



**MARYLAND**  
**LEGAL AID**

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

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Maryland Legal Aid receives \$10,000 grant from The David and Barbara B. Hirschhorn Foundation for Lawyer in the Library Program**

**BALTIMORE, Md.**, (February 18, 2022) - Maryland Legal Aid (MLA) recently received a one-year, \$10,000 grant from The David and Barbara B. Hirschhorn Foundation. This grant supports MLA's *Lawyer in the Library* program, a Community Lawyering Initiative in Baltimore County that provides free, direct civil legal assistance and outreach services to residents in the neighborhoods in which they live, work, and play. MLA's acclaimed *Lawyer in the Library Program* is the only effort of its kind statewide.

MLA's Executive Director Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. shared, "For eligible individuals who have barriers that limit their access to the Maryland Legal Aid offices, these community based services make a material difference in their ability to address basic human needs."

The Hirschhorn Foundation awards grants to improve the lives of families and children and cultivate a level playing field by expanding educational opportunities and addressing basic human needs. Over the last ten years, funding from the Hirschhorn Foundation has helped MLA to ensure equal access to justice for its clients.

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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, 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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