



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

Advancing
Human Rights and
Justice for All

For Immediate Release

Media Contact:
Ashley F. Cheatham
443-651-0507
acheatham@mdlabor.org

March 26, 2019

Official Statement

Re: Incident involving racial discrimination at Harford County District Court

Maryland Legal Aid is incensed at the treatment of our colleague, Mr. Rashad James—an extremely talented and dedicated civil legal aid attorney, who under MLA’s Community Lawyering Initiative, is tasked with navigating every stretch of this state to provide civil legal counsel and representation for Maryland’s poorest and most vulnerable individuals and communities. That includes in Harford County, where this deeply disturbing incident unfolded.

We stand behind Rashad today, and behind others who have experienced racial profiling and discrimination--a threat to their basic human and civil rights--with the objective to prevent an incident like this from ever happening again. Discrimination has no place in our society, especially not within the ranks of our judicial system, where the legal playing field is often already unlevelled for citizens who cannot afford legal representation.

We would like to thank Andrew Freeman, Chelsea Crawford, and their team at Brown Goldstein & Levy, for representing Attorney James in this matter. We are hopeful that the Harford County Sheriff’s Office will take the steps necessary to conduct an internal investigation into this incident and we look forward to a satisfactory outcome for all parties involved.