



2019  
ANNUAL REPORT

# Life-Changing Legal Assistance



**MARYLAND**  
**LEGAL AID**

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

## MISSION

To provide high-quality legal services to Maryland's poor through a mix of services and to bring about the changes poor people want in the systems that affect them.


## VISION

To lead in providing high-quality legal services; to build on mutual respect for clients, staff, and others; to advocate for justice; and to add maximum positive value to all who request legal assistance.

### EMPOWERING CITIZENS TO OVERCOME BARRIERS



#### HOUSING



#### HEALTHCARE



#### CHILD CUSTODY



#### EMPLOYMENT

### MLA after COVID-19: A Look Ahead

While this report covers 2019, Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) has adjusted to the unique and complex circumstances presented during the COVID-19 public health crisis, which overshadowed the first half of 2020. During the past few months, while under the Governor's Executive Order to shelter in place to limit the spread of COVID-19, MLA, designated an essential business, remained operational and fully committed to serving clients and those in need of civil legal assistance. MLA's 12 statewide office locations continue to advocate on behalf of clients in order to protect their basic human rights to safe and affordable housing, access to medical care, freedom from domestic violence, rightfully earned wages, and more.

The devastating consequences of this crisis will especially impact Maryland's most vulnerable residents. As businesses and other entities close or significantly decrease their services and jobs are lost, the need for free legal help continues to rise dramatically. MLA is working hard to shore up its resources to ensure that it is able to meet this need in both the near and long term. The continued support from MLA's volunteers, pro bono attorneys, donors, and funders in the months ahead will be critical and truly appreciated.

## 106,846—the total number of Marylanders who received civil legal assistance from Maryland Legal Aid in 2019.

In Maryland's 23 counties and in Baltimore City, MLA provides essential legal help to individuals and families with the mission to protect and advance their human rights to basic needs such as safe and affordable housing, access to medical care and food security, and protection from abusive relationships.

For vulnerable and marginalized Marylanders, obtaining equal access to the justice system can be extremely challenging. For the past 109 years, MLA has been committed to educating Marylanders about their rights in a variety of civil legal matters and providing free, civil legal services that lead to positive and oftentimes life-changing outcomes for clients.

This report features just a few examples of individuals who received life-changing legal assistance from MLA in 2019. Clients have been able to break cycles of poverty and abuse, remove barriers to finding employment, complete educations, and maintain stable homes for themselves and their children. None of these transformative outcomes would be possible without the multi-faceted contributions of time, talent, and treasure from MLA's many supporters.

Your donations also help MLA's *Community Lawyering Initiative* (CLI) expand its cutting-edge programming to provide critical civil legal services to clients in the neighborhoods in which they live and work. CLI now serves as a model for other legal aid programs around the country that are looking to replicate the program's positive client outcomes and successful and varied community partnerships.

With the help of pro bono attorneys and other volunteers, CLI provides legal help to underserved communities in unconventional locations such as libraries, community centers, and places of worship, and empowers residents to overcome barriers to employment, housing, health care, child custody and more.

2020 will mark five years since CLI began with MLA's signature *Lawyer in the Library* program. The program has grown from a single weekly clinic in a West Baltimore library to more than 300 clinics per year in a variety of settings that reach residents in every county in the state.

In 2019, the six Self-Help Resource Centers operated by The Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA)—MLA's wholly-owned subsidiary—served more than 100,000 self-represented litigants, which is a record for MCLA since its establishment in 2017. MCLA's success is made possible, in large part, by the Maryland Judiciary's dedication to enhancing access to justice for all Marylanders and its significant funding for MCLA to manage and operate the Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers and District Courts Self-Help Resource Centers.

MLA is grateful for its passionate staff advocates, pro bono attorneys, donors, Board members, members of the Equal Justice Council and Equal Justice Associates, volunteers, and foundations and governmental funders—most notably the Maryland Legal Services Corporation and the federal Legal Services Corporation—and all of our community partners, for making it possible for 106,846 Marylanders to achieve equal access to justice in 2019.

Thank you for your continued and invaluable support.

Warren S. Oliveri, Jr., Esq.  
Board President

Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr., Esq.  
Executive Director



CLIENTS ARE  
ABLE TO BREAK  
CYCLES OF  
POVERTY AND  
ABUSE

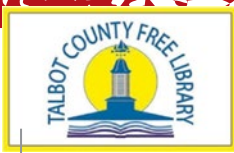


# 2019



## JANUARY

- MLA's *Community Lawyering Initiative* was featured in the Legal Services Corporation's Best Practices Corner newsletter and in Medium.com.



## FEBRUARY

- MLA's *Lawyer in the Library* program expanded to Talbot County.



## MARCH

- MLA provided brief civil legal advice and criminal record expungements during the "Naptown Anti-Dope Event" in Annapolis.

Paralegal Veronique Felix appeared on the Good 2 Know news show.

Senior Staff Attorney Louise Carwell received the *Daily Record's* Leadership in Law Award.



## APRIL

- *The Daily Record* ranked MLA Maryland's 3rd Largest Law Firm

Pro Bono Program Director Julianne Tarver traveled to Washington, D.C. to present before the Department of Commerce.



Administrative Assistants Shareice Simpson and Vicki Johnson, along with Senior Paralegal Debbie Lewis Smith and Paralegal Shelly Smith, attended the 2019 Springfest Community Outreach event in West Baltimore.

Meaghan McDermott (center), Supervising Attorney and Project Director for MLA's *Community Lawyering Initiative*, and Area Manager of Prince George's County Memorial Library Melanie Townsend Diggs were guests on the *Take it to the Streets* radio show with host Bobby Gaillesy.



- MLA welcomed its 2019 Summer Law Clerks

MLA welcomed SiriusXM talk show host Laura Coates, host of the *Laura Coates Show*, to broadcast live from MLA's Baltimore City office.



Director of Advocacy for Family Law Bobbie Steyer (left), Women's Law Center Executive Director Michelle Siri and Executive Director and former MLA director Denise McCain from the Prince George's County Family Justice Center presented at the Partners for Justice Conference.

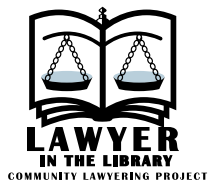




## JUNE

- MLA welcomed the 2019 Law Links students as summer interns

MLA's Equal Justice Council hosted its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual EJC Breakfast in Baltimore City.



MLA was awarded \$100,000 from the Abell Foundation to support its *Lawyer in the Library* program and partnership with Enoch Pratt Free Library.



Chief Attorney Joan Little from MLA's Baltimore City Child Advocacy Unit prevailed in a Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) proceeding, which determined that judges must look beyond the parent-child bond in termination rulings.

Paralegal Jumel Howard received the Civic Advocate of the Year Award from The People's Voice and the Howard County Citizens Association.



The Montgomery County government awarded a \$40,000 grant to MLA to enhance access to legal services for low-income families through a medical-legal partnership with Cornerstone behavioral health services.



## AUGUST

Staff Attorney Jamie Miliman and Chief Attorney Nancy McCaig showed their support for Opioid Awareness Month with Wicomico Goes Purple.



MLA's Lawyer Do Good Work poster was selected for display in BWI Airport as part of BWI's Community Partners program.



The Legal Services Corporation Pro Bono Innovation Fund awarded a \$268,000 grant to MLA to support MLA's *Lawyer in the Schools* program.



## SEPTEMBER

- MLA celebrated the grand opening of its relocated Southern Maryland office in Hughesville.

MLA's Montgomery County office celebrated a few pro bono attorneys with a potluck meal and certificates of appreciation.

MLA clients presented their experiences working with civil legal advocates at MLA's "Through Our Clients Eyes" training



## NOVEMBER



Paralegal Kim Wilson conducted intake at an expungement clinic at Our Daily Bread.

MLA staff presented about MLA's *Community Lawyering Initiative* at the National Legal Aid & Defender Association's annual conference in Detroit.

Miles & Stockbridge hosted MLA's Managing Partners Breakfast.



## OCTOBER

- MLA staff participated in the 2019 Baltimore Running Festival as the "Justice Joggers."



## DECEMBER

- Chief Attorney Nina Shore was presented with the Maryland Legal Services Corporation's Benjamin L. Cardin Distinguished Service Award.

Executive Director Wilhelm Joseph, Jr. played Santa Claus at the Bar Association for Baltimore City Holiday Party for Children Living in Shelters.







## Ms. V. | Child Custody and Child Support

For years, Ms. V. endured physical abuse from her husband. She separated from him, but when he became violent toward their children, Ms. V. sought full custody and a divorce.

Before doing so, Ms. V. had previously filed for and received a protective order to protect herself and her children from her husband, which he violated. Even after he served time in jail for violating the order, Ms. V.'s husband continued to threaten Ms. V. and be abusive toward their children during visitation.

By the time Ms. V. came to Maryland Legal Aid's Montgomery County office for help, Staff Attorneys Javaneh Pourkarim and Kim Lauer learned that the discovery period was closed and incomplete, and that Ms. V.'s trial was less than two months away.

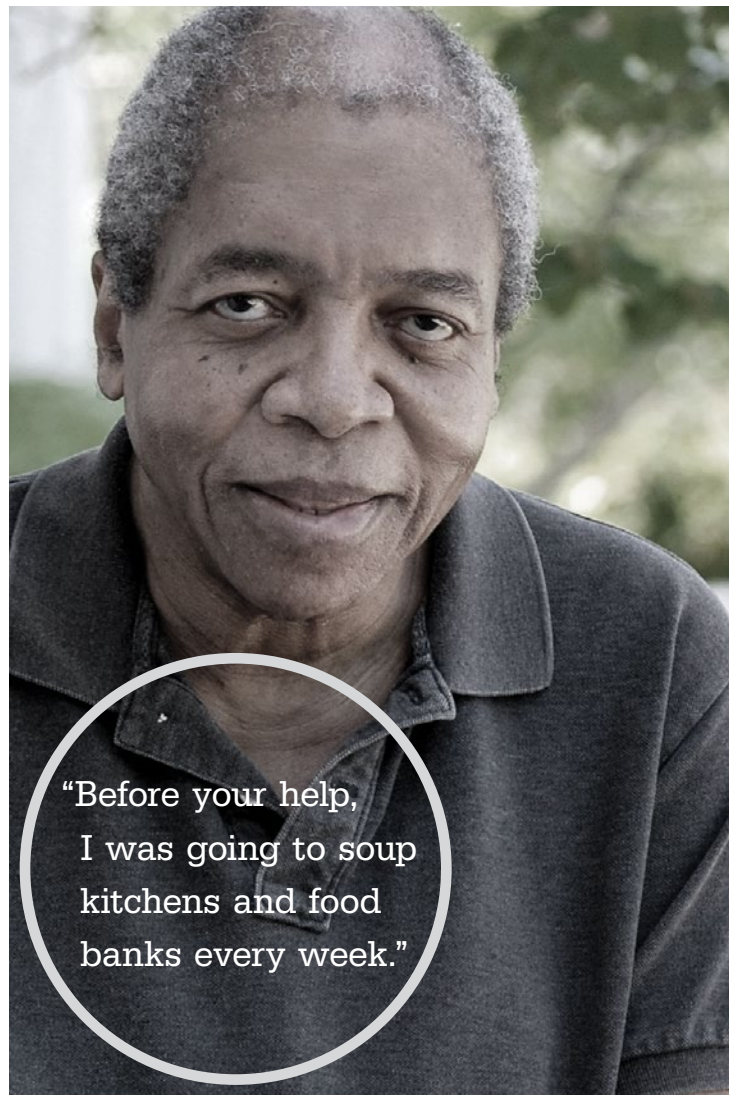
The two MLA attorneys quickly began preparing for trial by issuing key subpoenas, speaking with witnesses, and preparing Ms. V. for trial.

Ms. V. was granted a divorce, and after a two-day trial, the Judge awarded Ms. V. full legal and physical custody of her children. In addition, Ms. V.'s former husband was ordered to undergo a full mental evaluation prior to having any visitation with their children. Attorneys Pourkarim and Lauer were also able to increase child support for Ms. V. and her children by \$600 per month.

## Mr. P. | Veterans' Assistance


Two brain aneurysms and a stroke left Mr. P., a disabled veteran, without the use of one of his arms and one of his legs. He was unable to work and was dependent on monthly alimony payments from his ex-wife who had been ordered to pay him alimony when they divorced more than 15 years ago. Six years ago, Mr. P.'s ex-wife stopped making monthly payments and refused to speak to him. He tried to file a Motion for Contempt twice on his own, but was unable to serve his ex-wife and his pleadings were eventually dismissed. "Before I got help, I was in bad shape," shared Mr. P. "I tried to do it on my own by going to court and trying to fill out the papers, but I didn't know what to do or how to do it. I really needed help."

Through MLA's Joining Forces Veterans' Hotline, Mr. P. received extended representation from Staff Attorney Cheryl Chado, who filed a Petition for Contempt on behalf of Mr. P. The petition was granted, and the \$7,000 arrears that Mr. P.'s ex-wife owed were entered as a judgment. The court also ordered that ongoing alimony be automatically garnished from the ex-wife's paycheck. Attorney Chado then filed a wage garnishment request to collect on the judgment. The judgment was satisfied in May 2019. "Before your help, I was going to soup kitchens and food banks every week," said Mr. P. "The money [from the judgment] helped me pay utility bills and buy groceries. Without you, I would have never made it this far."



"Before your help,  
I was going to soup  
kitchens and food  
banks every week."





Staff Attorney  
LeighAnn Rosenberg  
filed an emergency  
motion to postpone,  
which gave MLA  
time to fight the  
improper eviction.

## Ms. W. | Housing and Domestic Violence


Ms. W. was facing termination of her housing assistance voucher by the Howard County Housing Authority. Ms. W. was a victim of domestic violence, and the Housing Authority alleged that they were terminating her voucher because her former abusive partner was living with her without authorization. Ms. W.'s abuser, as a means to control her, confirmed these allegations.

Ms. W. appealed the voucher termination and tried to represent herself at the administrative hearing, but was unsuccessful. Since her voucher was terminated and she could no longer afford to pay rent, Ms. W. found herself on the verge of being evicted.

Staff Attorney LeighAnn Rosenberg from MLA's Metropolitan Maryland office filed an emergency motion to postpone, which gave MLA time to fight the improper eviction. MLA presented the Housing Authority with the possibility of MLA filing a lawsuit for violation of the Federal Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which protects women like Ms. W. from eviction or termination of assistance based on being a victim of abuse by a domestic partner.

Attorney Rosenberg's efforts led to the Housing Authority making retroactive rental payments to Ms. W.'s landlord and reissuing Ms. W.'s voucher.





The Court ruled  
against the landlord  
and canceled the  
eviction scheduled for  
the next day.

## Ms. F. | Rent Court Extended Representation Project

Under the Rent Court Extended Representation Project funded by the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, Staff Attorney Douglas Nivens assisted Ms. F. when her landlord threatened to evict her for Failure to Pay Rent.

Prior to moving into her apartment, Ms. F. lived in a shelter. To help Ms. F. transition into a stable home, the shelter paid the first month's rent and the security deposit to the landlord on Ms. F.'s behalf. The landlord believed that he could collect three months of rent for the security deposit, and so immediately after Ms. F. moved into her apartment, the landlord asked her for more rent. When Ms. F. paid the extra rent, instead of applying Ms. F.'s additional payments toward her monthly rent payments, the landlord inaccurately and unlawfully applied it toward the security deposit.

Alleging that he had not received July's rent payment, the landlord filed a Failure to Pay rent case against Ms. F. The landlord received default judgments in July and August 2019 and filed a warrant of restitution for July's judgment to have Ms. F. removed from her apartment. Ms. F. didn't receive her notice of her impending eviction until the landlord handed her a copy of the warrant. The landlord subsequently filed Failure to Pay Rent cases in August and in September.

After an initial review of the case, Attorney Nivens determined that Ms. F. had overpaid her security deposit and the landlord filed the July warrant of restitution using the wrong apartment number. Douglas prepared a motion to vacate the judgment, quash the warrant, and cancel the eviction, arguing that Ms. F. paid her rent and the warrant was incorrectly addressed. During Ms. F.'s direct examination, Douglas presented an alternative ledger, which he formulated by using the landlord's receipts, Ms. F.'s rent receipts, and Failure to Pay Rent complaints.

The alternative ledger showed the excessive security deposit and rent payments that Ms. F. made. The Court determined that the landlord's calculations, ledger, and understanding of the law were incorrect and that Ms. F. paid her rent on time for July and August and overpaid the security deposit. The Court ruled against the landlord, and canceled the eviction scheduled for the next day. Ms. F. was grateful to have the matter resolved and to be able to remain in her home.

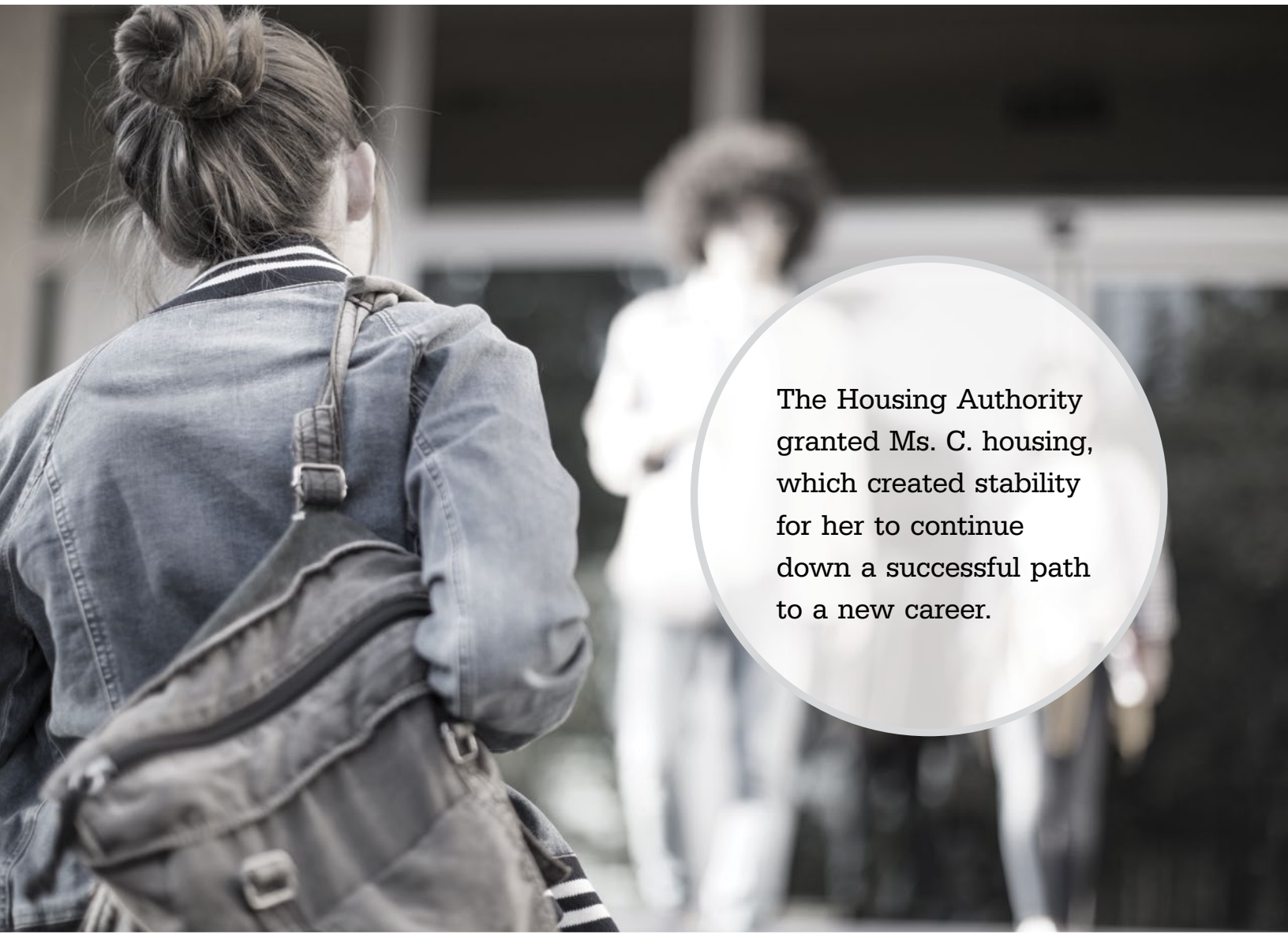
# Ms. C. | Housing and Criminal Record Expungement

Ms. C. was determined to start a new chapter in her life and was preparing to enroll in a nursing program at a local community college. She came to MLA's Midwestern Maryland office in June 2019 for help after she was denied housing by the Housing Authority of the City of Frederick because of her criminal background.

Although Ms. C. had three items on her criminal record that were eligible for expungement, two items remained ineligible. Staff Attorney Seana Reichold, who worked under a grant to expunge clients' criminal records, prepared petitions and motions, conducted research, and asked the court to give an Early Expungement, citing Ms. C.'s barrier to housing.

Attorney Reichold worked with Supervising Attorney Sunny Desai to represent Ms. C. at her hearing. The court granted Ms. C. an early expungement and the last two items on her criminal record were expunged early.

At Ms. C.'s hearing to appeal her denial by the Housing Authority, MLA provided papers from the court showing that each item on Ms. C.'s criminal record was in the process of being expunged. Attorney Reichold also testified that Ms. C. had turned her life around and was set to study nursing at a local community college. The Housing Authority granted Ms. C. housing, which created stability for her to continue down a successful path to a new career.



The Housing Authority granted Ms. C. housing, which created stability for her to continue down a successful path to a new career.



## Ms. S. | Landlord- Tenant

When Ms. S.'s landlord presented her with an outstanding water bill that totaled more than \$6,000, she was able to pay \$2,100 of the bill, to which her landlord agreed. Unbeknownst to Ms. S., her landlord continued to pursue legal action for the remaining water bill balance. Ms. S. was given no notice that she was expected to attend a court hearing, because the landlord had told her that the issue had been resolved. When Ms. S. received notice of a court appearance, she came to MLA's Baltimore City office for help, where Staff Attorney Theda Saffo guided her through the legal process. "Attorney Saffo stepped in and presented all the paperwork to the judge and showed him that my landlord was wrong," shared Ms. S. "I knew she was in my corner." With MLA's assistance, Ms. S. avoided a default judgment.

"Attorney Saffo stepped in and presented all the paperwork to the judge and showed him that my landlord was wrong," shared Ms. S. "I knew she was in my corner."



Photo Joshua McKerrow,  
staff / Capital Gazette

## Fighting Housing Discrimination and Poor Living Conditions

In May 2019, MLA entered its appearance as co-counsel with the Annapolis-based law firm of Wise & Donahue on a federal civil rights lawsuit against the City of Annapolis and the Housing Authority of the City of Annapolis (HACA). The lawsuit claims the City of Annapolis and HACA violated the civil rights of more than 1,600 residents of public housing in Annapolis, a majority of whom are African American. Supervising Attorney Lisa Sarro from MLA's Anne Arundel County office shared, "We want historical wrongs to be put on the path to being corrected... This is not something that just happened over the last few years of the buildings becoming dilapidated. This is a result of, really, decades of neglect."



Number of visitors  
assisted by the  
Maryland Courts Self-Help  
and District Court  
Self-Help Centers in 2019:  
**108,497**

## 2019 MCLA Update

The Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of MLA. 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, Salisbury, and Upper Marlboro, and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers in Frederick and Annapolis (call center). The District Court Self-Help Resource Centers are walk-in facilities that assist with civil matters, including landlord-tenant, small claims, debt collection, and protective orders. In addition, the Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers assist with a broad range of issues including custody, divorce, and expungement of criminal records via telephone, live chat, and the walk-in center in Frederick.



Community Lawyering Staff Attorney  
Charlotte Ahearn

## MLA's Community Lawyering Initiative

MLA's *Community Lawyering Initiative* brings life-changing legal assistance directly to underserved neighborhoods. The concept for the *Initiative* began in 2015 when MLA launched a weekly *Lawyer in the Library* program at the Enoch Pratt Free Library's Pennsylvania Avenue Branch following the civil unrest in Baltimore. As awareness of the program increased and the need for civil legal services and criminal record expungements became more apparent, MLA answered the demand for services by designating staff and recruiting pro bono attorneys, paralegals, and law students to help serve clients through the *Initiative*.

MLA's *Community Lawyering Initiative* includes a number of weekly and monthly legal and expungement clinics coordinated and hosted in partnership with community organizations from around the state, as well as an expansion of the *Lawyer in the Library* program to other library locations throughout Maryland. In 2019, the *Initiative* opened approximately 2,000 new cases statewide.



Venable Attorney and Loaned Associate  
Stephen Salsbury

## Venable's Loaned Associates Program

Since 2016, Venable LLP and MLA have engaged in a unique partnership through Venable's Loaned Associates Program. Through this program, Venable associates work for six months at a time at MLA. This significant support means that MLA and its clients benefit from the work of experienced lawyers at no cost, as Venable covers their salaries. In turn, the associates have opportunities to enhance their litigation skills, manage their own cases, and take the lead with client interactions.

"I have learned a great deal about the current housing crisis as well as a number of other key housing and consumer issues that residents in Baltimore City face," shared Attorney Salsbury. "I've worked alongside MLA attorneys as they advocate for clients, particularly in Baltimore City's Rent Court, and I am incredibly grateful for their patience and wisdom in providing me an opportunity to learn from them and for their tireless commitment to their work."





## MLA's Pro Bono Program

MLA's Pro Bono Program provides attorneys with opportunities to learn new areas of law through trainings, legal clinics, participation in MLA's task forces on substantive areas of law, and mentorship. Attorneys who participate in MLA's Pro Bono Program are covered under MLA's malpractice insurance when handling MLA cases.



Coats and Clinics event at St. Peter Claver Catholic Church in West Baltimore

## Coats and Clinics

In December 2019, MLA partnered with Soles4Souls, Macy's and local community organizations to distribute 2,300 new coats to adults and children in need. At "Coats and Clinics" events in Annapolis (Anne Arundel County), Baltimore City, Clifton (Charles County), and Hagerstown (Washington County), financially eligible adults also received free help to resolve their civil legal issues and expunge their criminal records.



## PRO BONO ATTORNEYS

Sierra Abaie	Jose Compass	Jacqueline Greiss
Clark Adams	Gary Compton	Sara Gross
Richard Adams	Beth Conklyn	Antonio Goia
Trevor Addie	Catherine Cook	Heather Gomes
Sarah Adkisson	Pamela Correa	Dawn Gould
Scott Alban	Mary Cox	Edward Gutman
Randi Ames	Chelsea Crawford	Syeetah Hampton-El
Robert Anbinder	Sarah Crockett	Jeffrey Hannon
Christopher Anderson	Eric Crowder	Michele Hansen
Kaitlin Anderson	Stephen Cullen	Kay Harden
Henry Andrews	Teresa Cummings	Kay Harding
Philip Andrews	Gina Cuomo	Shahrazad Haughton
Kyle Anthony	Natasha Dartique Moody	Jonathon Havens
Patrick Arban	Michelle Dauksha	Stan Hellman
Erik Atas	Aaron DeGraffenreidt	Deborah Hill
Yollette Atkinson	Michael DeHaven	Marty Himeles
Michael Bakhama	Stephanie DeLang	Brian Hochheimer
Timothy Barkley	Rina Desai	Eldon Hong
Zoa Barnes	Joanna Diamond	P. Hoong Le
Elizabeth Bayly	Jeffrey Dier	Marshall Horman
Robert Bell	Kathleen Donohue	Ed Houff
Gregg Bernstein	David Douse	Shahrazad Houghton
David Beste	Herb Dubin	Kendall Jaegar
Sylvia Borenstein	Jessica DuHoffman	Emily Jaskot
Richard Boswell	Neil Duke	Colleen Jennings
Brianna Boyle	Laura Duncan	Michael Jeter
James Bragdon	Raenetta Ellison	Patricia Jividen
Kimberly Braslow	Kari Fawcett	Benjamin Johnson
Lee Britt	Amy Feldman	Carmen Johnson
Rachel Britt	James Fetter	Ashley Jones
Brennae Brooks	MaryAnn Ferguson	Bryan Jones
Dorrell Brooks	Paul Flynn	Stephanie Joseph
Ava Brown	Rebecca Force	Chelsea Kadish
Carole Brown	Eileen Franch	Joey Kavanagh
Shelly Brown	Alyssa Friedman	Catherine Keller
Courtney Bryson	Josh Friedman	Megan Kemp
Jessica Burgard	Christina Gant	Leigh Kessler
Dawn Burke	Joseph Garland	William Kiniry
Megan Burnett	Alan Garten	William Kirsch
Shannon Byrne	Mackenzie Garvin	Laura Klein
Steven Campen	Brittany Gause	Kimberly Knipe
Elizabeth Camuti	Chanekue Geddis	Shannon Kouitz
Robert Canter	Alexander Geraldo	Kristin Kremer
Shannon Carroll	Erin Gibson	Kelsey Kreysa
Anthony Cecola	Malia Gibson	Jerome LaCorte
Phillip Chalker	Jonathan Gladstone	Jacob Lambert
Laura Chilaka	Carin Golze	Kim Lauer
Roman Choma	Abigail Graber	Geralyn Lawrence
Joseph Chukla	Bryant Green	Deliah Lawrence
Carla Clarke	Karin Green	William Leahy
Sharon Cole	Tierra Gregory	Reba Letsa
Tiffani Collins		Adam Levine



Left to right: House Speaker Adrienne Jones, Maryland House of Delegates; Jessica duHoffmann, Esq., Miles & Stockbridge, P.C. and winner of the Executive Director's Award; Wilhelm Joseph, Executive Director of Maryland Legal Aid; and Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera, Chief Judge, Maryland Court of Appeals



MLA's Equal Justice Council (EJC) actively promotes equal access to justice for Maryland's most economically disadvantaged and vulnerable residents by increasing and diversifying MLA's resources, financial and otherwise, and serving as ambassadors on behalf of MLA. The EJC is composed of managing attorneys from Maryland's top law firms and other prominent members of the Maryland Bar and corporate community.

## Equal Justice Council Leadership

Co-Chairs:  
Martin S. Himeles, Jr., Esq.  
Lee H. Ogburn, Esq.



Thomas C. Dame, Esq., (right) Managing Partner, Gallagher Evelius & Jones, accepting the Community Partner for Justice Award; Wilhelm Joseph, Executive Director, Maryland Legal Aid

## EJC 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast

The EJC held its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Equal Justice Awards Breakfast at Camden Yards on June 4, 2019 and heard keynote remarks from House Speaker Adrienne A. Jones from the Maryland House of Delegates.

### Community Partners for Justice Awards

Chrysalis House  
EMPLOY Prince George's  
Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP  
Men and Families Center

### Champion of Justice Award

Robert Manekin, JLL

### Executive Director's Award

Jessica A. duHoffmann, Esq.





Left to right: Darryl Tarver, Esq., DLA Piper and Chair of the Equal Justice Associates; Ashley Cheatham, Director of Marketing & Communications, Maryland Legal Aid; Julianne Tarver, Esq., Pro Bono Director, Maryland Legal Aid; Megan Burnett, Esq., Miles & Stockbridge P.C. and Equal Justice Associates member



## Equal Justice Associates

MLA's Equal Justice Associates (EJA) is a group of attorneys under the age of 40 that support MLA's mission of providing equal access to civil legal assistance for low-income Marylanders through pro bono service and fundraising. 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.

## EJA 2019 Campaign Kickoff Reception

The EJA held its 2019 Campaign Kickoff Reception on September 26 at the Center Club in Baltimore City. The EJA sold more than 100 tickets to the event, which raised nearly \$11,000 for MLA. Former MLA client and Board member Shalita O'Neale and retired Chief Judge Robert M. Bell were the keynote speakers.

## Equal Justice Associates Leadership

**Chair:** Darryl L. Tarver, Esq.  
**Vice Chair:** Ernie Dominguez, Esq.  
**Secretary:** Aaron DeGraffenreidt, Esq.  
**Treasurer:** Alicia Shelton, Esq.  
**Pro Bono Chair:** Joanna Diamond, Esq.  
**Member-At-Large:** Megan E. Davis, Esq.

## PRO BONO ATTORNEYS (CONTINUED)

Kimberly Lewis	Marilyn Ogburn	Michael Stear
Tracey Ligon-Faccac	Adeolu Ojo	Matthew Stuhenberg
Inna Loring	Sean O'Keefe	Ella Sudduth
Cristine Lovetro	Chelsea Ortega	Jamshed Suntoke
Yong Lu	Ashley Ortis	Christopher Sweeney
David Luby	Dyan Owens	Nickola Sybblis
Devin Luqman	Jessica Pak	Elizabeth Symands
Rebekah Lusk	Rachel Pashkevich	Saber Taalib
Richard Lyon	J. Michael Pardoe	Marcheta Tabron
Cynthia MacDonald	Jason Piatt	George Tankard
Lily MacKenty	Michael Powell	Darryl Tarver
Camille Malone	Maraya Pratt	Kimberly Tarver
Samantha Manganaro	Tom Prevas	Amy Taylor
David Manoogian	Timothy Price	Beth Tello
Michael March	Lynette Proctor	John Temple
Christina Marlow	Emily Puhl	Justin Tepe
Judith Mather	Anisha Queen	Rob Thirolf
Brian Maul	Alison Rajk	Brian Thompson
Anthony May	Jennifer Rankin	Neill Thupari
Chris May	Carla Rappaport	Joel Todd
Susan Mays	Sheri Redwood	James Torrence
Robert McCaig	Seana Reichold	Raymond Truitt
Kelly McCrea	Debra Reiser	Phillip Turner
Nicholas McDaniels	Ni'jah Richardson	Cynthia Unglesbee
Audrey McFarlene	Scott Richman	Laura Venezia
Rob McGarrah	Meaghan Richmond	Gerard Vetter
Sean McGarten	Ellyn Riedl	Frank Voso
Michelle McGeogh	Mary Riley	Amanda Walker De Rodriquez
Darlyn McLaughlin	Stephanie Robinson	Lauren Walker
Patty McLean	Carolyn Roche	Saad Waqas
Patrick McLister	Andrew Rodabaugh	Sharon Weisbaum-Krevor
Sayra Meyerhoff	Joseph Rohr	Harold Weisbaum
Tom Meacham	Durriyah Rose	Billie Wesley
Kimberly Mills	Benjamin Rosenberg	Diane Wessel
E. Suzan Miller	Neil Rosen	Landon White
Edward Miller	Michael Rosofsky	Brittany Whitehair
James Miller	Stephen Salsbury	Charlene Williams
Kelly Miller	Krystle Sanders	Christina Williams
Leslie Miller	Kimberly Scott	Erin Williams
Marcie Mininberg	Myriem Seabron	Flavie Williams
Scott Morrison	Tim Sessing	Scott Williams
Polly Moser	Alicia Shelton	Alicia Wilson
Patricia-Jay Mpasi	Daniel Shemer	Wynde Winston
Arnett Mumford	Debra Sheppard	Sarah Witri
Megan Nathan	Linda Shields	Wendy Wolock
Molly Nicholl	Bilal Siddiqi	Caylin Young
James Nolan Jr.	Eric Simanek	Matthew Zernhelt
Mary O'Byrne	Stephen Slater	Jennifer Zohorsky
Lee Ogburn	Thomas Slater	
	Franzella Starkey	

# Ways you can help make a difference



Your tax-deductible donation ensures access to justice for Marylanders in crisis who would otherwise have nowhere to turn.

## **DONATE ONLINE**

Visit [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org) to make a one-time gift online.

## **MONTHLY GIVING**

Monthly donations make it easy to support access to justice.

Visit [www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org) to set up monthly donations.

## **PARTNERS FOR JUSTICE**

Join a community of generous supporters who invest in equal access to justice by donating \$1,000 or more each year.

## **MAIL A CHECK**

Maryland Legal Aid  
Development Unit  
500 E. Lexington Street  
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Stock transfers can be made through Maryland Legal Aid's account at Charles Schwab.

- Account Name: Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.
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## **EQUAL JUSTICE COUNCIL CAMPAIGN**

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## **EQUAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATES**

The EJA is a dynamic group of young attorneys who raise funds and awareness to support Maryland Legal Aid's mission. Visit [www.mdlab.org/ways-to-give/equal-justice-associates](http://www.mdlab.org/ways-to-give/equal-justice-associates) for more info.



If you plan to make a bequest, gift of stock, or have any other questions about supporting Maryland Legal Aid, please contact Director of Development Graham Cowger at (410) 951-7706 or [gcowger@mdl原因.org](mailto:gcowger@mdl原因.org).



**14,465**

criminal record  
expungements were  
performed

Thanks to our donors  
and pro bono attorneys  
for making the following  
outcomes possible in 2019:

**370**

People obtained  
a will

Ms. V.,  
a mother of three, was  
awarded  
full legal and  
physical custody  
with increased child support.



Paralegal Kim Wilson

Mr. P. a disabled veteran,  
began receiving  
court-ordered,  
automatically  
garnished, alimony  
from his ex-wife.

**255**

Parents secured  
custody of  
their children

**1,563**

People avoided  
eviction or  
foreclosure

Staff Attorney  
LeighAnn  
Rosenberg  
successfully litigated  
to have a Howard County  
client's housing  
voucher reinstated.

**106,846**

people benefitted  
from MLA's services in 2019

Staff Attorney  
Theda Saffo  
helped Ms. W. when  
her landlord tried to force  
her to pay an outstanding  
water bill that equaled  
more than \$6,000.

**144**

People obtained  
critical medical  
benefits

**7,442**

Abused and  
neglected children  
were represented

**2,300**

Coats were  
distributed to  
families in need at  
"Coats and Clinics"  
events

**175**

Pro bono attorneys  
provided legal  
assistance to clients



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LEGAL AID**

*Advancing*  
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Todd Cagwin

Arlene Callender

Zachary Cardin

Timothy Carey

Louise Carwell

Cheryl Chado

Megan Challender

Timothy Chance

Danielle Chappell

Alec Chase

Agnes Chase

Ashley Cheatham

Kateryna Choma-Knapp

Katrina Cioni

Avery Clark

Barret Claunch

Carrie Claussen

Stephen Claussen

Andria Cole

Barbara Coleman

Brandi Coles

Natalie Coley-Lawrence

Kimberly Connaughton

Teresa Cooke

Deborah Corley

Gregory Countess

Sunny Cowell

Graham Cowger

Sarah Crockett

Justin Cummings

Valerie Cunningham

Sylvia Davenport

Anthony Davis

Nelda Davis

Stacey Day

Janet Day

Carly Deegan

Fasika Delessa

Angus Derbyshire

Sunny Desai

Dimitri Digbeu

Desiree Diggs

Joyce Diggs

Yewande Dina

Sheryl Dixon

Claudia Dock

Nichelle Dorsey

Louis Dorsey

Kirsten Dowell

Beverly Duffy

Jessica Earlebeck

Julianne Edwards-Ransom

Belinda Edwards-Taylor

Carl Ehrhardt

Robin Emerick

Itta Englander

Ani Escobar-Martinez

Hunter Eubanks

Veronique Felix

Brittaney Ferrier

Keith Ferrier

Blake Fetrow

Wanda Fields

Thomas Fisher

Jacob Fishman

Pamela Flemming

Amy Forsberg

Gregory Fox

Karen Foxman

Janelle Williams Frantzen



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Christopher Freeman  
Gabriel Garcia  
Ashkan Geramifar  
Susan Gerhart  
Mitra Ghahramanlou  
Linda Gillis  
Jeaneatte Gilmore  
Beilul Golfin Byrd  
Cornelia Bright Gordon  
Patricia Granato  
Marita Grant  
Alexis Greene  
Patricia Greenwell  
Jenna Greever  
Jaleisha Guerrero  
Stephanie Guevara  
Tara Gunn  
Norman Hagerman  
Jayne Hansen  
Avril Harding  
Michelle Hardy  
Emily Harris  
Rachel Harris  
Kanise Harris  
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Kyneashia Harrison  
Jawhar Hayes  
Lee Heithoff  
Lorna Henry  
Erica Herndon  
Gary Herwig  
Nicholas Hill  
Margaret Holmes  
Jumel Howard  
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Patricia Hughes Mayer  
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Sandy James  
John Jeffcott  
Colleen Jennings  
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Katherine Jones  
Tracey Jones  
Wilhelm Joseph, Jr.  
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Eleanor Meschino  
Jennifer Meschino  
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Samuel Minnitte  
Megan Mishou  
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Krystal Montgomery  
Michelle Moodispaw  
Patricia-Joy Mpasi  
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Douglas Nivens, II  
Eileen Nnoli  
Gregory Nolen  
Angele Nsenga  
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Christina Ochoa  
Nnenna Ochuba  
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Seana Reichold  
Sarah Rhine  
Leanna Richardson  
Joseph Risch  
Nohora Rivero  
Jurgen Rivero  
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Ana Rodriguez  
Virginia Rosa  
Lanarka Rose  
LeighAnn Rosenberg  
Daniel Rosenberg  
Elizabeth Rowe  
Gabriel Rubinstein  
Richard Rudasill  
Corey Rudolph  
Colleen Russell  
Theodosia Saffo  
Jennifer Saltzman  
Asha Sampat  
Elsie Sanchez  
Cristen Sargent  
Lisa Marie Sarro  
Darlene Savoy  
Briana Scarborough  
Jennifer Schaufler  
Risheena Schwemle  
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Kamila Scott  
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Rhonda Serrano  
Nina Shore  
Mariel Shutinya  
Amy Siegel  
Marianne Sierra  
Shareice Simpson  
Miriam Sincell  
Randi Skullestad  
Pamela Smith  
Tina Clements Smith  
Shelly Smith  
Alyssa Smith  
Deborah Lewis Smith  
Kristin Smith

Barbara Smith  
Matthew Smith  
Brett Smoot  
Sheila Snowden  
Mark Stave  
William Steinwedel  
Jamie Stevens  
Bobbie Steyer  
Phillip Stillman  
Joycelyn Stinson  
Chasta Stokes-Hagans  
Walker Stump-Coale  
Timothy Swanson  
Gustava Taler  
Julianne Tarver  
Pia Taylor  
Caitlin Tepe  
James Toliver  
Alicia Tracey  
Andre Tremper  
Yulia Tsifrina  
Timothy Turner  
Marianne Vanderwiele  
Gerald Vaudreuil  
Kristopher Vicencio  
Frank Vitale  
Katherine Wade  
Patricia Waldman  
Lauren Walker  
Beth Wanger  
Brittany Watson  
Tammy Watts  
Sabrina Wear  
Shannon Weaver  
Jennifer Weil  
Haimanot B. Wentworth  
Brittany West  
Phillip Westry  
Shye Williams  
Abena Williams  
Zeniah Wilson  
Lolita Wilson  
Morgan Winn  
Viola Woolums  
Sandra Wooten  
Darryl Wright  
Winfield Yaw  
Cindy Ye  
Terrence Young  
Luyao Zhang  
Emily Zia  
Christopher Ziemski

## Law Clerks & Interns

Kevin Albano  
Payton Aldridge  
Ghina Ammar  
Danielle Anderson  
Kaitlin Anderson  
Sara Assaid  
Christian Ato  
Megan Bell  
Shae Blankenship  
Danielle Bolling  
Matthew Braun  
Peter Clancy  
Jermaine Davis  
Stephanie DeLang  
Jacob Dziubla  
Madison Fields  
Colin Harris  
Teri Henderson  
Wei Ting Hsing  
Tianna Jenkins  
Benjamin Johnson  
Sue MI Ko  
Amy Lattari  
Tyler Lewis  
Patience Moore  
Shaniqua Nelson  
Danielle Newsham  
Grace O'Malley  
Alana Quint  
N'i Jah Richardson  
Jonathan Rodriguez  
Mikias Sahilu  
Mary Scott  
Victoria Shorter  
Jamyia Sims  
Alexis Sisolak  
Michelle Sloan  
Brianna Thomas  
Misty Viner  
Edka Wong  
Charlotte Wood

*Staff and Law Clerks  
& Interns lists as of  
calendar year 2019*

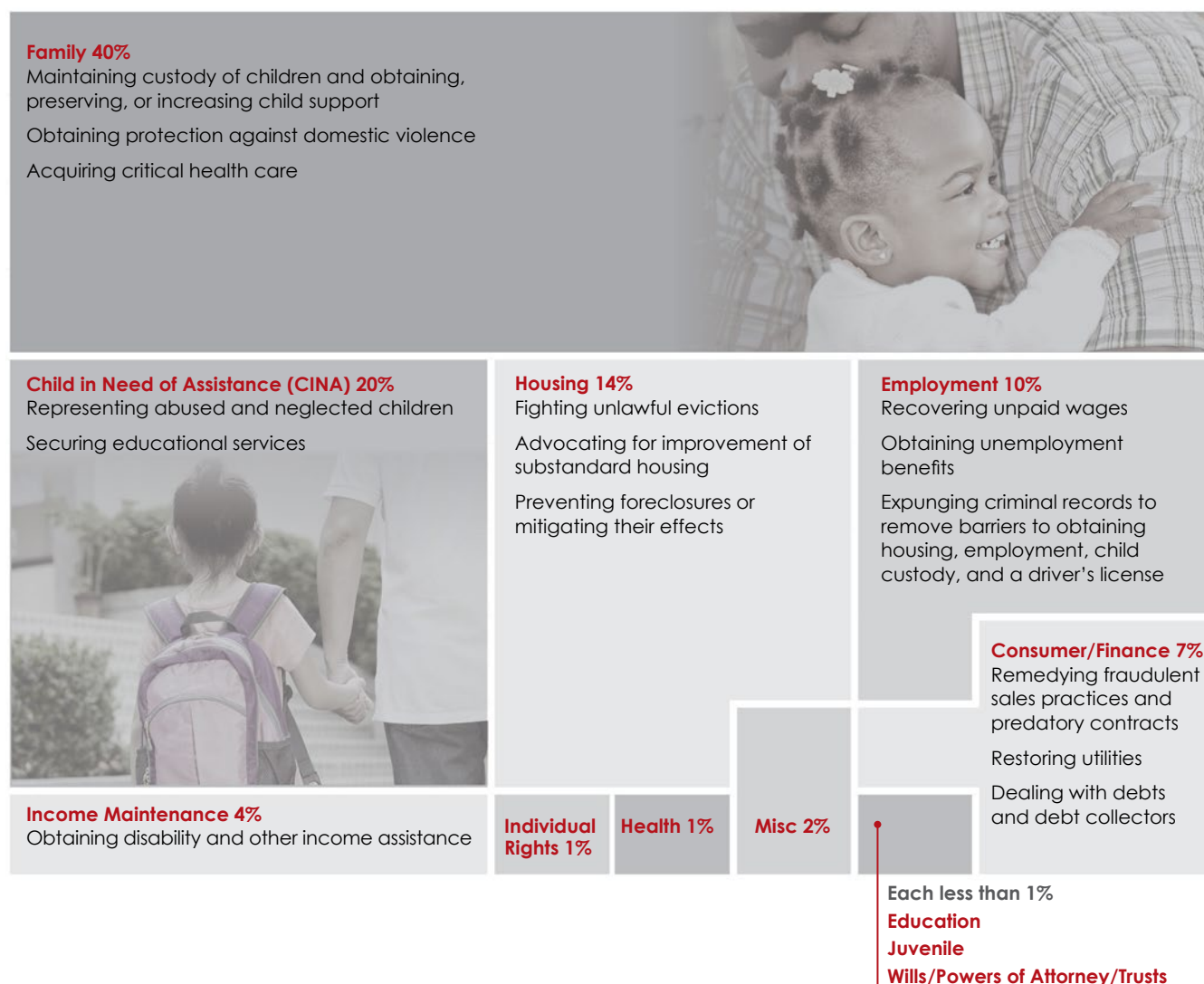


**MARYLAND  
LEGAL AID**

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

Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) is a private, non-profit law firm that provides free, civil legal services to low-income individuals in Baltimore City and Maryland's 23 counties from 12 offices. The firm provides life-changing legal help to clients by handling cases that involve a wide range of issues, including family, housing, government benefits, healthcare, 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, people with expungeable criminal records and veterans seeking benefits and assistance with related legal issues, also receive representation through special projects.

## **MLA provides free civil legal assistance for clients for a variety of issues, such as:**





# 2019 Financial Report

	2019	2018
INCOME	\$30,200,027	\$29,779,083
EXPENSES	\$27,360,136	\$29,165,576
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$25,557,849	\$22,717,958

Unrestricted funds: \$15,329,636; Restricted funds: \$7,388,322

## SELECTED FUNDING RECEIVED

### Federal:

Legal Services Corporation	\$4,959,359	\$4,320,860
Legal Services Corporation - Pro Bono Innovation Fund	\$53,656	—
Baltimore City Community Development Block Grant	\$75,000	—
Legal Assistance to Victims Grant (OVW)	\$193,851	\$203,293
Montgomery County Community Development Block Grant	\$1,728	—
Prince George's County - Community Development Block Grant	\$68,510	\$53,431
Prince George's County - Family Justice Center (VAWA)	\$18,000	\$17,425
Prince George's County - Family Justice Center (VOCA)	\$120,000	\$132,625
Ryan White / HIV / AIDS Legal Assistance	\$113,488	\$137,461
Tahirih Justice Center - Legal Assistance for Victims (LAV)	\$23,670	\$14,967
Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA)	\$45,000	\$45,000
Violence Against Women's Act (VAWA)-Victims of Crime Act (VOCA)	\$361,570	\$335,280

Title III-B/Elderly Assistance: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George's, Queen Anne's and St. Mary's Counties; Lower and Upper Eastern Shore

### State:

Maryland Legal Services Corporation (MLSC)	\$11,786,180	\$11,159,524
Other MLSC grants for:		
Extended Representation	\$389,465	\$196,362
Foreclosure Prevention	\$266,700	\$533,400
One-Time Needs Assessment and Technology Enhancements	—	\$254,368
Stipend for Public Interest Students	\$7,454	—
Workforce Development	\$210,000	\$420,000

Contracted provision of services for representation of abused and neglected children, victims of domestic violence, developmentally disabled and mentally ill persons confined to mental health institutions through the Maryland Department of Health, parents in child custody matters, and the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance

### Foreclosure Prevention:

Maryland Housing Counseling Fund	—	\$160,000
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### County Grants:

Anne Arundel - Executive	\$50,000	—
Baltimore City - Johns Hopkins Douglas Homes	\$2,348	—
Baltimore City - Project Serve	\$2,773	—
Frederick - Community Partnership	\$47,500	\$22,500
Montgomery - County Council	\$22,342	\$42,292
Prince George's - Community Partnership	—	\$20,000

### County Grants-in-Aid:

Anne Arundel	\$36,000	—
Baltimore City	\$138,647	\$135,530
Baltimore	\$75,833	\$70,000
Harford	\$31,250	\$30,000
Howard	\$110,445	\$105,890

### Circuit Court Pro Se Grants:

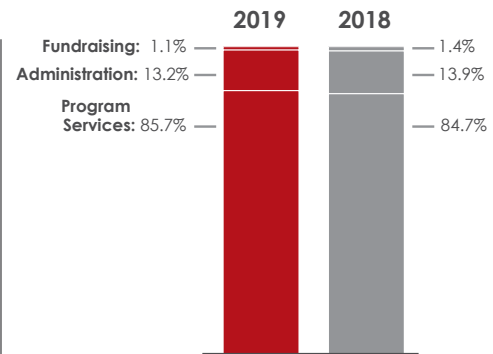
Anne Arundel County	\$178,000	\$178,000
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### Private Donations:

Contributions	\$901,039	\$437,355
Foundations	\$307,000	\$212,300

This report contains a summary of 2019 financial information and selected funding sources. Complete audited financial statements are available from MLA upon request.

## EXPENDITURE ALLOCATION



## SERVED BY COUNTY 2019

	MLA CASES	MLA PERSONS SERVED	MCLA MATTERS HANDLED <sup>†</sup>
Allegany	943	3,045	664
Anne Arundel*	11,365	22,179	16,820
Baltimore City	8,947	26,619	17,233
Baltimore County	3,406	9,129	12,509
Calvert	447	633	1,254
Caroline	93	651	492
Carroll	267	1,001	1,422
Cecil	366	2,233	1,507
Charles	791	1,093	3,124
Dorchester	152	1,004	574
Frederick	1,102	3,647	5,681
Garrett	370	1,282	150
Harford	1,450	6,388	1,881
Howard	487	1,953	2,949
Kent	44	257	115
Montgomery	2,268	8,993	8,706
Prince George's	3,390	8,650	22,639
Queen Anne's	56	315	424
St. Mary's	473	718	1,459
Somerset	69	624	598
Talbot	138	687	416
Washington	536	1,904	1,344
Wicomico	397	2,500	4,446
Worcester	90	577	924
Non-Maryland	276	764	346
Undetermined	—	—	820
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37,923</b>	<b>106,846</b>	<b>108,497</b>

\* Includes pro se litigants through Maryland Legal Aid's Circuit Court family law pro se project

† Includes pro se litigants assisted by the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA) through the District Court Self-Help Resource Centers in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel, Prince George's, and Wicomico counties and the Maryland Courts Self-Help Centers in Annapolis and Frederick.

Every effort was made to ensure accuracy in this listing. If we have inadvertently omitted any donor, please accept our sincerest apologies.

The Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides free civil legal services to low-income people in every Maryland community. A copy of our current financial statement is available upon request by calling our office: (410) 951-7719. Documents and information submitted to the State of Maryland under the Maryland Charitable Solicitations Act are available from the Office of the Secretary of State, State House, Annapolis, MD 21401, for the cost of copying and mailing.

All funds received by the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc. are spent in accordance with the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974, as amended 1977, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2996 et. seq., its implementing regulations, 45 C.F.R. § 1600 et. seq., and other applicable law.



**MARYLAND**  
**LEGAL AID**

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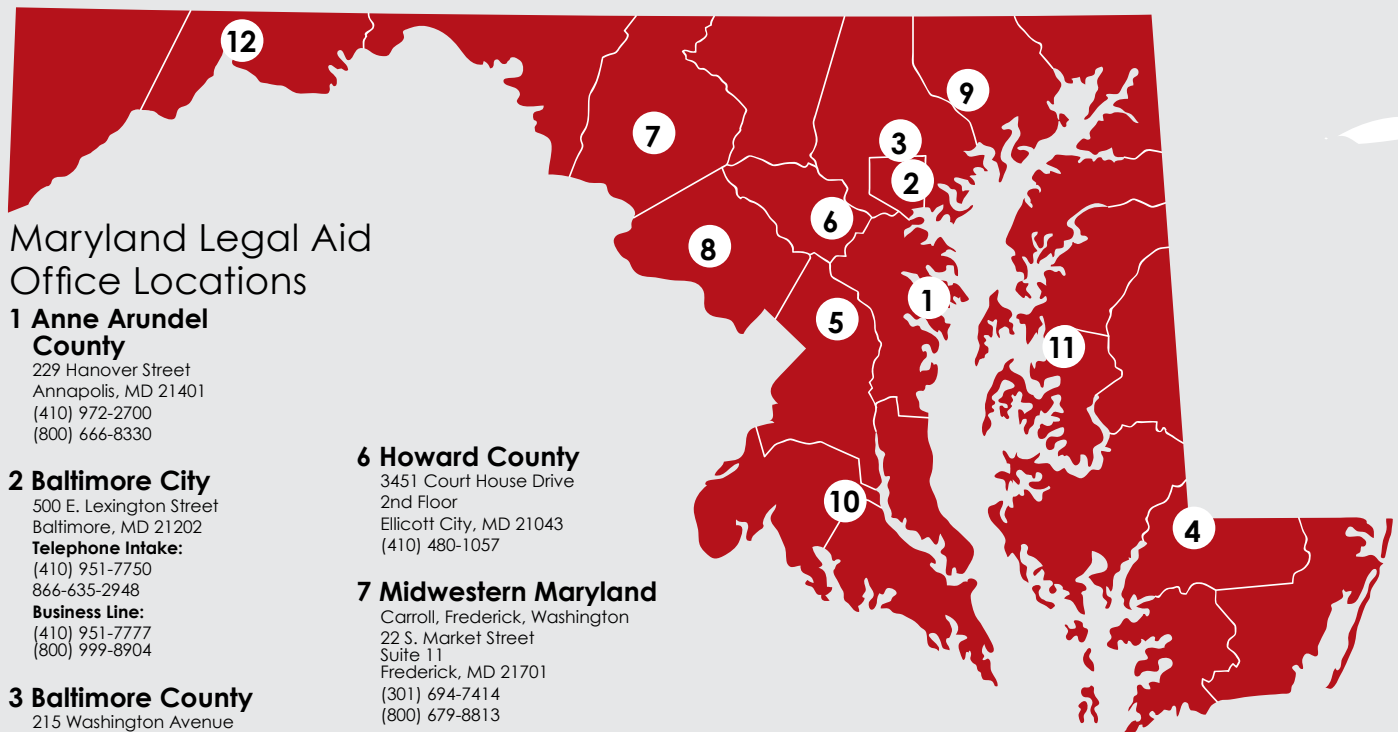
Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.  
500 East Lexington Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

For more information visit  
[www.mdlab.org](http://www.mdlab.org)

Designer: Bill Geenen

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Asha Sampat, and Alec Chase

Printing by Pavsner Press, Inc.



## Maryland Legal Aid Office Locations

### 1 Anne Arundel County

229 Hanover Street  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 972-2700  
(800) 666-8330

### 2 Baltimore City

500 E. Lexington Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

**Telephone Intake:**

(410) 951-7750  
866-635-2948

**Business Line:**

(410) 951-7777  
(800) 999-8904

### 3 Baltimore County

215 Washington Avenue  
Suite 305  
Towson, MD 21204  
(410) 427-1800  
(877) 878-5920

### 4 Lower Eastern Shore

Dorchester, Somerset,  
Wicomico, Worcester  
201 E. Main Street  
Salisbury, MD 21801  
(410) 546-5511  
(800) 444-4099

### 5 Metropolitan Maryland

Howard, Prince George's  
8401 Corporate Drive  
Suite 200  
Landover, MD 20785  
(301) 560-2100  
(888) 215-5316

### 6 Howard County

3451 Court House Drive  
2nd Floor  
Ellicott City, MD 21043  
(410) 480-1057

### 7 Midwestern Maryland

Carroll, Frederick, Washington  
22 S. Market Street  
Suite 11  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(301) 694-7414  
(800) 679-8813

### 8 Montgomery County

600 Jefferson Plaza  
Suite 430  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(240) 314-0373  
(855) 880-9487

### 9 Northeastern Maryland

Cecil, Harford  
103 S. Hickory Avenue  
Bel Air, MD 21014  
(410) 836-8202  
(800) 444-9529

### 10 Southern Maryland

Calvert, Charles, St. Mary's  
15045 Burnt Store Road  
P.O. Box 249  
Hughesville, MD 20637  
(301) 932-6661  
(877) 310-1810

### 11 Upper Eastern Shore

Caroline, Kent,  
Queen Anne's, Talbot  
106 Washington Street  
Suite 101  
Easton, MD 21601  
(410) 763-9676  
(800) 477-2543

### 12 Western Maryland

Allegany, Garrett  
110 Greene Street  
Cumberland, MD 21502  
(301) 777-7474  
(866) 389-5243

### STATEWIDE PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

Community Lawyering Initiative  
(443) 451-2805  
Farmworker Program  
(800) 444-4099  
Foreclosure Legal Assistance Project  
(888) 213-3320  
Long-Term Care Assistance Project  
(866) 635-2948  
Maryland Senior Legal Helpline  
(866) 635-2948  
Veterans' Hotline  
(443) 863-4040

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Relay, Dial 7-1-1