



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

Advancing
Human Rights and
Justice for All

For Immediate Release

Media contact:

Ashley Fails
410-951-7683

AFails@mdlab.org

Maryland Legal Aid Welcomes New Staff to Management and Senior Leadership Teams

BALTIMORE, Md., (September 22, 2014) – Since April 2014, Maryland Legal Aid has welcomed six new staff members to its management and senior leadership teams.

Graham Cowger, Director of Development

Before joining Maryland Legal Aid in September 2014, Graham served as Director of Development for the McLean County Museum of History in Bloomington, IL for five years. His most recent position was with the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts as the Development Director.

Graham's career in development began in Chicago in 2003, fundraising door-to-door for Peace Action, the nation's largest peace and social justice organization. He continued his career with Peace Action from 2005 to 2007 at their national office in Washington, D.C., managing the telephone fundraising program for the organization.

Graham brings a wealth of knowledge about development to Maryland Legal Aid with experience in various forms of fundraising, including major gift cultivation and solicitation, corporate sponsorship, event planning, direct mail, capital campaigns, and planned giving.

Nelda "Renaë" Davis, Supervising Attorney

Renaë is a native of New Orleans, LA and graduated from Southern University Law Center in 2003. She previously worked at Southeast Louisiana Legal Service as a staff attorney in the succession unit providing assistance to homeowners who lost their homes in Hurricane Katrina. As supervising attorney, Renaë will work alongside advocates in the Baltimore County office in Towson, MD and will continue to promote the involvement of Maryland Legal Aid's Baltimore County office in community outreach activities.

- MORE -

Ashley Fails, Director of Communications

Ashley was previously the Marketing Communications Manager for the DEWALT brand at Stanley Black and Decker in Towson, MD and recently joined Maryland Legal Aid in September 2014. She brings a mix of non-profit and for-profit marketing communications experience from her time working in product development, health care, clinical research, and human services industries.

She began her non-profit career after college at the United Way of Central Carolinas in Charlotte, NC, working in the Community Planning Department alongside leadership on Latino Outreach and Public Policy initiatives. Her experience in non-profit marketing communications extends into clinical research administration and health care where she spent time working for the American College of Radiology Imaging Network and Independence Blue Cross (now Independence), both in Philadelphia, PA.

As the Communications Director, Ashley's role will involve guiding the internal and external communications strategies for Maryland Legal Aid.

Losmin Jimenez, Director of Advocacy for Children and Families

Losmin joined Maryland Legal Aid in July 2014, and previously worked as a litigation attorney at Americans for Immigrant Justice (AI Justice) in Miami, FL, where she worked on impact litigation, appeals, and policy matters in defending the basic human rights of immigrants.

Prior to her tenure at AI Justice, Losmin worked as a staff attorney and pro bono coordinator at a legal services program in North Central Florida. She began her professional career in the field of financial services. However, she answered the call to public interest law and considers it her life's purpose. Losmin received her law degree with honors from the University of Florida College of Law, her Master of Science in European Politics and Policy from the London School of Economics, and her Bachelor of Arts in Economics and International Relations from Boston University.

She speaks Spanish and German, and she is a member of the ABA Section of Litigation, Children's Rights Litigation Committee, Right to Counsel Strategy Group and the National Association of Counsel for Children. She was also appointed as Vice-Chair of the Legal Needs of Children Committee for The Florida Bar this year.

Amy Petkovsek, Director of Advocacy for Training and Pro Bono

In April 2014, Amy Petkovsek was named the new Director of Advocacy for Training and Pro Bono for Maryland Legal Aid. Amy began her work with the organization in 2007 as a Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) staff attorney at the Metropolitan Maryland office in Riverdale, MD. She then moved on to work as a CINA attorney in the Montgomery County office in Rockville, MD. In 2011, she was named Senior Attorney for Training. In the same year, she was the first recipient of the Diane Kinslow Memorial Award, named in memory of former Maryland Legal Aid staff attorney Diane Kinslow and given annually to a Maryland Legal Aid staff member who displays courage, compassion and love in the provision of legal services to clients.

Kara Yendell, Director of Administrative Services

In her previous role as Director of Auxiliary Services at Notre Dame of Maryland University, Kara oversaw operations and facilities on campus. As Director of Administrative Services for Maryland Legal Aid, Kara will administer all real property issues for both leased and owned offices; direct the procurement of all office supplies, furniture, equipment, and building services; handle all business-related insurance matters; coordinate organization-wide emergency and business continuity procedures, and manage operations for the Baltimore City office building.

###

About Maryland Legal Aid

Maryland Legal Aid is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free civil legal services to low-income people statewide. We serve Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties from 13 offices.

Our firm handles cases involving a wide range of issues, including custody, housing, government benefits, and consumer law. Many of our local offices represent children in CINA (Child in Need of Assistance) proceedings. Other vulnerable populations, such as senior citizens, migrant and seasonal farm workers, and nursing home and assisted living residents, also receive specialized representation.

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