



**MARYLAND**  
**LEGAL AID**

*Advancing*  
**Human Rights and**  
**Justice for All**

**EJ=A** | Equal Justice  
Associates

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact:** Ashley Cheatham  
443-651-0507  
[acheatham@mdlab.org](mailto:acheatham@mdlab.org)

### **Maryland Legal Aid Announces Launch of Equal Justice Associates**

**BALTIMORE, Md.**, October 15, 2018 - Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) announces the launch of its newly established Equal Justice Associates (EJA). The EJA comprises of newer attorneys under the age of 40 who support Maryland Legal Aid's mission of providing equal access to civil legal assistance for low-income Marylanders through pro bono service and fundraising.

Attorneys interested in joining the EJA are invited to attend the Launch Party on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, at Pratt Street Ale House (206 W Pratt Street) from 6:00PM-8:00PM. Guests can meet current EJA members and learn about future events and opportunities planned by the EJA. The evening's keynote speaker will be The Honorable Susan K. Gauvey, Magistrate Judge of the U.S. District Court of Maryland & an alumna of Maryland Legal Aid.

Formed in Spring 2018, EJA serves as the "young lawyer" division of the longstanding Equal Justice Council (EJC), a group of prominent Maryland attorneys and business people who serve as goodwill ambassadors for MLA and who work, on a volunteer basis, to increase and diversify MLA's resources. In addition to organizing pro bono service opportunities, fundraising activities, and social networking events, EJA members also receive high-quality training and mentoring from MLA attorneys in a variety of practice areas.

Through the work of the EJA, attorneys have the opportunity to significantly impact the lives of Maryland's most vulnerable residents. EJA members can keep families in their homes by successfully challenging illegal evictions; help individuals obtain employment and housing through criminal record expungements; and ensure that veterans receive benefits for which they are eligible, among other cases.

Darryl L. Tarver (DLA Piper LLP - US) is the EJA's Founding Chair. Other officers include Ernie Dominguez (Office of the Public Defender), Aaron DeGraffenreidt (Baltimore City Law Department), Alicia Shelton (Zuckerman Spaeder LLP), and Megan E. Davis (Federal Communications Commission).

While admission to the Launch Party is complimentary, space is limited. Please [RSVP](#)

by Oct. 18th.

For more information and to add your name to the EJA's growing list of members, please visit [mdlab.org](http://mdlab.org), or contact Isabelle Garcia at 410-951-7759 or [igarcia@mdlab.org](mailto:igarcia@mdlab.org).

###

### **About Maryland Legal Aid**

Maryland Legal Aid 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. Maryland Legal Aid 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. Maryland Legal Aid'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 public libraries, community centers, non-profit organizations, places of worship, schools, and other gathering places.

Visit [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org) and follow Maryland Legal Aid on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).