



MARYLAND
LEGAL AID

Advancing
Human Rights and
Justice for All

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 12 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.

MLA receives funding from a variety of sources, including the Maryland Legal Services Corporation, the federal Legal Services Corporation, local governments, state agencies, United Way, law firms, corporations, foundations, and individual donors.

In 2017, MLA established a wholly-owned subsidiary, the Maryland Center for Legal Assistance (MCLA). The Maryland Center for Legal Assistance does not receive funds from the Legal Services Corporation. Through a contract with the Administrative Office of the Courts, MCLA operates the Maryland Court Help Centers in Baltimore City, Catonsville, Frederick, Glen Burnie, La Plata, Rockville, Upper Marlboro, Salisbury, and the Remote Services Center. Through a contract with Anne Arundel County, MCLA operates the Family Law Help Center in Annapolis.

The Help Centers deal with a wide range of civil legal matters, including landlord-tenant, consumer matters such as debt collection and credit card cases, child support, and criminal record expungements to remove barriers to obtaining housing, employment, and child custody.

Our Mission

To provide high-quality, free legal services to Marylanders living in poverty through representation and advocacy and to bring meaningful change to the systems that impact them.