



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

Advancing
Human Rights and
Justice for All

For Immediate Release

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Maryland Legal Aid's *Community Lawyering Initiative* receives grant from Maryland Bar Foundation

BALTIMORE, Md., (March 21, 2016) – Maryland Legal Aid received a \$3,500 grant from the Maryland Bar Foundation for its *Community Lawyering Initiative*.

Introduced in 2016, the *Community Lawyering Initiative* places Maryland Legal Aid attorneys and paralegals, pro bono attorneys, law students, and other volunteers in libraries, places of worship, and other trusted venues throughout the state to provide direct civil legal assistance and criminal record expungements to low-income Marylanders. Through this Initiative, Maryland Legal Aid is able to offer more in-depth and targeted assistance to address many inter-related issues that clients face, including removing barriers to obtaining affordable housing, employment, subsistence income, and child custody. To date, the Initiative has served more than 2,000 people and has partnered with such organizations as the Enoch Pratt Library, Goodwill, and Bethel AME Church. The Maryland Bar Foundation's grant will go towards the purchase of portable technology to be used by staff involved in the Initiative who provide legal services in non-traditional settings.

"The Maryland Bar Foundation should be commended for its generous contribution to Maryland Legal Aid's *Community Lawyering Initiative*," said Wilhelm Joseph, Jr., Maryland Legal Aid's Executive Director. "This grant will help to increase the technology necessary to expand the provision of high-quality civil legal services and criminal record expungements to the most vulnerable individuals and communities in our state."

Natalie McSherry, Vice-President of the Maryland Bar Foundation stated, "The Maryland Bar Foundation is pleased to be able to make this grant to help advance the efforts by Maryland Legal Aid to provide community-based legal services through its creative partnerships with organizations such as the Enoch Pratt Library, Goodwill, and Bethel AME Church. This effort by Maryland Legal Aid is a natural fit with the mission of the Maryland Bar Foundation to foster and maintain the honor and integrity of the profession of the law and to improve and to facilitate the administration of justice."

Visit www.mdlab.org for more information about Maryland Legal Aid's *Community Lawyering Initiative*.

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About Maryland Legal Aid

Maryland Legal Aid is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to low-income people 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 12 Maryland jurisdictions. Other vulnerable populations, such as homeowners facing foreclosure, migrant and seasonal farm workers, nursing home and assisted living residents, and veterans seeking benefits and assistance with related legal issues also receive representation through special projects. In addition, Maryland Legal Aid assists with expunging criminal records to remove barriers to obtaining housing, employment, and child custody.

For more information, visit www.mdlab.org and follow Maryland Legal Aid on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).