





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.

Maryland Legal Aid provides legal advice and representation in the following areas:

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 obtain medical assistance

Helps seniors get Medicaid assistance so they can live in their communities

Assists people in preserving the longterm 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, Supplemental Nutrition 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

ON THE COVER: Project Director Meaghan McDermott and Paralegal Hunter Eubanks from Maryland Legal Aid's Community Lawyering Initiative

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"For clients, having access to direct civil legal assistance means being one step closer to achieving life-changing solutions that can prevent issues from escalating into overwhelming barriers for them, their families, and for their communities."

For 107 years, Maryland Legal Aid has worked to improve the fundamental economic, social, and health conditions for Maryland's most vulnerable residents. Thanks to contributions from donors and community partners, during the last year, Maryland Legal Aid has successfully advanced its delivery of direct civil legal services and increased staff and resources in order to effectively respond to the growing needs of low-income Marylanders. An innovative Human Rights Framework adopted in 2009 underlies Maryland Legal Aid's efforts to help increase access to justice for families and individuals, while strengthening communities in all 23 Maryland counties.

This is only possible with a broad base of community support, which allows Maryland Legal Aid to do what it does best: solve problems, strengthen communities, change lives, and offer hope, one client at a time.

As the third largest law-firm in the state*, Maryland Legal Aid is the only statewide provider of direct legal services for low-income individuals. What does this mean for clients? It means access. Clients can walk into one of Maryland Legal Aid's twelve full-service locations, or call the intake hotline, or complete an intake form online, or even visit an outreach clinic and receive immediate expert legal advice for their civil legal needs, including criminal record expungements. For clients, having access to direct civil legal assistance means being one step closer to achieving life-changing solutions that can prevent issues from escalating into overwhelming barriers for them, their families, and for their communities.

Maryland Legal Aid recognizes that equal access to justice is the foundation upon which upholding individuals' basic human rights is built. As such, this past year, Maryland Legal Aid further mobilized its advocacy with the expansion of the Community Lawyering Initiative, which brings critical legal services directly to neighborhoods that need them most. Financial support from individuals, law firms and funders like the Abell Foundation and the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, and new partnerships with community organizations across the state, have enabled Maryland Legal Aid to increase its capacity and expand its reach to assist eligible low-income residents with their civil legal issues. Through the Initiative, Maryland Legal Aid is able to eliminate barriers to obtaining housing, employment, protection from domestic abuse, and child custody in convenient locations that people trust. Looking forward, Maryland Legal Aid is positioning itself to present the Community Lawyering Initiative as more than just a program, but as a national model for the efficient and effective delivery of direct legal services.

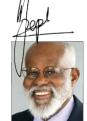
In addition to expanding its Community Lawyering Initiative, Maryland Legal Aid established a wholly-owned subsidiary, the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA), created to operate the Maryland District Court Self-Help Resource Centers and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Center, in accordance with a contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts. While operation of the Self-Help Centers is the first MCLA activity, the work of MCLA may be expanded to include other direct legal services that are vital for low-income Marylanders, but beyond the scope of Maryland Legal Aid's areas of practice.

Throughout this Annual Report, you will read stories from just a few of the 120,000 people who were impacted by life-changing legal help from Maryland Legal Aid in 2017. You will also learn how Maryland Legal Aid empowers clients and creates opportunity and stability for communities.

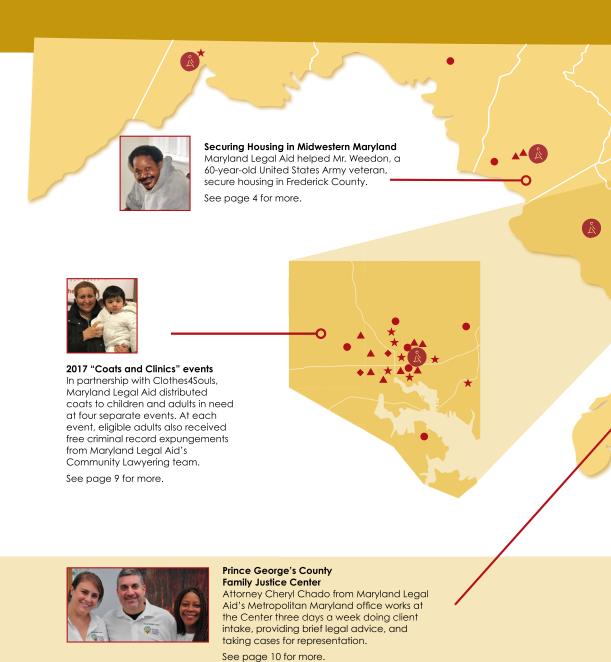
The contributions from those who have helped Maryland Legal Aid achieve success on behalf of its clients this past year are remarkable. Even amid challenges such as proposed funding cuts, Maryland Legal Aid is able to thrive and provide clients with high-quality legal assistance. An abundance of gratitude and appreciation is extended to Maryland Legal Aid's supporters, including donors, staff, Board members, Equal Justice Council members, pro bono attorneys, volunteers, community partners, foundations, and governmental funders, most notably the Maryland Legal Services Corporation and the federal Legal Services Corporation. Your support makes it possible for Maryland Legal Aid to reach our most vulnerable neighbors in every corner of the state.

Warren S. Oliveri, Jr., Esq. President Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., Esq. Executive Director





STATEWIDE CLIENT IMPACT IN 2017



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- Maryland Legal Aid office locations
- Lawyer in the Library locations
- ▲ Legal & expungement clinics
- ★ Workforce development sites
- Legal partnerships







Lee Weedon, 2017

Securing Housing in Midwestern Maryland

Lee Weedon is a 60-year-old United States Army veteran who was homeless for two years before coming to Maryland Legal Aid for assistance. He had been denied a Section 8 housing voucher by the Public Housing Authority (PHA) because of alleged alcoholism and misdemeanors for trespassing and sleeping in parks. His caseworker at the Frederick Community Action Agency brought him to Maryland Legal Aid in hopes of getting his criminal record expunged and appealing the PHA's decision.

When Attorney Alecia Frisby Trout first met Mr. Weedon, she saw someone who was skeptical about the system, but desperate to find housing. She and her colleague, Attorney Sunny Desai, teamed up to help Mr. Weedon. Attorney Trout handled the PHA appeal while Attorney Desai handled the criminal record expungements. Attorney Trout advised Mr. Weedon to enroll in an outpatient alcohol treatment program. She also represented him at a hearing, where she argued that the PHA was allowed to use alcoholism as an excuse for a denial only

if it caused the individual to be a threat to the community. She argued that Mr. Weedon was a peaceful individual who had no history of violence and was an eligible candidate for the housing voucher.

A few weeks later, Mr. Weedon's application was accepted and he received a housing voucher to secure a home. Without the stress and uncertainty of homelessness, Mr. Weedon is able to focus on creating a better life for himself. He continues to see a counselor and is adjusting to life "inside." Attorney Desai was able to expunge the misdemeanors on Mr. Weedon's criminal record, and Mr. Weedon is happy with the help he received from Maryland Legal Aid. "It's so nice to be able to go home," said Mr. Weedon. "I like being inside. I'm happy that I don't have to worry about the cold anymore."

"It's so nice to be able to go home. I'm happy that I don't have to worry about the cold anymore."

-Mr. Weedon

Advocating for Safe and Affordable Housing in Baltimore City

Ms. K. was a single mother living in a public housing community plagued with violence and drug activity. She had applied for a housing transfer with the Public Housing Authority (PHA) three times and had been denied each time. Ms. K. came to Maryland Legal Aid's Baltimore City office where Paralegal Deborah

Lewis-Smith worked to negotiate with the PHA. A few months later, Ms. K. received a housing voucher that enabled her and her family to transfer to a safer neighborhood right across the street from her children's school.



Preserving Medical Benefits in Baltimore City

Theodore and Michele Rosenberg are a retired couple who both suffer from a number of health conditions which require frequent hospitalizations and doctors' visits. Their sole source of income is Social Security Retirement.



Even though they have Medicare, they incurred overwhelming medical debt as a result of co-pays and co-insurance they could not afford.

Before he retired, Mr. Rosenberg worked in the insurance industry, so he and Mrs. Rosenberg attempted to handle all of their medical paperwork themselves, including applying for Medicaid insurance to help pay for their medical bills. However, their Medicaid insurance application was denied by the Department of Social Services. While they appealed the decision, the appeal was dismissed because both Mr. and Mrs. Rosenberg were hospitalized on the date of their first hearing and could not attend.

The Rosenbergs were continuously denied visits to their medical providers because of outstanding balances. Longtime residents of Baltimore, they were familiar with the work of Maryland Legal Aid and turned to its Baltimore
City office for help. Attorney Randi
Skullestad, from Maryland Legal Aid's
Long-Term Care Assistance Project,
reviewed the Rosenbergs' case and
requested a new appeal hearing to show
that the Rosenbergs met Medicaid's
complex Spend-Down requirements.
With Maryland Legal Aid's assistance, the
Rosenbergs were able to obtain Medicaid
insurance and negotiate the repayment of
their medical bills.

"Randi was very helpful and definitely very hardworking," said Mr. Rosenberg. "She came by late some evenings, met us on a weekend, and was very conscientious of our situation." Today, the Rosenbergs have begun repaying their medical bills and no longer have to consider filing bankruptcy to escape their crushing debt.

Theodore and Michele Rosenberg, 2017

"She came by late some evenings, met us on a weekend, and was very conscientious of our situation."

-Mr. Rosenberg

Empowering Older Adults in Montgomery County

Maryland Legal Aid helped an older adult keep her Community First Choice services and secure affordable hearing aids through the Hearing and Speech Agency of Baltimore. The Community First Choice program provides community services and supports to empower older adults and people with disabilities to live in their communities outside of nursing homes or assisted living facilities. The client's daughter shared, "I am truly grateful for all that Maryland Legal Aid has done for my mother!"



"Thank you for your assistance in resolving my case.

I appreciate that Maryland Legal Aid is available to people who cannot afford a lawyer."

-Ms. W., on her Medicare insurance case (Midwestern Maryland office)

Defending Language Access Rights on the Lower Eastern Shore

Maryland Legal Aid filed and won a discrimination case on behalf of an LEP (Limited English Proficiency) client. The client was refused an interpreter while receiving medical attention at a local medical provider's office. Because the medical provider receives federal financial assistance, per the Civil Rights Acts of 1964, the provider is prohibited from discriminating against individuals based on their race, color, or national origin. To address Maryland Legal Aid's complaint, the medical provider voluntarily took action to become compliant with federal regulations. The provider drafted and implemented policies and procedures regarding language services for LEP patients, including the provision of "I Speak" cards to help them identify their primary languages so that interpreters can be provided.

Obtaining Social Security Benefits in Metropolitan Maryland

An adolescent client had been receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for a number of mental health disorders. The Social Security Administration (SSA) terminated the client's benefits after determining that her condition had improved. Maryland Legal Aid conducted interviews with the client's mother, collected the client's medical and school records, and

represented the client in a hearing at the local SSA office. Based on the evidence collected by Maryland Legal Aid, the hearing examiner concluded that there had not been significant medical improvement, resulting in the reinstatement of the client's SSI benefits.

Maryland Legal Aid's Social Work Unit

Many clients who come to Maryland Legal Aid for assistance have a myriad of issues in addition to legal problems. Some of these issues include mental or physical health ailments that may affect the staff's ability to provide the best representation.

Maryland Legal Aid is fortunate to have an internal Social Work Unit, located in its Baltimore City office, made possible through a partnership with the University of Maryland School of Social Work, which provides graduate level interns for the project. The Social Work Unit is also made possible through generous grant funding from foundations such as the LaVerna Hahn Charitable Trust and the Alvin and Fanny B. Thalheimer Foundation. By working together, legal and social work staff can offer the best possible outcomes to clients facing difficult circumstances.

Advocating for Children in Northeastern Maryland

Maryland Legal Aid advocated for two CINA (Child in Need of Assistance) clients in the public school system not to be transferred to alternative education programs for students with behavioral issues. The children's attorney was able to convince

the school officials to follow the clients' Individualized Education Programs (IEP) so that they could remain in stable class environments.

THE COMMUNITY LAWYERING INITIATIVE



Paralegal Kim Wilson at the Lawyer in the Library clinic at the Enoch Pratt Free Library Pennsylvania Avenue branch, 2017

Maryland Legal Aid's Community Lawyering Initiative places highly-skilled lawyers directly in underserved neighborhoods to provide free, life-changing legal assistance. The concept for the Initiative began in 2015 when Maryland Legal Aid launched a weekly Lawyer in the Library program at the Enoch Pratt Free Library Pennsylvania Avenue branch following the civil unrest in Baltimore. As awareness of the program

increased and the need for civil legal services and criminal record expungements became more apparent, Maryland Legal Aid answered the demand for services by designating staff and recruiting pro bono attorneys, paralegals, and law students to help serve clients through the *Initiative*.

The Community Lawyering Initiative includes a number of weekly and monthly

expungement clinics coordinated and hosted in partnership with community organizations from around the state, as well as an expansion of the *Lawyer in the Library* program to other library locations in Baltimore City, and Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, St. Mary's and Washington counties.

Current Lawyer in the Library locations:

BALTIMORE CITY:

Brooklyn, Cherry Hill, Clifton, Orleans, Pennsylvania Avenue, Southeast Anchor, and Waverly

BALTIMORE COUNTY:

Arbutus, Essex, Hereford, North Point, Owings Mills, Randallstown, Towson, and Woodlawn

OTHER COUNTIES:

Prince Frederick (Calvert County) North Carroll (Carroll County) Brunswick (Frederick County) Silver Spring (Montgomery County) Oxon Hill (Prince George's County) Lexington Park (St. Mary's County) Hagerstown (Washington County)



Types of cases for which people have received assistance through the Community Lawyering Initiative:



Bringing legal help to those who can't reach it

Maryland Legal Aid's *Lawyer in the Library* program was featured on the cover of *The Baltimore Sun* (November 16, 2017).



"I was surprised there was a service like this for free. It changed my whole outlook on everything. I feel like it is a second chance at life and careers I didn't think were possible at one time."

-Lawyer in the Library client Tyrone Burns





Maryland Legal Aid advocates, staff from Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake, Inc., and guests from the DOJ at a Maryland Legal Aid expungement clinic held at Goodwill Industries on April 24, 2017 during National Reentry Week.

DOJ National Reentry Week

The United States Department of Justice's (DOJ) Office for Access to Justice recognized April 24-28, 2017 as National Reentry Week. National Reentry Week features a number of events, announcements, and publications that demonstrate the federal government's commitment to improving reentry outcomes of previously incarcerated individuals and raise awareness of the importance of successful reentry. Many community-based services, including legal aid programs, hosted reentry-related events across the country. This year, Maryland

Legal Aid welcomed guests from the DOJ to observe an expungement clinic held at Goodwill Industries of the Chesapeake, Inc. in Baltimore City, where more than 60 people received civil legal assistance and criminal record expungements.



Community Lawyering and Workforce Development

The Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC), Maryland Legal Aid's largest funder, supports the work of two attorneys from Maryland Legal Aid who are assigned to work at workforce development centers in Prince George's and Allegany counties to provide one-stop assistance to participants seeking employment. The attorneys provide brief advice, criminal record expungements, and full legal representation for those who are financially eligible. Attorneys also give "Know Your Rights" presentations on topics such as child support, consumer rights, domestic violence, housing law, and public benefits.

Additionally, a second MLSC grant supports the work of two Maryland Legal Aid attorneys who provide civil legal assistance to participants at Baltimore City workforce development centers. This effort began in 2016 and is a partnership between MLSC and the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Employment Development to bring skills training, education, and support services to youth and young adults in distressed communities in Baltimore City.

"Thank you so very, very much for this information...I hope I don't need you all again, but so appreciate you all being there for the people of Maryland. May your budget increase and your services become more and more appreciated. Thank you very much for helping me. I couldn't be more thankful."

-Ms. M. on her wage claim case (Baltimore City office)

"...I have to thank you so very much for helping me when no one else would listen. I'm not used to someone going above and beyond the way you did. You make me believe again that people are good 'just because' they are. It's a good feeling and it makes me want to be a better person as well."

-Ms. G., on her divorce and child custody case (Southern Maryland office)



Coats and Clinics

Maryland Legal Aid distributed 1,700 coats to children and adults in need at events in Baltimore City, Germantown (Montgomery County), and Hagerstown (Washington County). At each event, eligible adults received free criminal record expungements from Maryland Legal Aid's Community Lawyering team. The coats were donated by Macy's through the non-profit Clothes4Souls.

This is the third year that Maryland Legal Aid has worked with Clothes4Souls and community partners in Maryland to help those in need.

2017 Events

December 5 – St. Peter Claver Catholic Church | Baltimore, MD Event Partners: St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, Baltimore Police Department – Western District, and Health Leads (a Johns Hopkins program) December 12 – Children in Need,

Inc. | Hagerstown, MD

Event Partner: Children in Need, Inc.

December 15 – Captain James E. Daly Elementary School I Germantown, Md

Event Partner: American Community Group

December 18 – Ivy Support Center | Baltimore City, MD Event Partner: Epsilon Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha

Sorority, Inc.

ExpungeltMD.org 1-year Anniversary

Since September 2016, hundreds of legal professionals in Maryland have been using ExpungeItMD.org—the free, user-friendly expungement app developed by Maryland Legal Aid. In just over a year, more than 3,000 clients have been helped; upwards of 12,000 expungement petitions

have been generated; and over \$300,000 in fees have been waived for low-income Marylanders. ExpungeItMD.org averages over 250 new client entries each month, with each client having an average of four or more cases that are eligible for expungement.





Abell Foundation Grant

Maryland Legal Aid received a \$90,000 grant from the Abell Foundation in support of the *Lawyer in the Library* program in Baltimore City. The funding provided through this grant allows Maryland Legal Aid to expand the program to

four additional branch locations of the Enoch Pratt Free Library, thus increasing access to justice for many more lowincome Baltimore residents in more neighborhoods.





Maryland Legal Aid Attorney Cheryl Chado, Lieutenant Matt Barba of the Prince George's County Police Department, and Shene Magee, founder of the Nehe Foundation (both partners at the FJC)

The Prince George's County Family Justice Center

Since February 2017, Maryland Legal Aid has been providing civil legal services at the new Family Justice Center (FJC). The FJC—part of the Prince George's County Circuit Court—is a multi-disciplinary service center that serves survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human

trafficking, and elder abuse. There are more than 20 partner organizations who work at the FJC on a full- or part-time basis. Attorney Cheryl Chado from Maryland Legal Aid's Metropolitan Maryland office works at the Center three days a week doing client intake, providing brief legal

advice, and taking cases for representation. At the FJC, Maryland Legal Aid has opened over a hundred cases involving protective orders, divorce, child custody, landlord/tenant, and criminal record expungements.



Self-Help Litigants Assisted in 2017:

80,165

The Maryland Center for Legal Assistance

Maryland Legal Aid established a whollyowned subsidiary, the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA) in July 2017. A separate legal entity, MCLA does not receive funds from Maryland Legal Aid's federal funder, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC). MCLA was created in order to operate the four District Court Self-Help Resource Centers located in Baltimore City, Glen Burnie, Salisbury, and Upper Marlboro, and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Center (live chat and telephone services), in accordance with a contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts. The Self-Help Resource Centers deal

with a wide range of civil legal matters, including landlord/tenant, consumer issues such as debt collection, child support and family law issues, and criminal record expungements. In 2017, more than 80,000 self-represented litigants were assisted through the Self-Help Centers.

Visit www.MDCLA.org to learn more.

Non-Profit Partner of the Year Award

Maryland Legal Aid's Midwestern Maryland office received the *Non-Profit Partner of the Year Award* from Frederick Community College (FCC). Over the last decade, FCC and its Paralegal Program have partnered with Maryland Legal Aid's



Midwestern Maryland office to serve the Frederick community while promoting student learning.

ACLU Secures First Amendment Victory for Maryland Legal Aid

After being denied the opportunity to conduct outreach to farmworkers at a Montgomery County farm and facing a "no trespass" order issued by local police, Maryland Legal Aid sought the help of the Maryland ACLU. The ACLU partnered with Cohen Milstein in Washington, D.C. to file the case of Nohora Rivero and Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. v. Montgomery County, Maryland, et. al. The Defendants' efforts to dismiss the case were denied by Judge Grimm of the U.S. District Court for

Maryland. In addressing the argument that the case had become moot, Judge Grimm cited a human rights report that Maryland Legal Aid had made to the U.N. Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty, which documented numerous instances in which Maryland Legal Aid and others providing support services to farmworkers were denied access. Judge Grimm's opinion further found that service providers, such as Maryland Legal Aid, have a First Amendment right to engage

in door-to-door outreach of workers until they are turned away by residents. The Court's decision provides important precedent in Maryland Legal Aid's statewide efforts to advise farmworkers of their rights and responsibilities and to ensure that farmworkers are paid legally required wages and are provided adequate housing conditions and workplaces free of occupational hazards. Judge Grimm's decision paved the way for a favorable settlement of the case.

CHANA and TurnAround, Inc.

In October 2014, Maryland Legal Aid formed a partnership with TurnAround, Inc., a nonprofit that provides counseling and support services to victims of sexual assault, sex trafficking, and domestic violence in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. The partnership between Maryland Legal Aid and TurnAround is funded by a three-year Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV) grant from the United States Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women. Victims are often burdened with multiple legal issues associated with sexual assault and domestic violence, and Maryland Legal Aid helps to make the justice system easier to navigate for clients.

This past year, through a grant from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention under the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Maryland Legal Aid began partnering with CHANA, a Baltimore City non-profit organization that assists victims of domestic violence and elder abuse through counseling and therapy services. This grant provides funding for civil legal assistance to older adults suffering from financial, mental, emotional and physical abuse.

These grants offer Maryland Legal Aid the opportunity to embed its attorneys and paralegals at the offices of TurnAround and CHANA, as neither have legal staff to serve their clients. Having qualified and experienced attorneys and paralegals on site is a great benefit to the clients and staff of TurnAround and CHANA.

In partnership with CHANA: 48 CASES **OPENED**

In partnership with TurnAround, Inc.: 132 CASES **OPENED**

Protection from Domestic Violence in Baltimore County

Ms. J. was a college freshmen when she found herself in an abusive who was found guilty of domestic assault. Recalling the relief relationship. For more than six months, she endured verbal abuse from her boyfriend, which eventually escalated to physical assault and rape. "[This incident] put my life on hold," said Ms. J. "I was lost after that...I did not know what to do next."

Ms. J. went to the hospital for a rape kit where she learned about TurnAround, Inc. and Maryland Legal Aid. Ms. J. was assisted by Maryland Legal Aid Attorney Sophia Barilone, who is based at the TurnAround office in Towson, MD.

With Attorney Barilone's encouragement, Ms. J. joined a support group and underwent extensive therapy at Turn Around. Attorney Barilone initiated legal proceedings against Ms. J.'s ex-boyfriend,

that Ms. J. and her family felt after the judge's verdict, Attorney Barilone shared, "Her entire family was in the courtroom with the family's pastor. We all gathered in a circle outside of the courtroom and Ms. J. and her family cried tears of joy. The pastor said a prayer. The family kept thanking me. Everyone, including myself, was overwhelmed. Ms. J.'s whole village was there and it was a powerful and uplifting moment."

Today, Ms. J. looks forward to continuing college and earning her degree. "This definitely changed my life," said Ms. J. "I look forward to moving on from all of this. Not forgetting, but learning from it...it motivates me to keep going forward."

Thank you! The list that follows reflects the generosity of donors in 2017.

*Law Firms of Distinction contributed a minimum of \$300 per attorney.

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A Day in the Life at Maryland Legal Aid

Airman 1st Class Jonathan Padish with the United States Air Force was invited to Maryland Legal Aid's Baltimore City office to document "a day in the life" of a legal aid office. Jonathan, an attorney, is also an Air Force photojournalist currently in training at the Defense Information School at Fort Meade, MD. For a photography assignment, Jonathan requested to take photos of Maryland Legal Aid staff throughout their normal workday to capture what it is like behind the scenes for legal aid attorneys advocating for their clients. Many of the photos included in this annual report were taken by Jonathan.



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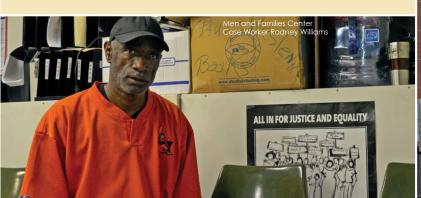
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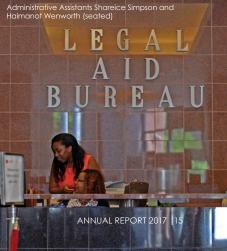
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Pro Bono Support for Maryland Legal Aid

Attorneys listed below are those who have provided advice or 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. Much of Maryland Legal Aid's success depends on support from private attorneys who provide pro bono representation, legal support, and educational/training services to Maryland Legal Aid and its clients. Maryland Legal Aid is sincerely grateful for their efforts in helping it to advance its mission.



"Charges on a person's record can impact their employment, housing, credit, and much more. My clients have been unbelievably appreciative and relieved that I am able to help them with this one aspect of their lives. It has been incredibly rewarding to know that I can help make tangible differences in people's lives."

- Joanna Diamond, attorney and public policy advocate



"One cannot overstate the transformational impact on a person's life when the burden of a criminal record is erased, and for the first time, they can pursue employment, education and housing opportunities based solely on their own merit. It is gratifying to see the amazed and happy looks on our clients' faces when told that their record is now clean and they can become sustaining and productive members of society for themselves and their families."

- Gregg Bernstein, Partner at Zuckerman Spaeder LLP

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Celebrating 20 Years: The Equal Justice Council

In 2017, Maryland Legal Aid's Equal Justice Council (EJC) celebrated 20 years of actively promoting equal access to justice for Maryland's most economically disadvantaged and vulnerable residents. 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 (and still is) 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. The EJC is composed of managing attorneys from Maryland's top law firms and other prominent members of the Maryland Bar and corporate community.

EJC contributions over 20 years have included:

\$4.6 million dollars raised from law firms

\$2.5 million in cy pres settlements directed to Maryland Legal Aid

\$508,000 in personal donations from EJC members

\$3 million in estimated value of pro bono counsel

Equal Justice Council Leadership

Co-Chairpersons:

Martin S. Himeles, Jr., Esq. Lee H. Ogburn, Esq.

2017 Law Firm Campaign Co-Chairpersons:

Jessica A. duHoffmann, Esq. Andrew D. Freeman, Esq. Paul M. Nussbaum, Esa.

EJC Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast

The EJC held its annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast at Camden Yards on May 17, 2017 and welcomed Senator Chris Van Hollen to the event as the keynote speaker. Senator Van Hollen characterized attorneys as social engineers and emphasized that Maryland Legal Aid plays a critical role in ensuring that low-income citizens have equal access to justice. Sara H. Arthur, President of the Maryland State Bar Association, also addressed attendees and presented Maryland Legal Aid's Equal Justice Council with a special \$5,000 donation to support its work of advancing justice for low-income Marylanders.

PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE AWARDS: The Daily Record

Enoch Pratt Free Library

Major Sheree Briscoe (Baltimore City Police Department -Western District)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S AWARD: Martin S. Himeles, Jr. (Zuckerman Spaeder)







LEFT: Senator Chris Van Hollen and Maryland Legal Aid's Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. CENTER: Maryland Legal Aid's Chief Operating Officer Gusty Taler; The Daily Record Publisher Suzanne Fischer-Huetther; Enoch Pratt Free Library Pennsylvania Avenue Branch Manager Melanie Townsend-Diggs; Major Sheree Briscoe from the Baltimore City Police Department-Western District; and Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. RIGHT: Martin and Paula Himeles.



25th Building Anniversary Celebration

Maryland Legal Aid celebrated the 25th anniversary of its Baltimore City headquarters building on October 5, 2017. Various supporters were in attendance, including Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh, Baltimore City

Council President Bernard "Jack" Young, and the family of the late Charles H. Dorsey, Jr., former Executive Director of Maryland Legal Aid. The 25th anniversary celebration was an opportunity to recognize the public and private partnerships and key individuals who played a significant role in helping Maryland Legal Aid build a permanent home for its Baltimore City operations and statewide administration.

LEFT: Benjamin Rosenberg (Rosenberg Martin Greenberg LLP); Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh; and Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. at the celebration

Setting the Bar: Support from Venable

Loaned Associates Program

In 2016, Venable LLP began a unique partnership with Maryland Legal Aid through its Loaned Associates Program. Through this program, three Venable associates each work for six months at a time at Maryland Legal Aid over a period of 18 months. This significant support means that Maryland Legal Aid and its clients benefit from the work of three experienced lawyers at no cost as Venable covers their salaries. In turn, the associates are able to enhance their litigation skills, manage their own cases, and take the lead with client interactions.

Along with the generous annual contributions from the Venable Foundation, this partnership further demonstrates Venable's deep commitment to improving access to justice for all.

Megan Davis and Meredith Healy were the first Venable associates to participate in the program, and Maryland Legal Aid recently hosted the final associate in the rotation, Christine White. Christine shared, "My experience at Maryland Legal Aid was invaluable, both personally and professionally. The dedication, enthusiasm, and knowledge of everyone at MLA inspired me every day. There is a great need for pro bono representation in Maryland, and I look forward to continuing this meaningful work with MLA as a pro bono attorney and to encourage my colleagues in the private bar to join in such rewarding pro bono efforts as well." Maryland Legal Aid sincerely thanks Megan, Meredith, Christine, and Venable LLP for their outstanding, multi-faceted support of its mission.



Attorney Christine White

Grant for Innovation Project

In 2017, the Venable Foundation awarded Maryland Legal Aid a \$150,000 grant to support the creation of a Venable Innovation Project (VIP). This exceptional gift was made in addition to the Foundation's generous annual contribution. The initiative will provide critical legal assistance to thousands of disadvantaged individuals and families in Maryland.

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 12 for listings.)

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

BaldwinLaw LLC Bekman, Marder & Adkins, LLC Brown, Goldstein & Levy LLP Gorman & Williams Hylton & Gonzales Iliff, Meredith, Wildberger & Brennan, P.C.
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We greatly appreciate the assistance of Francis & Mailman, P.C. in the awarding of a cy pres settlement to Maryland Legal Aid.

Thank you to the following corporations who support Maryland Legal Aid via their Employee Giving and/or Employer Matching Giff programs: Battelle, BP America Inc., Cienacare, Exelon Corporation, The Quaker Chemical Foundation, Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.

For more information regarding the Equal Justice Council or to make a contribution, contact Director of Development Graham Cowger at (410) 951-7706 or gcowger@mdlab.org.

To donate online, please visit www.mdlab.org.

4,643
People
benefited from
criminal record
expungements

Thanks to our donors for making the following outcomes possible in 2017.

YOUR SUPPORT CHANGES LIVES!

635 Veterans served

Jamar can now focus on completing his Master's Degree in Social Work at Morgan State University since his record has been expunged.





Lee is a 60-year-old United States Army veteran who was homeless for two years. After Maryland Legal Aid helped him secure safe housing, Lee remarked, "It's so nice to be able to go home."

317
Parents secured custody of their children

100
Persons with disabilities secured benefits

10,174
Vulnerable children were represented

1,515
People avoided eviction or foreclosure

The Rosenbergs

no longer have to consider filing bankruptcy to escape their crushing medical debt after Maryland Legal Aid helped them to obtain Medicaid coverage.





Mrs. K. was able to move her family to a new home in a safe neighborhood, away from the drug activity and violence surrounding her old home.

171
People obtained critical medical benefits

227
People obtained protection from domestic violence

1,700
Coats distributed to families in need at "Coats and Clinics" events

201
Pro bono
attorneys
provided legal
assistance to
clients





WAYS TO GIVE

Your tax-deductible contribution provides life-changing legal help for our most vulnerable neighbors. There are many ways you can help low-income Marylanders secure basic human needs like housing, food, health care, protection from abuse, and more.

MAIL A CHECK

Maryland Legal Aid Development Unit 500 E. Lexington Street Baltimore, MD 21202

PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE

Join a community of generous supporters who invest in equal access to justice by donating \$1.000 or more each year.

GIFTS OF STOCK

Stock transfers can be made through Maryland Legal Aid's account at Charles Schwab.

☐ Account Name: Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.

☐ DTC #: 0164

☐ Account #: 78352614

EMPLOYER MATCHING GIFTS

Double your gift's impact! Check to see if your employer matches charitable contributions: https://doublethedonation.com/matching-gift-search/

DONATE ONLINE

Visit www.mdlab.org to make a one-time gift online.

RECURRING DONATION

Visit www.mdlab.org to set up monthly or quarterly donations.

WORKPLACE GIVING CAMPAIGNS

Use the following campaign designation numbers:

- ☐ United Way: 54
- ☐ Maryland Charity Campaign: 520591621
- ☐ Combined Federal Campaign: 15755

EQUAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CAMPAIGN

Each year, EJC members raise funds from lawyers and law firms across Maryland. Organize a campaign in your law firm or company this year.

EQUAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATES

The EJA is a dynamic group of young attorneys who raise funds and awareness of Maryland Legal Aid's mission. Contact Donor Relations Coordinator Isabelle Garcia at (410) 951-7759 or igarcia@mdlab.org for more info.

Leave a Legacy for Justice

A planned gift to Maryland Legal Aid demonstrates your ongoing commitment to equal justice for all. By including Maryland Legal Aid in your will or estate plan, you can help secure justice for vulnerable Marylanders for generations to come. Many types of gifts allow you to fulfill your charitable intentions and may result in immediate and possible future benefits for you.

The simplest planned gift is to add a bequest to your will, in which you designate a gift or portion of your estate to Maryland Legal Aid. When making a bequest to Maryland Legal Aid, please use the following language:

"I bequeath to Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization currently headquartered at 500 East Lexington Street, Baltimore, Maryland, 21202, the sum of \$_____ (or __% of my residuary estate) for the unrestricted use and purposes of the organization."

If you would like to leave a legacy for justice, or for more information about what planned giving options work best for you, please contact Director of Development Graham Cowger at gcowger@mdlab.org or (410) 951-7706.

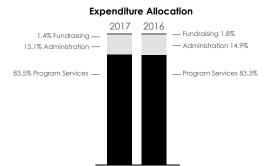


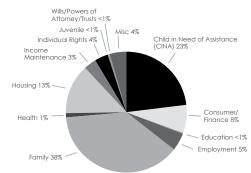
The late George McManus, Jr. was a founding member of the Equal Justice Council and a vocal supporter of Maryland Legal Aid's mission. Mr. McManus established The George W. McManus, Jr. Foundation Fund of the Baltimore Community Foundation, which provides an annual distribution to Maryland Legal Aid and other organizations. Maryland Legal Aid is grateful to Mr. McManus for his stalwart dedication during his lifetime and for his continued support through this most generous legacy gift.

If you plan to make a bequest, gift of stock, or have any other questions about supporting Maryland Legal Aid, please contact Director of Development Graham Cowger at (410) 951-7706 or at gcowger@mdlab.org.

2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

Client Case Types





	2017	2016
INCOME	\$27,267,778	\$26,319,451
EXPENSES	\$23,601,590	\$26,156,259
net assets, end of year	\$22,104,451	\$18,438,263
The components of Net Assets at 12/31/2017 were: unrestricted \$15,134,950 temporarily restricted \$6,962,498; and permanently restricted \$7,000.	3;	
SELECTED FUNDING RECEIVED		001/
Federal: Federal/State/Local Partnerships	2017	2016
Legal Services Corporation Legal Services Corporation - Pro Bono Innovation Fund	\$4,042,042 \$53.093	\$4,048.297 \$53.093
Ryan White/HIV/AIDS Legal Assistance/Baltimore City	\$135,039	\$142,611
Legal Assistance to Victims Grant (OVW)	\$192,854	\$145,127
Legal Services for Crime Victims (LSCV)	\$15,133	\$4,867
State		
Maryland Legal Services Corporation	\$10,707,049	\$10,707,049
Maryland Legal Services Corporation (Baltimore City Workforce Development)	\$184,100	\$145,665
Maryland Legal Services Corporation (Maryland Workforce Development)	\$200,000	-
Contract services regarding self-represented litigants, abused and neglected children, victims of domestic violence, developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons confined to mental health	to (01 07)	to 000 (0)
institutions, parents in child custody matters, and victims of crime	\$8,681,371	\$8,082,621
Foreclosure Prevention		
Maryland Legal Services Corporation	\$800,000	\$450,000
Maryland Housing Counseling Fund	\$375,250	\$501,00
Attorney General Settlement		\$334,743
Local	\$317,159	\$313,489
Title III-B/Elderly Assistance; Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince Geor Queen Anne's and St. Mary's counties; Lower and Upper Eastern Shor		
County Grants:		
Prince George's – Community Partnership	\$25,000	\$34,200
Prince George's – Community Development Block Grant	\$26,569	\$30,000
Prince George's - Family Justice	\$58,631	\$58,631
Prince George's - Local Development Council	\$15,000	φου,σοι
Frederick – Community Partnership	\$17,777	\$17,777
Montgomery – County Council	\$18,818	\$7,500
County Grants-In-Aid:	4.0,0.0	4.7
Anne Arundel	\$27,000	\$18,000
Baltimore City	\$99,616	\$130,562
Baltimore	\$64,167	\$81,667
Harford	\$29,559	\$29,412
Howard	\$105,890	\$100,890
Circuit Court Pro Se Grants:	\$100,070	\$100,070
Anne Arundel	¢17/ 001	¢172.000
Cecil County	\$176,001	\$173,000
	-	\$30,000
Private Donations:	A 477.5 :-	45.40
Contributions	\$677,347	\$562,529
Foundations	\$280,250	\$643,648

Served by County 2017						
	MLA CASES	MLA PERSONS	MCLA MATTERS†			
Allegany	1,040	2,857	322			
Anne Arundel*	10,307	21,389	14,234			
Baltimore City	12,472	38,285	10,626			
Baltimore County	3,361	9,975	9,859			
Calvert	443	522	983			
Caroline	134	800	406			
Carroll	366	958	1,337			
Cecil	391	2,500	1,139			
Charles	1,090	1,355	2,060			
Dorchester	130	878	116			
Frederick	1,648	5,329	1,628			
Garrett	336	859	109			
Harford	1,181	5,562	549			
Howard	500	2,221	2,148			
Kent	45	232	106			
Montgomery	2,348	6,639	5,842			
Prince George's	3,400	8,329	20,590			
Queen Anne's	63	359	360			
St. Mary's	689	805	990			
Somerset	112	983	291			
Talbot	141	807	319			
Washington	515	1,877	1,040			
Wicomico	891	5,963	3,522			
Worcester	163	955	454			
Out-of-state	497	305	229			
Undetermined	-	-	906			
TOTAL	42,263	120,744	80,165			
*Includes pro se litigants through Maryland Legal Aid's Circuit Court family pro se project *Includes pro se litigants assisted by the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA) through the District Court Self-Help Resource Centers in Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Wicomico counties and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Resource						

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 Manyland under the Manyland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Arnapolis, MD 21401, for the cost of copying and maling.

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.

Self-Help Center





Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. 500 East Lexington Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202





Business Line:

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3 Baltimore County

29 W. Susquehanna Avenue Suite 305 Towson, MD 21204 (410) 427-1800 (877) 878-5920 Janine A. Scott, Esq., Chief Attorney

4 Lower Eastern Shore

Dorchester, Somerset Wicomico, Worcester (800) 444-4099

Robert McCaig, Esq., Chief Attorney

(410) 480-1057 Blake Fetrow, Esq., Chief Attorney

7 Midwestern Maryland

Carroll, Frederick, Washington 22 S. Market Street, Suite 11 Frederick, MD 21701 (301) 694-7414 (800) 679-8813 Nina Shore, Esq., Chief Attorney

8 Montgomery County

600 Jefferson Plaza Suite 430 Rockville, MD 20852 (855) 880-9<u>487</u> John Marshall, Esq., Chief Attorney

9 Northeastern Maryland

Cecil, Harford Bel Air, MD 21014 (410) 836-8202 (800) 444-9529 Arlene Callender, Esq., Chief Attorney

10 Southern Maryland

15364 Prince Frederick Road (301) 932-6661 (877) 310-1810 Lee Heithoff, Esq., Chief Attorney

11 Upper Eastern Shore

Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot 106 Washington Street, Suite 101 (800) 477-2543 William Leahy, Esq., Chief Attorney

12 Western Maryland

110 Greene Street
Cumberland, MD 21502 (301) 777-7474 Miriam Sincell, Esq., Chief Attorney

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

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