



**MARYLAND
LEGAL AID**

*Advancing
Human Rights and
Justice for All*

Media Contact: Ashley Cheatham
443-651-0507
acheatham@mdlab.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Maryland Legal Aid Appoints Deputy Chief Counsel

BALTIMORE, Md., (January 25, 2021) - Amy Petkovsek has been promoted to the position of Deputy Chief Counsel for Maryland Legal Aid (MLA). In this new role, Amy will join with Deputy Chief Counsel Chijioke Akamigbo to provide oversight and guidance to MLA chief attorneys and staff and support the work of MLA's Chief Counsel, Stuart Simms.

Executive Director Wilhelm Joseph shared, "Amy brings to the position a level of professionalism and compassion as well as a true commitment to providing outstanding legal assistance."

Before being promoted, Amy was MLA's Director of Advocacy for Training & Pro Bono, a position she has held since 2014. Amy began her career at MLA in 2007 as a child advocacy staff attorney, handling Child In Need of Assistance (CINA) cases, in MLA's Metropolitan Maryland Office. In 2012, Amy transferred to MLA's Montgomery County office in Rockville, where she also handled CINA cases. In addition to her CINA work, Amy oversaw the formation of MLA's Pro Bono program, which has significantly strengthened MLA's private attorney involvement and reach within the private bar. With respect to training, Amy and her team coordinate close to 30 statewide training events each year on substantive areas of law and advocacy skills for MLA staff and pro bono attorneys.



Amy Petkovsek

Amy also helped to establish and sustain MLA's Lawyer in the Library Program, which began in 2015 and now, under MLA's Community Lawyering Initiative, provides free legal clinics at libraries, community centers, schools, medical treatment facilities, and other public gathering spaces across the state. Amy has played a pivotal role in establishing partnerships with a significant number of community partners, including county libraries, places of worship, and agencies and organizations whose missions closely align with the work of MLA. One noteworthy partnership is with Clothes4Soles, a non-profit organization, based in Nashville, that provides MLA with new Macy's coats each year to distribute to those in need along with free legal advice.

Amy has been recognized for her many professional and community achievements, including by *The Daily Record*, the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, and the Maryland 4-H/FFA Fair "Hall of Fame." She is a graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law and Saint Joseph University, where she received her B.S. in Food Marketing.

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About Maryland Legal Aid

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to people who are in Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties from 12 offices. The firm handles cases involving a wide range of issues, including family, housing, government benefits, healthcare, education, employment, and consumer law. MLA also represents children in CINA

(Child in Need of Assistance) proceedings in 14 jurisdictions. Other vulnerable populations, such as homeowners facing foreclosure, migrant and seasonal farm workers, people with developmental and mental health disabilities, nursing home and assisted living residents, and veterans seeking benefits and assistance with related legal issues also receive representation through special projects. MLA's Community Lawyering Initiative, which includes its *Lawyer in the Library* program, assists with expunging criminal records to remove barriers to obtaining housing, employment, and child custody through clinics held in libraries, community centers, non-profit organizations, places of worship, schools, medical facilities, and other gathering places.

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