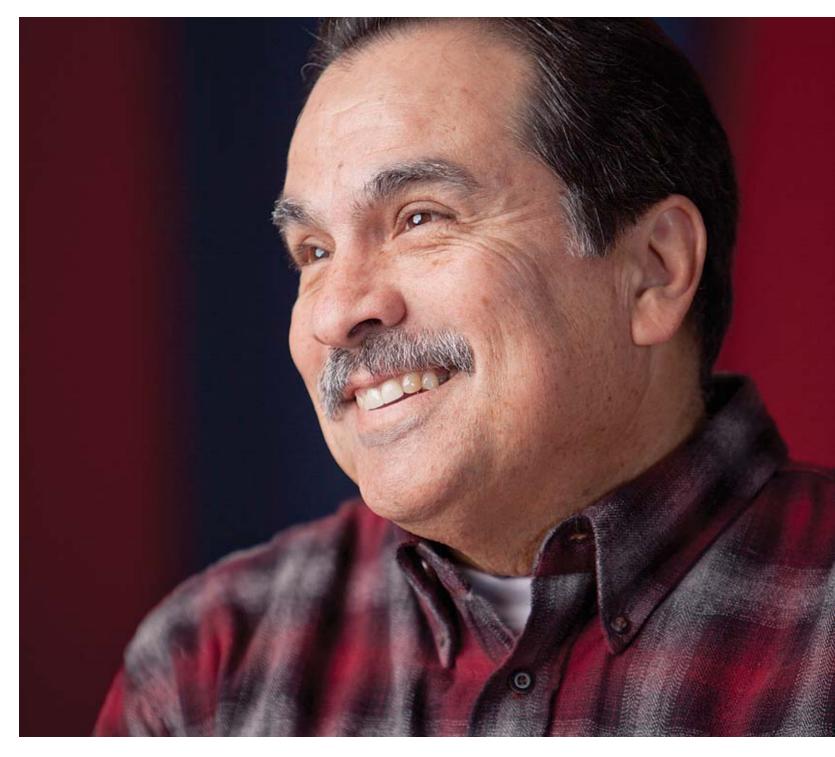
The months stretched into years. Anxious to regain his independence and live in the community again, Mr. C. applied for the Living at Home Waiver, a Medicaid program that provides in-home care to enable older adults and people with disabilities to live in their own homes rather than nursing homes. Before he could leave the nursing home, Mr. C. had to find an affordable, accessible and available home. While looking for an apartment a glitch occurred: the Department of Health & Mental Hygiene (DHMH) determined that Mr. C.'s health had improved to the point that he no longer needed nursing services (in any setting) and denied an extension of his Medicaid coverage.

Mr. C. contacted Maryland Legal Aid in January 2013 and Emily Jaskot, Elder Law Staff Attorney in the Statewide Advocacy Support unit (SAS), immediately began work on his case. **"Right away, I was assured that I had somebody who would talk on my behalf, work on my behalf, and get them to listen to me,"** Mr. C. said. Maryland Legal Aid appealed the DHMH ruling; submitted evidence to the Attorney General's office on Mr. C.'s behalf, proving that he did meet the medical eligibility standards for Medicaid, and worked in partnership with the state's Living at Home Waiver program to quickly find accessible and appropriate housing for Mr. C., who is confined to a wheelchair.

By May 2013, Mr. C. was settled in a ground floor apartment in a Baltimore County supportive housing complex. The Waiver program provides him with a caretaker to assist with meals, bathing and other basics of everyday life. He happily participates in community activities and frequently visits friends he made during his three-year nursing home stay – and then delights in returning to his home.

One day, soon after Maryland Legal Aid closed his case, Mr. C. welcomed Attorney Jaskot to his new home and offered her a piece of his home-baked pound cake and a glass of lemonade. It was, indeed, a sweet moment for both client and attorney.

Being an outsider means not being heard, not having a voice. It means being treated as a second-class citizen, being diminished in the eyes of others. - Chris Crutcher





2013 IN BRIEF

Responding To The Need: Maryland Legal Aid Establishes Veterans Work Group

As America renews its focus on the sacrifices of its military personnel, large numbers of veterans find themselves in situations that may exact as much courage and perseverance from them as their tours of duty. Statistics indicate that:

- Nearly one in seven homeless adults in the United States is a veteran.
- Almost one in 10 veterans with a disability is unemployed.
- Maryland is home to 438,387 veterans, many of whom need assistance with a wide range of legal issues including housing, employment and healthcare.

Frank Natale, Director of Advocacy for Income Security, heads Maryland Legal Aid's **Veterans Work Group**, a burgeoning statewide initiative designed to meet the ever-increasing need for legal services for veterans, many of whom find themselves living at, near or below the poverty level. The need for such a service is apparent: the number of veterans seeking free legal assistance from Maryland Legal Aid tripled from 2012 to 2013.

Maryland Legal Aid is uniquely positioned to respond to the often unaddressed and unmet legal needs of our nation's veterans by providing free legal services to them in all of our practices areas, in all jurisdictions in Maryland.

Additionally, Maryland Legal Aid is building relationships with veterans' agencies, private veterans-focused groups and other non-profit law firms – with the mutual goals of establishing a comprehensive network of services for veterans that will provide them with greater access to the specific service providers that are best positioned to assist with their needs.

MS. E. BALTIMORE CITY

A long-time resident of Baltimore City's Cherry Hill public housing complex, Ms. E. was constantly concerned about the health and safety of her children in their cramped two-bedroom apartment. A single mother of four children, aged 10-17, she had spent years trying to get the complex management to fix the unreliable heat and plumbing; to exterminate the roaches and rodents whose feces were creating a health hazard, and to have her family moved to a larger and well-functioning apartment.

"My job is to protect my children," Ms. E. told us. And she tried her best to do so. Despite dealing with her own mental health disabilities, Ms. E. was diligent about trying to improve her children's living conditions. Over the course of several years, she sent letters to the housing management office. Some included correspondence from her youngest son's doctor, which clearly noted that the living conditions were exacerbating her son's chronic asthma, which was so severe that he was eligible for medical disability. The physician confirmed that Ms. E.'s son's health was in jeopardy if the family was not moved to other, more appropriate and cleaner living quarters. Her requests went unanswered.

In April 2008, Ms. E. contacted Maryland Legal Aid's Baltimore City Housing and Consumer Law unit about her situation and her repeated requests for assistance and inability to get any type of relief. Staff Attorney Theda Saffo immediately went to work on behalf of Ms. E. and her family, and filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), alleging disability discrimination, and pointed out that the cramped and rodent-feces filled living quarters exacerbated the medically documented asthma of Ms. E.'s youngest son. The complaint was also based on Ms. E.'s mental health condition, which necessitated her transfer to housing closer to her family, who were willing and able to provide family support.

"Ms. Saffo's voice was my voice. She was my kids' voice; she was our voice," Ms. E. said. "She didn't give up on us and she didn't let them (i.e. the housing management personnel) railroad me." Maryland Legal Aid's voice – in this instance being raised on behalf of Ms. E. and her children – was heard. Although the case worked its way through the system for several years, in 2013 HUD determined that the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) had violated federal law which protects people with disabilities from being discriminated against by organizations that receive federal funding.

Ms. E. received a \$150,000 settlement; she and her family were able to move into a clean, fully operational, four-bedroom apartment. Of equal, or perhaps greater consequence, this case required the 5th largest public housing authority in the country to make systemic changes for residents with disabilities—including mandatory staff training and performance evaluations; notices to residents, and continued monitoring by HUD to ensure that HABC processes resident requests for reasonable accommodations as required by law.

Fairness is what justice really is.

– Potter Stewart





2013 IN BRIEF **BRINGING AFFORDABLE** PUBLIC HOUSING TO **BALTIMORE CITY**

The O'Donnell Heights Tenants Council Inc., which represents residents of the O'Donnell Heights public housing community and is one of Maryland Legal Aid's longstanding client groups, is participating in an effort to preserve 900 units of public housing in Baltimore City. Over the past 15 years, the Housing Authority of Baltimore City (HABC) has demolished 7,000 units of housing for low-income residents citywide. The additional loss of 900 units would have a devastating impact on low-income residents of the City.

Seventy-six of the targeted 900 units are being rebuilt and some are already occupied. Thirty-nine of the units will be available for occupancy at a rent based upon 30% of a resident's income and will be rented to members of the O'Donnell Heights Tenants Council. Another 37 units will be available to tenants who have limited incomes (50% of the area's median income) or who have Section 8 vouchers. Gregory Countess, Director of Advocacy for Housing and Community Economic Development, advises that our client will receive funding from the developer on an annual basis that will be used to support resident services and activities, such as a social worker to provide case management and a computer lab for children and residents who do not have computers.

With the assistance of Maryland Legal Aid, the tenant council also negotiated an agreement with the HABC to allow it to request permission from the Department of Housing and Urban Development to use Hope VI* funds to create 100 subsidized rental units in "communities of opportunity."

*Hope VI funds are provided by the federal government to support housing redevelopment efforts.

MRS. L. HARFORD COUNTY

Mrs. L. lived much of her life on beautiful Rumsey Island, a manmade peninsula on Harford County's waterfront. She and her husband raised their two daughters there while working outside the home. Thirteen years ago, when Mrs. L. was 40 years old, her husband died from a chronic illness, spiraling her into a depression that would be exacerbated by the consecutive challenges she faced during the next several years.

Still reeling from her husband's death, Mrs. L. continued to raise her daughters when her life took another abrupt turn. Although she and her husband had paid off their mortgage, Mrs. L. was in dire financial straits due to a series of unfortunate events - significant expenses related to her husband's illness and death in 2009; identity fraud victimization in 2010, and a severe injury caused by a car accident in 2011.

Partially incapacitated and unable to work outside the home due to injuries suffered by the car accident, Mrs. L. became the primary caregiver/guardian for her infant granddaughter (now 10 years old). Realizing that her savings were exhausted, Mrs. L. contacted a local law firm in hopes of receiving a financial settlement from the car accident that had caused her so much long-term harm.

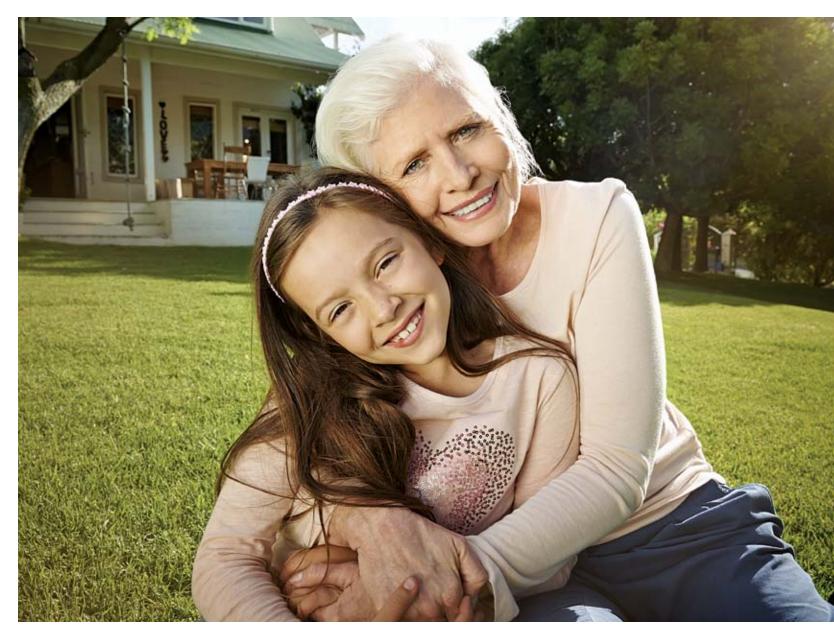
At the same time, in an effort to keep up with all of her expenses, Mrs. L. took out a loan secured by her home at a whopping 15% interest rate.

By March 2013, when Mrs. L. contacted Maryland Legal Aid's Harford County office, her mortgage had been unpaid for two years; her personal injury case was languishing; she was without health insurance and had been unable to work for more than two years. Foreclosure of her home was imminent. However, she had an agreement with her lender to hold off on the foreclosure pending settlement of her personal injury case.

Harford County Chief Attorney Arlene Callender immediately referred Mrs. L. to Maryland Legal Aid's Foreclosure Legal Assistance Project* and Staff Attorney Gretchen C. Reimert, who with another colleague guickly met with Mrs. L. to prepare her for her upcoming mediation hearing. "It was just amazing," Mrs. L. told us. "Suddenly, I had three people who were concerned about me, who wanted to help me keep my home."

Just before the mediation date, the law firm that Mrs. L. hired three years earlier advised her that she would soon receive a settlement of \$49,000 for her personal injury case, more than enough to bring her loan current and stop the foreclosure proceeding. Her health had also improved to the point that she was able to take a part-time job, making it likelier that she would be able to maintain her home.

– Mary Anne Radmacher



At the mediation proceeding Maryland Legal Aid was able to postpone the impending foreclosure sale of Mrs. L.'s home to allow sufficient time for her personal injury settlement to be received. Additionally, the terms of Mrs. L.'s loan were negotiated down from 15% to 10%.

Mrs. L. is now in a position to maintain her home of over 30 years; watch the next generation of her family enjoy it; stay current on her loan payments, and look forward to the next stage of her life.

Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, "I will try again tomorrow."

* Funded by the Maryland Department of Housing & Community Development, through its Maryland Housing Counseling Fund and the Attorney General's Settlement Fund, Maryland Legal Aid's Foreclosure **Legal Assistance Project** provides foreclosure assistance across Maryland to an estimated 1,200 low-income individuals annually.



2013 IN BRIEF

Anne Arundel Office Scores Major Victory For Public Housing Residents

When Staff Attorney Kathleen Hughes began handling the case of a 55-yearold Anne Arundel County resident with physical and mental health disabilities, she didn't realize the far-reaching impact that Maryland Legal Aid would have on all people living in public housing in that county.

The client was accused of violating her lease due to behaviors directly connected to her mental health disabilities. The Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County (HCAAC) rejected a request for reasonable accommodations and filed a Breach of Lease (BOL) against the client. During the pendency of the BOL, the housing commission applied the client's rental payments to disputed maintenance charges and other fees leaving the client's rent unpaid and subjecting her to summary ejectment – the fastest method a landlord can use to evict a tenant from a leased property – for allegedly failing to pay her rent.

Staff in the Anne Arundel office had noticed a pattern by HCAAC of applying portions of a client's rent payment to other undocumented charges if the renter did not specifically write "rent" on the bottom of the check. This seemed extremely unfair and the U.S. District Court agreed.

Maryland Legal Aid's client received a settlement in the amount of \$75,000 and the court deemed HCAAC's practice "predatory, unlawful and unreasonable." HCAAC was ordered to immediately stop its practice of applying rent payments to other housing-related costs, thereby safeguarding the rent payments of public housing tenants in the county and assuring a more consistentlyapplied human right to housing.

THE EQUAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

The Equal Justice Council (EJC),

comprised of managing attorneys from Maryland's top law firms and other highly respected members of the Maryland Bar and corporate community, has a long history of serving as enthusiastic and tireless advocates of the work of Maryland Legal Aid. In addition to raising critically-needed funds for the organization, they are also committed to increasing awareness of the good work. The EJC was delighted to welcome 11 new members in 2013.

Equal Justice Council Leadership: Co-Chairpersons: Andrew Jay Graham, Esq. Benjamin Rosenberg, Esq.

Chair Emeritus: Decatur H. Miller, Esq. Law Firm Campaign Co-Chairpersons (nominated for 2014): Martin S. Himeles, Jr., Esq. Paul M. Nussbaum, Esq. Lee H. Ogburn, Esq.

Past Law Firm Campaign Co-Chairpersons: Philip M. Andrews, Esq. John A. Wolf, Esq. Jefferson V. Wright, Esq.

THANK YOU!

The EJC is greatly appreciative of all who support Maryland Legal Aid and is particularly pleased to acknowledge donors from the legal and corporate communities who demonstrate their commitment to fair and unfettered access to justice.

Please join us in commending those who are EJC's and Maryland Legal Aid's **Partners for Justice**, contributing \$1,000 or more. (See page 12 for listings.)

We also wish to thank our exceptional 2013 donor law firms for making a minimum contribution of \$300 per attorney:

Ballard Spahr, LLP DLA Piper US, LLP Gorman & Williams Iliff, Meredith, Wildberger, & Brennan, P.C. Kramon & Graham, P.A. Law Office of Julie E. Landau Meiselman & Helfant, LLC Law Office of Stephen J. Nolan, Chtd. Law Office of Kieron Quinn Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP Saiontz & Kirk, P.A. Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

We greatly appreciate the thoughtful assistance of Gordon, Wolf & Carney, Chtd; Robbins, Geller, Rudman & Dowd LLP; Robert W. Murphy and Williams & Santoni, 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 Asha Sampat, Coordinator of Development Services at 410-951-7719 or asampat@mdlab.org.



George McManus A PROMISE KEPT

The EJC joins the entire Maryland Legal Aid family in deeply mourning George McManus, a beloved friend, colleague, mentor and role model. A longtime and active member of the EJC, George played a pivotal role in the effort to construct Maryland Legal Aid's headquarters building in Baltimore, and always delivered the invocation at the EJC's Annual Recognition Breakfast. George's legal career was impressive, but he said his proudest courtroom moments occurred when he helped the "little guy beat the big guy." In 2010, the EJC presented him with the **Executive Director's Award**, its highest honor.

Many tributes were delivered personally and in the media after George's death, but it is his own words that may, in fact, say the most about him: "Money is a means to an end," George was known to say. "If you are blessed with more than you need, then you should share it with your fellow men." He fulfilled his personal philosophy by establishing his own private foundation early in his career and at the age of 92, creating a succession plan for it, to ensure that his commitment to the Baltimore region will create a positive impact for many years to come.



EJC Executive Director Award recipient Herbert S. Garten

EJC Recognition Breakfast

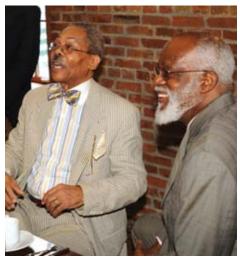
More than 200 supporters gathered at Camden Yards on June 18, 2013 for the 16th Annual Equal Justice Council Recognition Breakfast. The event honored Champions of Justice Julie E. Landau, Esq. and Lee H. Ogburn, Esq.; Pacesetters Ballard Spahr LLP; Goodell, DeVries, Leech & Dann, LLP and Shapiro Sher Guinot & Sandler, P.A.; Trailblazers DLA Piper; Miles & Stockbridge PC, Venable LLP and Whiteford Taylor & Preston, L.L.P.

Also of note was the awarding of the Executive Director's Award to local attorney and former Legal Services Corporation board member Herbert S. Garten, and a special recognition and appreciation of (now retired) Chief Judge Robert M. Bell's lifetime of service in the pursuit of equal access to justice.

"George was a brilliant and very engaging character – one of those people whom you never forget. My partner Jim Kramon and I worked on a number of cases with George early on and we learned some invaluable lessons in lawyering. George particularly enjoyed taking on the big established firms in difficult cases and out-witting them. We are going to dearly miss this great lawyer and Legal Aid supporter."

Andrew Jay Graham,
 Kramon & Graham, P.A.
 Co-Chair, Equal Justice Council

- "I learned more from George when he and I were on opposite sides in a two-week trial than I learned in the entire eight years that I had been practicing up until then. In the last 15 years or so before his passing, I don't think George missed more than one or two EJC meetings. He was our coach, our cheerleader, our chaplain and our inspiration. I know that every one of us who served on the EJC with George feels a void that will never be filled."
- Benjamin Rosenberg, Esq., Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP Co-Chair, Equal Justice Council



Former Chief Judge Robert M. Bell (left) and Maryland Legal Aid Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., enjoy a light moment at the 2013 EJC Recognition Breakfast.

2013 Annual Report 11

I speak not for myself but for those without voice... those who have fought for their rights...their right to live in peace, their right to be treated with dignity, their right to equality of opportunity, their right to be educated.

– Malala Yousafzai, 17-year old female Pakistani activist

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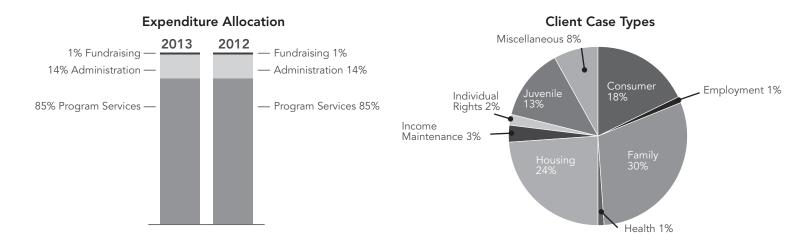
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Financial Report 2013



Operating Income Operating Expenses Net Assets, End of Year

The components of Net Assets at 12/31/2013 were: unrestricted \$12,905,5 temporarily restricted \$5,532,856, and permanently restricted \$7,000.

Selected Sources of Funds

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 Legal Services Corporation

 Stimulus Funding/Homelessness Prevention & Rapid Re-Housing/Baltimore City

 Ryan White/HIV/AIDS Legal Assistance/Baltimore City

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 Contract services regarding abused and neglected children, District Court Self-Help Center, domestic violence and child custody

Attorney General Foreclosure Settlement (administered by Marylar Department of Housing & Community Development)

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This report contains a summary of 2013 financial information. Complete audited financial statements are available from Maryland Legal Aid upon request.

| 2013 \$ 27,417,236 \$ 23,875,141 \$18,445,820 | 2012 \$ 24,567,561 \$ 24,364,830 \$13,973,056 | Served by County 2013 | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| | | Total Allegany | Cases 78,461 791 | 99,564 1,318 |
| , | | Anne Arundel * | 35,866 | 36,755 |
| 2013 | 2012 | Baltimore City | 17,017 | 24,542 |
| | | Baltimore | 3,789 | 5,308 |
| \$3,725,631 | 3,845,440 | Calvert | 681 | 773 |
| - | 141,941 | Caroline | 291 | 607 |
| | 110,074 | Carroll | 385 | 513 |
| | 175,000 | Cecil * | 1,864 | 2,276 |
| | | Charles | 1,059 | 1,296 |
| 10,497,107 | 10,773,347 7,019,234 | Dorchester | 181 | 396 |
| 9,276,446 | | Frederick | 1,536 | 2,066 |
| , , , , | | Garrett | 300 | 430 |
| nd 1,373,400 | | Harford | 1,851 | 3,026 |
| na 1,373,400 | - | Howard | 730 | 1,153 |
| 316,140 | 314,413 | Kent | 109 | 253 |
| rroll, eorge's, | | Montgomery | 2,976 | 4,156 |
| Shore | | Prince George's | 4,768 | 6,766 |
| | | Queen Anne's | 172 | 337 |
| 22,000 | 22,000 62,500 70,000 | Somerset * | 295 | 798 |
| 124,625 70,000 | | St. Mary's | 954 | 1,142 |
| 29,412 | 29,412 | Talbot | 315 | 668 |
| 102,890 | 102,890 | Washington | 382 | 599 |
| - | 40,000 | Wicomico | 1,079 | 2,808 |
| 9,867 | - | Worcester | 265 | 630 |
| 162,405 | 162,405 | Out-of-state | 805 | 948 |
| 25,000 6,000 | 28,750 5,700 | * Includes pro se litigants assisted through Maryland Legal Aid's courthouse pro se projects and the District Court Self-Help Center in Anne Arundel County. | | |
| 769,806 455,750 | 678,429 845,212 | | | |