



For Immediate Release

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Maryland Legal Aid Announces New Chief Attorney of Montgomery County Office

BALTIMORE, MD, April 5, 2021 - Gilda Claudine "Dini" McCullough has joined Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) as the new Chief Attorney of its Montgomery County office in Rockville. In this role, Dini will provide oversight of the office, including managing staff and continuing to strengthen relationships with the Montgomery County private bar and local agencies and organizations.



Stuart "Stu" Simms, MLA's Chief Counsel, shared, "Dini has broad civil and criminal litigation experience and a strong, proven commitment to advocating for the rights of vulnerable and marginalized populations."

Having grown up in Texas and Montgomery County, Dini has deep roots in her community. While a law student, in 1996, Dini co-founded the Latino Legal Assistance Project in Baltimore, which consisted of legal and educational outreach to migrant farm workers on Maryland's Eastern Shore, a study of working conditions, wage and hour litigation and advocacy, and the development of a Migrant and Seasonal Worker Task Force in collaboration with MLA.

Dini's career experience includes clerking for retired Judge Durke Thompson in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County; working as an assistant public defender in Baltimore City; as an associate at Weinstock, Friedman & Friedman, P.C.; as a partner at Karasik & McCullough; and as a legislative staff attorney for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF). Most recently, since 2019, Dini managed her solo practice where she handled criminal defense law in both state and federal court and served as a panel attorney for the Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

In addition to trial practice, Dini has worked as a nonprofit consultant to organizations including MALDEF, the National Policy and Legal Analysis Network, Narrative 4, the Minority Corporate Counsel Association, and City Projects. She has served on a number of boards and commissions, including the Human Rights Commission for Montgomery County, the Maryland Pro Bono Resource Center, the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association, and the Maryland Governor's Commission on Migratory & Seasonal Farm Labor.

Dini is a native Spanish speaker. She earned her law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland at College Park.

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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 11 offices. The firm 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 16 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, healthcare facilities, and other communal places.

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