



Md. Legal Aid to expand 'Lawyer in the Library' program with Abell Foundation grant

By: Anamika Roy Daily Record Legal Affairs Writer January 4, 2018

Maryland Legal Aid is using a \$90,000 grant from the Abell Foundation to expand its "Lawyer in the Library" program in Baltimore.

The "Lawyer in the Library" program puts Maryland Legal Aid attorneys, paralegals, pro bono attorneys, law students and other volunteers in public libraries to give free legal assistant and criminal record expungements to low-income residents. The program began in 2015 in response to the unrest following Freddie Gray's death in Baltimore.

"Lawyer in the Library" started in the Enoch Pratt Free Library's Pennsylvania Avenue location and has since expanded to Pratt Library locations on Orleans and Waverly streets. The Abell Foundation grant allows Maryland Legal Aid to hire additional staff to run the program at four other Pratt Library branches.

The program has assisted more than 2,000 Baltimore city residents since 2015, according to Maryland Legal Aid.

"We are grateful to the Abell Foundation for their support of Maryland Legal Aid and the 'Lawyer in the Library' program," said Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., executive director Maryland Legal Aid, in a statement. "This grant enables us to expand our reach to assist our most vulnerable neighbors in different areas of Baltimore city and to further solidify our partnership with the Enoch Pratt Free Library."



Wilhelm H. Joseph Jr., executive director of Maryland Legal Aid. (File photo)

Tagged with: [ABELL FOUNDATION](#) [MARYLAND LEGAL AID](#)

To purchase a reprint of this article, contact reprints@thedailyrecord.com.