



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

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For Immediate Release

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Maryland Center for Legal Assistance Names New Managing Director

BALTIMORE, Md., (August 21, 2020) -The Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA), Maryland Legal Aid's wholly owned subsidiary, is pleased to announce the promotion of Emily Angel to Managing Director.

MLA's Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. shared, "As the new managing director, Emily brings solid managerial experience as well as a true commitment to providing outstanding customer service to the self-represented litigants served by MCLA. She and her talented team of 41 advocates and support staff are poised to take MCLA to the next level."

Most recently, Emily was a Supervising Attorney for the Maryland Courts Self-Help Center call center in Annapolis, a position she has held since December 2018. Emily started at MCLA as a staff attorney in 2012 and has worked at both the District Court Self-Help walk-in centers and the Annapolis call center. During her tenure with MCLA, she has been involved in a variety of projects, including the development of training materials for staff attorneys and self-represented litigants, and the creation of an awards program to recognize outstanding staff performance.

Prior to joining MCLA, Emily worked for the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland, where she was the Project Manager for a program to recruit and train volunteer attorneys to defend debt buyer lawsuits in Maryland District Courts. Before attending law school, Emily worked in sports marketing for the Coca-Cola Company. She earned her law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law and her bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business.

Through a contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts, MCLA operates the District Court Self-Help Resource Centers in Baltimore City, Catonsville, Glen Burnie, Upper Marlboro, and Salisbury and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers in Frederick and Annapolis (call center). The Self-Help Centers deal with a wide range of civil legal matters, including landlord-tenant issues, consumer matters such as debt collection and credit card cases, child support, and criminal record expungements to remove barriers to obtaining housing, employment, and child custody.

Most recently, as a result of the COVID-19 health crisis, MCLA has been responding to an increased stream of individuals seeking information, advice, guidance, and referrals to Maryland Legal Aid's full-service operations. In the past several weeks, since the re-opening of the courts, MCLA has served more than 1,200 walk-in visitors—including those to the Anne Arundel County Family Law Self-Help Center—6,300 people via phone, and 1,000 via live chat. As of July 1, 2020, the Family Law Self-Help Center, formerly managed by Maryland Legal Aid, became a part of MCLA.

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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. As Maryland's 3rd largest law firm, MLA 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.

In 2017, MLA established the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA), a wholly-owned subsidiary. A separate legal entity, MCLA does not receive funds from MLA's federal funder, the Legal Services Corporation (LSC).

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